

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the monthly meeting for the Parish Council of Sedbergh, held at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh - Thursday 10 April 2025

Present: Councillors Arnold (Chair), Longlands, Capstick, Cowperthwaite, Thomson, Brooks, and Bromley

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Welti, Sedgwick, Lancaster, and Hutt.

2. Any new requests for Dispensations

There were no new requests for additional Dispensations at this meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 8 Planning – Cllr Arnold

4. Public Participation

Members welcomed the agent and applicant for a recent planning application (S/03/773) land off Frostrow Lane, Garsdale Road, Sedbergh. They gave a short presentation regarding the plans for the local occupancy dwelling, which would replace an existing stable block, the preservation/care of existing listed milestone marker for Sedbergh and included the provision of a new accessible footpath. This was hoped to provide a link, off the highway, to an existing walking route – Frostrow (Hospital) Lane/Row Lane. Members asked if the intention was for the footpath to become a public right of way and, therefore, remain in perpetuity, and this was confirmed. The applicant also confirmed that it would be the intention that the path was created, ahead of construction of the dwelling, if plans were approved and this was noted by Members.

5. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council monthly meeting, dated 13 March 2025

Following previous circulation of the draft minutes for the meeting held on 13 March 2025, Members resolved they were a true record and they were signed by the Chairman, Cllr Arnold (with one minor amendment to Cllr Thomson’s name at Item 3).

6. Matters to note from the Minutes of 13 March 2025 not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda

Members agreed that, following notice of Sedbergh in Bloom standing down, that the care of the flower beds/areas/pots around Sedbergh should be a future agenda item, and that some advertising would be required to seek volunteers in the future.

7. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllrs Hodgson was welcomed to the meeting and gave a short update. This included reference to the shared ownership houses at Showfield Gardens, and the potential to update planning and amend these to social housing properties, ongoing ward boundary review and discussions with Connect Cumbria over Fibrus Broadband withdrawing from progressing any Sedbergh town centre works. Finally, the Sedbergh Economic Partnership, Main Street sub group, had highlighted various signs that required work in Sedbergh town centre, and this list has been given to Westmorland and Furness Council. Cllr Mitchell did not attend. **i) any update/progress in respect of the bus services.** The Clerk gave a short update confirming that, following the inaugural meeting of a Bus/Transport User Group (chaired by Cllr Bromley), it was envisaged that this new group would form a committee and set up a formal Group to represent Sedbergh and area. It was further noted, that the existing small group that had initially set up the meeting, passed on sincere thanks to Cllr Bromley and the Parish Council, for all the work already done over the past year. Cllr Bromley hopes to attend the committee’s first meeting, to handover any relevant information, and it is hoped that the Parish Council will remain informed and support where practical. **ii) Respect Group (MASCg) Appleby Horse Fair 2025.** Members were advised that there was a Respect Group scheduled on 22 April 2025.

It was understood that Cllr Lancaster is due to attend, Cllr Thomson advised he could attend if required, along with the Clerk. Members briefly discussed one or two informal points previously raised by Cumbria Police in respect of the boulders at Ghyllas Layby and the gate at New Bridge. Members discussed these briefly, and concluded that they were not required at Ghyllas, and that it is assumed Highways have previously instigated these. Finally, the picnic area at New Bridge, Members discussed previous incidents of the lock being broken off the gate, and welfare access of horses to the river/water etc. Members resolved (5/2) that the gate should be left unlocked this year.

8. Planning

Members had not met; the following applications were discussed at the meeting. In Cllr Sedgwick's absence, the Chairman led discussions on current planning applications.

S/06/4A/LB/DIS1 Lincoln's Inn Bridge, Firbank, Sedbergh Approval of details reserved by conditions 3 & 4 of S/06/4A/LB – Conditions 3 & 4 (coping stone sample and stone wall sample) – **no objection**

S/03/773 Land off Frostrow Lane, Garsdale Road, Sedbergh Full planning permission for erection of 1no. single-storey local occupancy dwelling with associated curtilage and parking, partial demolition of existing stable and creation of new public pedestrian right of way. Members discussed the application, and resolved **to support**, with the condition that the right of way is created in advance of any development of the proposed single-storey dwelling, that the right of way, should be a formal public right of way and remain, therefore, in perpetuity, and that the property should be local occupancy only, as noted in the application. Finally, Members noted the applicant's intention to retain and preserve the listed milestone marker.

S/03/275G Wild Boar Cottage, Frostrow Lane, Sedbergh Full planning permission for change of use of dormitory accommodation/bunk barn to local occupancy dwelling or short-term holiday let. Members discussed the application, and had **no objection** for the proposal for the change of use to **local occupancy**. However, believed this should be subject to a Section 106 Agreement for local occupancy only, without the inclusion of short-term holiday let.

S/03/647C Beehive Cottage, Joss Lane, Sedbergh Full planning permission for demolition of existing sheds and erection of new buildings on the same footprint and site – **amendment**. Members discussed the amended plans and information provided. Members were pleased that the new plans indicated more like for like sheds, and noted that there should be a condition that these should be for agricultural use only, not storage for the holiday lets. Members were concerned with the continued creation of a parking space adjacent to the public right of way, which was deemed not necessary for the operation of the sheds. Therefore, the Council's position remains unchanged.

S/03/774 Hart House and Powell House, Sedbergh School, Loftus Hill, Sedbergh Full planning permissions for works to alter delivery access to the kitchens via provision of service ramps and handrails, alterations to levels and walls, alter a window to a door and provision of bin store enclosure. Members noted that these alterations would not be visible to members of the public – **no objection**. (Cllr Arnold took no part in vote)

Following the request, at the last meeting, in respect of YDNPA general opinion/policy on requests for change of use of business (Main Street) to residential – the Clerk had circulated a response (attached).

9. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 10 April 2025, which included the requests for payments (attached).

10. Amenities Committee

Members of the Committee had not met. The Chair was able to raise a query from someone associated with Sedbergh and Dent United Football Club (though not believed to be on the current committee). In that, they would like to work with the Parish Council to make some improvements on the pitch and potentially look at funding opportunities. The Clerk noted that information on pitch improvements/grants had previously been shared with the committee, and that they had been invited to attend a meeting to discuss further. Members await a formal approach from the committee. Members also noted that there would need to be caution in respect of any 'lock in' periods that may be associated with external grants.

i) consider transfer of Parish lights to Westmorland and Furness Council (see attached).

Members discussed a request to transfer all Parish owned footway lighting onto Westmorland and Furness Council. It was noted that Sedbergh Parish Council had concluded significant work to update streetlighting in Sedbergh, including funding, and the Clerk will liaise as appropriate. Members discussed the offer, and do hope that WFC will commit to retain all lights, including those at both car parks. Also noting that the transfer would give future savings on maintenance and energy use and resolved, therefore, to record their decision to transfer to WFC.

11. Update on Projects

i) Playground Proposal – any update on pre-application advice with Yorkshire Dales National Park. The pre-application has been submitted and an update is awaited (following annual leave).

ii) New Bridge layby proposal – any update from Yorkshire Dales National Park. The Clerk advised that there was no update available from YDNPA Planning Officer (following annual leave).

iii) Main Street toilet door replacement – any update in respect of sketch/drawings required by Westmorland and Furness Council. It was noted that the Chair of Amenities, along with the Clerk were due to meet with a consultant next week to confirm the drawings required to allow WFC to formally consider further.

12. Queens Garden

Members of the Committee have not met. Members noted the tree works planned, later in April, and whilst it was acknowledged that it was the nesting season, the work was required and should go ahead as planned, with all necessary checks made by the contractor in advance of felling. **i) Sedbergh YFC community project** Members noted the project planned to add further stones from the pedestrian gate off Station Road, to join with the stone path. Stone would be ordered and delivered nearer the time, and in liaison with the parish handyman. In addition, it was noted that the posts to the current Queen's Garden sign had rotted, and that new posts would be purchased and perhaps could be installed on the same evening **ii) an update in respect of a general waste bin** The Clerk will, again, follow up the request with WFC.

13. Correspondence

Receive items of correspondence (late items to be tabled at the meeting) and additionally consider any items for a future Agenda.

- i) BT Telephone kiosks** – formal consultation over retention of the last three 'red' telephone boxes within Sedbergh parish had now been received – closing date for final response to the consultation is 16 June 2025, to WFC. The Clerk advised that she had spoken to YDNPA in respect of two of the boxes, as they are listed. YDNPA advise that BT would have to seek consent to remove the boxes. These boxes are located at the library, Main Street, Sedbergh and approx. 20metres south east of Holy Trinity churchyard, Howgill. The council will, therefore, respond advising of their listed status in the first instance. Cllr Capstick will liaise with residents in Howgill for any further feedback. In respect of the kiosk at the library, members noted its current poor condition and will highlight this in any response, acknowledging the heritage of the kiosk and the disappointing state it is currently in. If it is to be retained, then BT must maintain it as a listed structure. Finally, the kiosk at Havera was discussed, and Members noted that someone had recently renovated the box and it was in a good state of repair. Cllr Brooks advised she will liaise with residents in the area, for feedback on future potential uses and possible future adoption (if suitable).
- ii) Sedbergh Economic Partnership (SEP) – any update following correspondence issued in March.** The Clerk had followed up for a response, but no reply had been received.
- iii) Sexual Harassment Policy – from October 2024, new legislation (s40A Equality Act 2010) creation of additional legal requirements for all Employers (information received from CALC).** Members noted the draft policy (attached) and resolved to adopt.
- iv) WFC Highways briefing 22 April 2025,** information on surface dressing investment program, the Clerk hopes to attend.
- v) WFC Pavement Licensing Policy – consultation.** No comments from Members.

- vi) **Sedbergh tennis court area** – Members had received an enquiry to replace some damaged/broken posts. Members agreed to supply posts, noting a resident had kindly offered to install.
- vii) **Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan** – Regulation 19 (Final Draft) – No comments.
- viii) **YDNPA Spring Parish Forum** – 29 April 2025 – Cllrs Lancaster/Thomson.
- ix) **WFC Waste Services and Engagement Framework** – 24 April 2025 – the Clerk to attend. Additionally, it was noted, as late correspondence, future changes proposed to recycling and waste duties for workplaces. Initially, it is believed that Parish Councils will fall under ‘micro-firms’ and will be exempt until 31 March 2027. However, further details will be issued in the coming months.
- x) **VE Day 80** – Members noted an invite to attend a commemoration on 8 May 2025 1100hrs and several Members indicated that they would endeavour to be present.
- xi) **Sedbergh & District Lookaround** – Members noted some late correspondence about potential future support for the Lookaround. Some informal discussions were made about potential savings that could maybe considered going forward, and the Clerk will liaise further and give information about the grant application procedure.

14. Date and Time of next meetings. The Annual Parish Meeting (APM), commencing at 7.00pm, this meeting will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AMPC) approximately 7.30pm and finally the normal monthly meeting approximately 8.00pm. Thursday 15 May 2025 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.