

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the monthly Meeting for the Parish Council of Sedbergh, held in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh at 7.30 pm on Thursday 8th December 2022

Present: Councillors Lancaster (Chair), Brooks, Arnold, Longlands, Capstick, Welti, Cowperthwaite, Sedgwick, and Bromley.

Part I

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs McPherson and Hutt and accepted by the Members; all other Parish Councillors were present.

2. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for Dispensations at this meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 9 – Planning, Cllr Arnold (S/03/730A/LB)

Item 9/17 – Planning, Cllr Capstick (Correspondence)

4. Public Participation

There were no Members of the Public present at the meeting. The Chairman was minded to confirm that any Members of the Public present at future meetings, would be seated in the public area only.

5. Minutes of the Meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council 10th November 2022

Members resolved to adopt the Minutes of the meetings held on the 10th November 2022 and they were signed as a true record by the Chairman, Cllr Kevin Lancaster.

6. Matters noted from the Minutes of 10th November 2022

Public Participation – the Clerk had received information from South Lakeland District Council on how Members might progress a Public Space Protection Order (attached) for the playing field in the future. To be progressed with Westmorland and Furness Council going forward.

Highways matters – the Clerk advised that Cllr Nick Cotton had visited Sedbergh and attended some of the road signs highlighted at the November meeting. Photographs had now been submitted to CCC Highways. There were no other matters to note, all remaining items were included on the agenda.

7. Report/update from District/Westmorland and Furness and County Council

Cllr Lancaster advised Members that he had recently attended a meeting/walkabout, in Sedbergh, with Cllr Jonathan Brook (confirmed leader of new Westmorland and Furness Council), along with representatives from the Sedbergh Economic Partnership and Yorkshire Dales National Park. Cllr Lancaster was able to raise the concern for Rigmaden Bridge (again) and the impact this was having in the area, also noting that any replacement should accommodate 7.5t weight.

Cllr Mitchell (unable to attend tonight’s meeting) had raised the following i) Boundary Commission Review – whilst Sedbergh Parish Council had resolved not to submit a collective response Cllr Mitchell noted that, from a Liberal Democrat point of view, Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale should remain in the proposed Westmorland and Lonsdale area, with Greystoke remaining with Penrith. Apologies were received from County Cllr Cotton. Cllrs Hodgson and Pye did not attend.

8. To receive an update on the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Regular Newsletters continue to be circulated to Members, the Clerk had attended the recent online Question and Answer session, where it was again confirmed that existing Council owned Assets (including any potential transfers) would not be considered ahead of Vesting Day.

9. Planning

The Planning Committee had not met. The following application was discussed at Full Council. S/03/730A/LB Sedbergh School, Station Road, Sedbergh, LA10 5HG. Listed building consent for demolition of the curtilage listed toilet block. Members discussed the application, which essentially formed part of the Technology Centre development. Given previous comments submitted for this application, Members were minded to make no objections. (Cllr Arnold took no part in resulting discussion/resolution for this item). S/03/274L/LB Garths, Marthwaite, Sedbergh, LA10 5ED. Listed building consent for alterations to include forming a new internal doorway in a newly constructed partition wall, reconfiguring an existing bathroom, and installing a wood burning stove and flue. Cllr Arnold was able to confirm comments already submitted by the Listed Buildings Officer and Members resolved that whilst sympathetic to the need to add a flue, until accurate drawings of the proposed exterior flue were available (including details of elevations etc), they would not be able to comment. Cllr Mitchell, though absent, had additionally sent confirmation that S/03/606A Kings Yard, Bainbridge Road, Sedbergh, LA10 5AU development. Full planning permission and relevant demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area in respect of demolition of the existing commercial buildings and erection of 7 No. residential dwellings with associated means of access, parking and landscaping had been passed unanimously at Yorkshire Dales National Park Planning Committee meeting earlier this week. Finally, following an item of late correspondence, Members discussed the following outstanding application S/03/518D Birks Farm, Birks Lane, Sedbergh, LA10 5HQ. Full planning permission for use of agricultural field as a campsite for 5 months of the year and construction of a new 3-bay building for stock, hay, or tourist facilities according to the season. Members noted that this application remained undetermined (submitted April 2022) and the applicant had written to Cllr Arnold. Following discussion, it was resolved that Cllr Arnold would respond directly to the applicant and the Clerk was requested to write to Yorkshire Dales National Park seeking clarity on determination delays generally and, additionally, feedback on the current 28-day ruling, temporary campsites (which had been increased to 56 days during Covid, Permitted Rights Development Extension). (Cllr Capstick took no part in discussion/resolution for this item)

10. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 7th December 2022 and resolved to pay all payments recommended for approval (see also Item 16 - Highways). It was also noted that the hedge/verge work had been completed and Members resolved that this should be undertaken biennially in future. i) Budget requirements/considerations 2023 – 2024, Members await tax base information from SLDC.

11. Grants

There had been no Grant applications this month.

12. Amenities Committee

Members had not met. The Clerk was able to confirm that the Bowling Club had thanked Members for their initial feedback on their proposals to improve the pavilion, and further updates will follow in 2023. This would allow time to establish estimates for the work and potential applications for funding, being submitted by the Club, to coincide with full details of the future permitted development application.

Members noted that the potential Pay by Phone app for the car parks, would be discussed at their next meeting. This would allow people to pay using an app/phone call, even when the machine might be out of use for mechanical fault etc.

13. Update on Projects

The following ongoing projects/matters were discussed.

- i) Jubilee Fountain, the contractor had not been in touch. Cllr Arnold will make contact directly, with Members hoping that this can be coincided with the Coronation of King Charles III. Members also briefly discussed the possibility for a plaque to commemorate, though noted that Listed Building consent would be required for this addition if progressed in the future.
- ii) Next steps for EV charging Joss Lane and Loftus Hill car parks – the application to the Energy Saving Trust has been submitted, with quotes also now submitted for their full reference. Members resolved to await next steps from the Energy Saving Trust (EST), with hopes for the Clerk to submit further Grant applications to support the project if acceptable to the EST. Members further resolved to accept the lower quote, if able to progress, and for the Clerk to advise unsuccessful contractors as required.
- iii) Parish lighting review, progress continues, both grant applications had been successful, Yorkshire Dales National Park (Sustainable Development Fund) and Cumbria Actions for Sustainability (CAFS). With pledged funds now totaling up to a maximum £11,486.66 toward the project, to support the initial Parish Council pledge. Members thanked both Yorkshire Dales National Park and Cumbria Action for Sustainability for their support. Cumbria County Council would now be invited to Sedbergh, along with Friends of the Lake District, to confirm works required/logistics of progression in 2023.

14. Queen's Garden

Members had not met. The Clerk noted that two trees had been highlighted for an additional inspection (due to perceived public perception) and the Clerk was requested to ask for this to take place as soon as practicable.

15. Future parking

Cllr Bromley and the Clerk had met with the Economic Advisor for the Sedbergh Economic Partnership. Various information had been discussed and Cllr Bromley now hopes to look at writing a draft Parking and Access Statement/Strategy for Sedbergh. In addition, the Clerk had liaised further with South Lakeland District Council regarding the potential to reduce the recycling facility, which would free up additional parking. A copy of the current lease for the car park to be circulated to all Members for reference, and the Clerk to write to SLDC to confirm the minimum recycling capacity required.

16. Highways Matters

i) Proposed footpath at Howgill Lane and Highways connection – Members noted that the path and fence had been completed and, pending confirmation from the Principal Designer, that they had received all necessary papers to complete CDM Regulations, the invoice should be paid. Once all invoices complete, the Clerk will liaise with Cumbria County Council for reimbursement of expenditure. In addition, at this item, Cllrs noted the newly erected railings close to Cross Keys (the site of the recent road improvement scheme) and requested the Clerk contact CCC Highways to follow up on materials/style used. Noting that the railings could be viewed as dangerous and would offer no protection to vehicles/motorbikes, with the railings being a potential hazard to cyclists/motorcyclists in the event of an incident.

17. Correspondence

The attached Clerk's Correspondence list was noted by the meeting:

- i) Sedbergh Economic Partnership meeting – notes from the last meeting were circulated, along with a paper 'Vision for Main Street 2025' for reference. Members had no specific items for inclusion in a future Agenda at this time.

- ii) Antoni Gosiewski – Members discussed the memorial, noting that the Royal British Legion and Sedbergh and District History Society had both now agreed to contribute to the plaque (£100/£200 respectively). Members resolved that an interpretation panel style would be an appropriate tribute and the Clerk was requested to establish final costs/design prior to permit submission request with South Lakeland District Council (for erection at the cemetery lych gate) as previously agreed. The Clerk also noted (correspondence) received in respect of a stone on Knott, recently broken, that had contained the engraving Poland 1947.

18. Date and Time of next meeting – monthly meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council, to be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th January 2023 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh. Members additionally resolved to change the meeting dates for February/March due to the Committee Room being unavailable in February. With new dates agreed as 23rd February and 13th April 2023 (no meeting in March). Members resolved delegated authority to the Finance Committee to make all payments, deemed necessary, in February/March to meet the Financial year end for 2022/2023 and in conclusion of expenditure for Annual Audit.

Part II

It was resolved and agreed that the public should be excluded from the meeting for reason of the financially sensitive and/or confidential nature of the items to be discussed.

9. Planning

The Chairman noted an update in respect of the development off Station Road. The Clerk was requested to write to the developers, seeking clarity prior to the next meeting.

19. Legacy monies – any update from Solicitors

The Clerk awaited a response from the Solicitor in respect of a proposed meeting with the Executor (second legacy) to discuss potential capital project/s.

20. Contractors Review

Members resolved that a draft Contract be written for Grass cutting/field maintenance for in preparation.