

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 14 August 2025

Present: Councillors Arnold (Chair), Longlands, Sedgwick, Thomson, Welti, Brooks, Lancaster, and Capstick

1. Apologies for absence and casual vacancy

Apologies were received from Cllr Bromley, and Cowperthwaite. There is currently one casual vacancy, now advertised with a closing date of 1 September 2025.

2. Declarations of Interest and any new requests for dispensations

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

3. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

4. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council’s monthly meeting, dated 10 July 2025

Following previous circulation of the draft minutes, Members resolved that they were a true record and they were signed by the Chairman, Cllr Arnold.

5. Matters to note from the Minutes of 10 July 2025 not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda

There were no additional items to note, all items included on the agenda. Members did resolve to add to this item, in the future, relevant Member updates/feedback from outside bodies (as appointees/representatives nominated during Annual Meeting of the Parish Council).

6. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllr Hodgson was able to give a brief general update to Members. Including current consultation period on Public Space Protection Orders - Westmorland and Furness Council (WFC), Lune Gorge Project (National Highways) with preliminary works due to commence soon, which include a full (overnight) closure between J39 and J39 (north and south). Also, the current condition/appearance of the cemetery off Busk Lane, along with the boundary wall/hedgerow along Birks Lane, and the recent closure of the onsite toilets, Members noted that WFC hope to review as soon as possible. Cllr Mitchell did not attend.

7. Planning

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held 12 August 2025. In addition, Members noted an application received today **S/03/771 – 2 Main Street, Sedbergh** Full planning permission for erection of an external staircase and alteration to fenestration to provide first floor access; and removal of rendering. Members asked the Clerk to liaise with YDNAP for a small extension to the comment’s deadline, due to timescales of meetings. Members also noted that application **S/03/653A (1&2 Honey Pot Cottages, Joss Lane)** had been appealed and was now with the Planning Inspectorate. Members requested the Clerk confirm that their comments remained unchanged. It is understood the appeal has been referred to the Planning Inspectorate due to time delays at YDNPA. Finally, Members noted that YDNPA Planning Committee (following recent representations) will now be attending a site visit for **S/03/773 Land off Frostrow Lane, Garsdale Road** i) TPO Woodside/Sycamore. Members noted a recent TPO for the small area of woodland at Woodside/Sycamore. The Clerk was asked to contact YDNPA and request a site visit, prior to deadline for comment, to discuss the order further.

8. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 11 August 2025, which included the requests for payments (attached) i) Members additionally resolved to adopt the Conclusion of Audit 2024 – 2025 (now published).

9. Amenities Committee

Members of the Committee had not met. Members briefly discussed ongoing work to the football pitch area, and the Chair will seek some clarification of works undertaken by Sedbergh School - support they give each year. Members will then consider any additional work required, by the contractor, (including potential extra verti drain).

10. Update on Projects

i) Playground Proposal – any update on pre-application advice with Yorkshire Dales National Park. No further update, at present, however it was noted that the Clerk had recently been advised of a potential legacy which could, if Members agree, also be attributed to development of the new park.

ii) New Bridge layby proposal – Cllrs Arnold and Bromley (and the Clerk) had recently attended a meeting with Cllrs Hodgson and Mitchell and an officer from Highways in respect of the ongoing proposal to relocate coach parking (along with the parking survey, see below). In Cllr Bromley's absence, Cllr Arnold gave a brief overview for Members. This included Highways (WFC) investigating potential alternative drop off/pick up points for coaches if proposals progress to relocate coach parking from Joss Lane car park. One suggested location for a drop off/pick up (for example) is the existing layby on Main Street (former bus stop). Members (at Item 12) additionally suggested the potential feasibility of a bus stop having dual use as a drop off/pick up for deliveries. Members also noted that there was potential of some match funding for any future project progression.

iii) Parking Survey – The meeting with Highways had also been to discuss the recent Parking Report completed by WFC Highways. Whilst resident only parking had previously been mooted by residents generally, WFC officers did not believe this was a practical solution. Using Bainbridge Road as an example, it was highlighted that any introduction of resident only parking would likely see a shift of the issue elsewhere and, due to formal lining/parking spaces being marked, ultimately a reduced number of spaces being available to residents. Also, other complications such as permits being limited to no.2 per property, with carers/visitors requiring permits from householders etc. As an interim measure, however, it was suggested that informal signage could potentially be erected to encourage parking in the town's public car parks, if not resident on the street. Finally, further investigations continue in respect of yellow lining proposed elsewhere in the town, with an update anticipated in October.

iv) Main Street toilet door replacement – any progress on replacement doors (consider future installation of automatic shutters/doors for the ladies/gents toilets) The Clerk is now awaiting estimated costs for automatic doors, as an alternative to the manual shutters, after investigations into retro fit timers for shutters proved not to be a viable option.

11. Queens Garden

Members had not met, but hope to convene a meeting prior to the next Full Council meeting in September. Members advise they are continuing to consider a draft Plan for the Gardens. **i) progress valuation of norther boundary wall/gates** – no update.

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12. Correspondence

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

- i) South Lakes Police** – a reminder about the community event being hosted at Settlebeck playing field on 30 August 2025.
- ii) Furness General Hospital** – Members noted, with empathy, correspondence from a resident regarding the closure of the Intensive Treatment Unit at Furness General Hospital.

- iii) **Yorkshire Dales National Park (Parish Forum)** – Members noted a request for feedback on current format for Parish Forums, and Members asked the Clerk to liaise further in respect of potential improvements/engagement.
- iv) **Main Street, parking/deliveries** – Members noted (late) correspondence from Sedbergh’s PCSO regarding problematic parking/deliveries on Main Street (and elsewhere). Members acknowledge the difficulties, but agreed that there was no easy solution due to the limited infrastructure of the town. For example, on Main Street, the single carriageway, and narrow pavements (see also Item 10ii).
- v) **B4RN Sedbergh** – Members noted ongoing works, by B4RN, to consider their potential future options for town centre connectivity.
- vi) **Remembrance Sunday** – Members noted that the Clerk had received the relevant closure notices from WFC, following the recent application, for 9 November 2025. Cllr Longlands also raised that he had been approached by the festive light contractor, in respect of the to project a ‘poppy’ at Main Street for Remembrance in November. Members agreed to progress this idea with the contractor.
- vii) **Sedbergh United Charities** – Sedbergh Parish Council currently nominate six representatives to the charity, however, it is felt that Members would benefit from a greater understanding of responsibilities and resolved, therefore, to include as an Agenda item in September.

14. Date and Time of next meetings. The Parish Council normal monthly meeting 7.30pm on Thursday 11 September 2025 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.