

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 July 2025

Present: Councillors Arnold (Chair), Longlands, Cowperthwaite, Thomson, Welti, Lancaster, and Bromley

1. Apologies for absence and casual vacancy

Apologies were received from Cllr Brooks, Sedgwick and Capstick. 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

Item 7 – Planning. Members dispensations relating to Sedbergh School.

3. Public Participation

Members welcomed two residents who wanted to raise their concerns over parking on Bainbridge Road. The residents have previously spoken with Ward Cllr Hazel Hodgson, and wished to additionally note their concerns to Members, also highlighting the potential future redevelopment of Kinds Yard and implications for parking. The Chair, and Cllr Lancaster gave a brief history, including reference to Cllr Bromley’s previous parking strategy report and a short synopsis of the recent parking survey completed by Westmorland and Furness Council (WFC). Members also highlighted various discussions with Yorkshire Dales National Park. Cllr Lancaster encouraged the residents to consider commenting on the current YDNPA Local Plan consultation with their observations around parking. In summary, Members hope to continue to progress their aims to relocate coach parking from Joss Lane car park (to allow increased parking) along with hopes to create additional parking at the People’s Hall (when the play park relocates). Members of the Council are scheduled to meet with WFC again soon.

4. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council’s monthly meeting, dated 12 June 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 12 June 2025 not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda

There were no additional items to note, all items included on the agenda.

6. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllr Mitchell had hoped to attend the meeting but was unavoidably delayed, and later gave apologies, Cllr Hodgson did not attend. Various correspondence had been received from both Councillors in recent weeks, mainly around ongoing issues at J37 (M6). The latest correspondence, from National Highways, suggests they hope to conclude their ongoing investigation by November this year, with potential improvement works completed in the current financial year.

7. Planning

Members had not met, as there had been no recent applications until this week. Members resolved, therefore, to consider the application at this meeting.

S/03/132B Danson Modular Classroom, Loftus Hill, Sedbergh – Section 73 application to vary Condition 2 (removal from site by 30/9/25) of S/03/132A (Full planning permission for installation of a three-bay modular classroom unit to the rear of the existing building – retrospective) in respect of removal from site by 30/9/2027 – No objections.

S/03/773 Land off Frostrow Lane, Garsdale Road – 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 noted that this application, previously supported by the Parish Council, had been recommended for refusal by the Planning Officer and had, therefore, been referred to YDNPA Planning Committee. The Chair will attend, on behalf of the Parish Council, on Tuesday 15 July 2025.

8. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 9 June 2025, which included the requests for payments (attached), along with Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk, the ongoing progress for migration to gov.uk website/email hosting and the acquisition of CCLA Investment Management.

9. Amenities Committee

Members of the Committee had not met. Members briefly discussed the hedgerow to the east of the playing field, and resolved to include this area for cutting back when allowed (Hedgerow management rules: cutting and trimming – no works permitted 1 March to 31 August) and as part of other planned works close to the boundary of the play area. Members may also wish to consider laying the southern boundary hedge again as, and when, might be required.

10. Update on Projects

i) Playground Proposal – any update on pre-application advice with Yorkshire Dales National Park. Cllr Arnold hopes to soon progress elements of initial advice given, following requests for quotes in respect of bio diversity net gain, landscaping etc,

ii) Main Street toilet door replacement – any progress on replacement doors (disabled access and market store) and consider future installation of automatic (timed) shutters for the ladies/gents toilets. The Clerk is in contact with the previously appointed contractor in respect of scheduling a date to commence the door replacements (with updated cost). The Clerk is awaiting information in respect of the potential in retro fit timers to the shutters and hopes, therefore, to update Members at a future meeting.

11. Queens Garden

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 19 June 2025. The Clerk clarified the request for a valuation of the norther boundary wall (to be considered for insurance), and further raised a query over the brush at the garden - the Committee will consider the best method of disposal.

i) provision of waste bin Members had noted the resistance of Westmorland and Furness Council to install a bin, and did not wish to pursue the matter further at this time.

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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) B4RN** – Cllr Thomson, in his personal capacity, gave members a brief update on B4RN's hopes to investigate improved connectivity for Sedbergh town centre. The Chair took this opportunity to remind all Councillors that when contacting outside bodies/organisations, either phone/person/written, they make it clear if the approach is in a personal capacity. This is to avoid any potential confusion in respect of whether the approach is on behalf of the Council.
- ii) MASCG** – Cllrs Lancaster and Thomson had attended the recent wash-up meeting and noted some discussion around the current traffic regulations orders applied around Sedbergh.
- iii) BT Kiosks, Sedbergh** – Members noted that BT had now confirmed that the telephony equipment would be removed from the three remaining kiosks (Howgill, Havera and Sedbergh Library). Members asked the Clerk to confirm, with BT, that they would complete a full clean prior to locking, and continue to maintain in the future.
- iv) Fish and Chip take-away (People's Hall car park)** – a request had been received about the current fish and chip proprietor increasing, on a temporary basis, to weekly attendance. Members agreed, on the understanding that when the Fish and Chip shop was able to trade again (or return of the former fortnightly pizza mobile van) they would return to fortnightly.
- v) Lancashire Cricket** – Members noted an invite to attend a match being held on 5 August 2025.

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