

## 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 11 December 2025**

**Present:** Councillors Arnold (Chair), Thomson, Lancaster, Sedgwick, Bromley, Capstick, and the Clerk.

### **1. Apologies for absence and casual vacancies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Brooks, Cowperthwaite, and Longlands. There are currently two vacancies advertised, with a closing date for applications on 26 January 2026.

### **2. Declarations of Interest and any new requests for dispensations**

Item 7 – Planning (S/03/774/DIS1) Cllr Arnold

Items 7 and 12 – Planning (S/03/780) and Correspondence (BT Kiosk) Cllr Lancaster

### **3. Public Participation**

Members welcomed eight residents to the meeting. It was noted that six were in attendance for a planning item (S/03/779) and the Chair invited them to speak at the beginning of the relevant item. In addition, a resident wished to raise several questions in connection with a recent political leaflet that had shown support for the Parish Council’s potential project at New Bridge (coach parking). Questions included, what is the anticipated cost, safety concerns, how will it improve parking at Joss Lane car park, what will happen to the people who park in the area to access walks/the river, and impact for Appleby Fair. Cllr Arnold advised that there was no current comprehensive proposal, and that it was unfortunate that the information had been recently published. Several factors remain outstanding, and further information is awaited from Westmorland and Furness Council. However, for some clarity, initial discussions had included confirming the swept path analysis for coaches to turn into the layby safely, parking would only be for approx. 2 coaches and some car parking would remain. The project would, essentially, facilitate plans for coach waiting (parking) by improving the surface and adding some marked bays. Drop off/collection would remain in the town centre. By potentially relocating coach waiting to New Bridge, it would free up space in the car park (up to 15 additional car parking spaces) and therefore improve town centre parking for residents and visitors. This project had been just one of potential improvements identified as part of the parking strategy completed by the council some time ago. A recent parking report, conducted by Westmorland and Furness Council, had also confirmed that there are several parking pressure points in town. Finally, the resident suggested that coach parking should be on Busk Lane. However, Members suggested this was not a viable option, due to the existing heavy use of the area.

### **4. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council’s monthly meeting, dated 13 November 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 9 October 2025 not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda**

There were no additional items to note, all items included on the agenda. i) **any relevant Member updates from outside bodies** There were no additional updates.

### **6. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council**

Cllrs Hodgson and Mitchell did not attend. Information on the National Highways project to help improve J37 had recently been shared on social media. These works include adding transverse yellow bar markings on both exit slip roads on the approach to the stop lines. Along with resurfacing where National Highways will be using a high friction aggregate within the surfacing material. This means that the yellow markings will be laid on a black surface, enhancing their visibility (as compared to laying on a sand-coloured surface dressing). National Highways anticipated these works to be completed prior to the end of the current financial year.

## 7. Planning

Members had not met and the following applications were discussed at the meeting. Further to Item 3, Public Participation, the Chair invited residents to speak in relation to application

**S/03/780 Hallbank Barn, Sedbergh** Full planning permission for conversion of barn to dwelling for local occupancy or holiday let, and creation of parking space.

Residents spoke as a collective representing the hamlet at Hallbank, where there are currently 12 dwellings, serviced by a small private (horseshoe) lane. Concerns were expressed around access and egress from the hamlet, and particularly around any construction works which would diminish vehicular access to some properties, including potential oil deliveries. The Chair advised that the Parish Council are a statutory consultee and, therefore, must view the application on statutory planning matters. He noted that Members were empathetic to concerns over access and there was a small general discussion around responsibility for the access lane (joint/right of access). Ultimately, Members resolved no objections to local occupancy (not holiday let). And, in the spirit of the Yorkshire Dales new Local Plan's principal residence requirement - hope that this application may be considered on this basis. Also, Members acknowledged the resident's legitimate concerns around access and Members wished to note this was, perhaps, an opportunity for the current owners to maximise public benefit for the hamlet. By, potentially, widening the (west) access in its entirety and incorporating the proposed parking area, to create an improved access for all. In addition, potentially consider relocating the field gate entry point closer to the main entrance to the hamlet – which would reduce agricultural vehicle access.

**S/03/703A Frostrow Methodist Chapel, Frostrow, Sedbergh** Section 73 application to vary conditions 2,4,5 & 10 of S/03/703. Members resolved, no objections.

**S/03/376C Workshop, Abbot Holme, Millthrop, Sedbergh** Householder planning permission for replacement of existing 'Big 6' roof sheets with new fibre cement roofing sheets to match existing, and to replace the existing 3no.clear room sheets with new clear roof sheets to provide natural light. Members resolved, no objections and acknowledged potential to replace with slate (supported).

**S/03/779 30 Bainbridge Road, Sedbergh** Full planning permission for change of use to full time holiday rental use (C3) and insertion of new ground floor window to kitchen on north elevation. Members resolved, objection. Highlighting existing parking issues on Bainbridge Road, which were acknowledged as part of Westmorland and Furness Council's recent on street parking report – which confirmed a deficit for parking on Bainbridge Road.

**S/03/732F and S/03/732F/LB Low Beckside, Cautley, Sedbergh** Household planning permission for alterations to a single storey attached outbuilding to create additional residential accommodation for a member of the family, along with Listed Building consent. Members resolved, no objections.

**S/03/774/DIS1 Sedbergh School, Powell House, Sedbergh** Approval of details reserved by Condition 3 (Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan – HMMP Biodiversity Gain Plan) of S/03/774. Members resolved, no objections.

## 8. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 8 December 2025, which included the requests for payments (attached). **i) Members to consider proposed draft budget/plans 2026-2027 and beyond.** Formal consideration of the budget was been deferred until January. Members also noted the small adjustment to the tax base notified by Westmorland and Furness Council.

## 9. Amenities Committee

Members of the Amenities Committee had not met, and with some Members being absent, it was hoped a meeting would be scheduled early in 2026. The Clerk did ask Members for a decision on hedge laying at the playing field, particularly while access was improved due to recent cutting works, and this was agreed by Members.

## 10. Update on Projects

There were, currently, no updates available for playground or parking/New Bridge lay-by project.

### 11. Queens Garden

Members of the Queen's Garden Committee had not met. It was noted that the Sedbergh Gives Back (Sedbergh School project) had unfortunately been delayed due to adverse weather (now anticipated early 2026).

### 12. Correspondence

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

- i) **Sedbergh in Bloom** – the Clerk noted that the current volunteer group will hand over relevant information this month, now they have retired. The Chairman will consider an advert for new volunteers January/February 2026, to maintain the many flower beds/pots currently looked after by the group.
- ii) **Parish Lights** – Members resolved to accept the legal transfer agreement (circulated), and delegated the Clerk to sign the formal agreement, on behalf of the Parish Council.
- iii) **BT Kiosk adoption** – Members considered a request by Sedbergh & District History Society (SDHS) to adopt the former BT Kiosk on Main Street, so that they could refurbish and exhibit/display materials for the society. However, Members were concerned to be burdened with the future maintenance of the listed structure in perpetuity and, therefore, asked the Clerk to liaise further with BT. Asking BT, perhaps, that the kiosk simply be left open so that SDHS can improve and utilise the space, without formal adoption. This would leave BT responsible for its future maintenance.
- iv) **YDNPA new Local Plan** – The Clerk had shared some correspondence with Members from a neighbouring parish. Members had no further comment.
- v) **Town Carol Service** – The Chair hopes to attend to complete a reading at the service, with Cllr Bromley also being available if required.
- vi) **Sedbergh Economic Partnership (SEP)** notes continue to be circulated, for information only. Members also confirm, again, that they cannot comment on the New Bridge lay-by proposal, as further details are awaited from Westmorland and Furness Council.

**13. Date and Time of next meetings. The Parish Council normal monthly meeting 7.30pm on Thursday 15 January 2026 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.**

(The meeting closed at 8.50pm)