

## THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

**Minutes of the monthly meeting for the Parish Council of Sedbergh, held at 7.00pm in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh - Thursday 12 June 2025**

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

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Brooks. There is currently one casual vacancy, advertised with a closing date of 1 August 2025.

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

There were no declarations of interest made, or new requests for dispensations.

### **3. Public Participation**

Members welcomed a presentation on Affordable Housing in the Lune Valley, from representatives from the Lune Vally Community Land Trust. The Clerk passed on some relevant contacts for both Yorkshire Dales National Park and Westmorland and Furness Council. And will also share information with local community groups – such as Dentedale Community Housing Project and Sedbergh Community Trust.

Members also welcomed Libby Bateman (Parish representative, Yorkshire Dales National Park) for a general update. Which included reference to the National Park Management Plan and the review of the Local Plan (now submitted for inspection). While Members had an opportunity, they did note their disappointment in respect of a recent YDNPA Planning Committee decision. This related to a property on Main Street, Sedbergh. Sedbergh Parish Council had previously, March 2025, objected to the request to convert some retail space into residential. Noting that a change of use would potentially leave the remaining retail space no longer viable for the future. Members noted that the general shrinkage of viable retail space would have a negative impact on the town’s economy, ultimately reducing shopping outlets and opportunities in the town. Members also noted briefly a small glitch in the planning portal, in that amended plans do not automatically show at the amended date. Therefore, unless an objection was raised to the initial application (where a notification would be automatically received) it is impossible to know if an amendment has been completed, on a previous planning application, if no comments /objections were submitted.

### **4. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council’s Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and normal monthly meeting, both dated 15 May 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 15 May 2025 not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda**

Members noted that Cllr Arnold hopes to progress an advert in the summer, seeking help/volunteers for the town’s various flower/shrub beds, following notice of Sedbergh in Bloom standing down at the end of 2025.

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

Cllr Mitchell and Hodgson were unable to attend. Cllr Mitchell had sent a summary of current updates for Members, including recent highways matters, the former Baliol School Site (Members also note that it is back for sale), recent collision at J37 (M6) and a scheduled wash up meeting for MASCG (Multi-Agency Strategic Coordinating Group). Cllr Hodgson had attended the Public Transport Group meeting, the previous day, along with Cllr John Murray (Portfolio Holder).

#### **i) any updates from Westmorland and Furness Council Cabinet meeting 3 June 2025**

Members were pleased to have the opportunity to speak directly with Members of the Cabinet, as they held their meeting in Sedbergh, on 3 June 2025.

## 7. Planning

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the recent Planning Meeting 10 June 2025. The Clerk was requested to submit comments on their behalf, which included an updated decision on i) **S/03/385L (Uldale Farm, Fell End)** following their amended plan submission – no objection.

## 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 review and adoption of the Scheme of Delegation. Members additionally noted the Committee's plans to transfer Merchant (Car park ticket machine card payment provision). Finally, Members noted that during recent road closures, particularly the Lincoln's Inn Bridge close at Easter, car park income had remained consistent. Members noted that some business owners had highlighted a negative impact during the closure, however, car park income had seen an increase during the period (April/May) on the previous year.

## 9. Amenities Committee

Members of the Committee had not met. **i) car parking, short term surfacing solutions.** Members discussed options to complete some general repairs vs await full resurfacing (which has been discussed for some time) at Joss Lane. Members acknowledge that the delay, for a full resurface/improvement scheme, is due to anticipated costs, and potential funding applications required. Also, the interlinking of other projects, including coach parking and the hopes to extend parking at the People's Hall. In respect of funding a scheme at Joss Lane car park, for example, it is known that funders will insist on evidencing an enhancement/improvement scheme, and will not financially support general maintenance. Following some discussion, it was finally proposed that some interim repairs were completed (anticipated costs circa £6000). Members voted 3/2 for the works to be completed (4 abstained) and it was, therefore, resolved that the Clerk liaise further with the contractor to arrange the repairs.

## 10. Update on Projects

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

**ii) New Bridge layby proposal – any update from Yorkshire Dales National Park.** The Clerk advised that the park had responded, this week, advising that the proposal could be considered as permitted development if progressed by Westmorland and Furness Council. It was, therefore, resolved that the Clerk attempt to convene a meeting with highways in the summer to look at how this might practically be progressed. Along with establishing associated costs, current limitations of traffic regulation order, consultation, signage, and consideration of pick up and drop off points in the town.

**iii) Main Street toilet door replacement – any update in respect structural engineer report/building control Westmorland and Furness Council (general costs).** The clerk noted that a quote had been received from a consultant, giving an indicative cost for a structural engineer report, and lintel design, if required. This was in addition to Westmorland and Furness Council Building Control fees and the initial design fees (the latter already paid) – total circa <£2000. Given the high level of administration/design costs, on top of the structural work required to widen the door (to current minimum width requirements for disabled access), Members resolved (1 abstained) that the additional costs were simply unjustifiable. Not least, as the project was ultimately to gain an increase of just 40mm. The Clerk was, therefore, asked to liaise with Westmorland and Furness Council Asset team, to confirm the decision and obtain consent and with the building contractor, to confirm replacement door work (only).

**iv) Parking Survey – Westmorland and Furness Council.** Members welcomed the recent report from Westmorland and Furness Council, which had followed previous requests from residents and the Parish Council to consider additional areas of parking restrictions to improve safety. Members noted that implementation of parking restrictions, in the form of double yellow lines through a Traffic Regulation Order, would now be consulted with residents and stakeholders.

These areas include the corner of Maryfell, nearest to the pedestrian crossing. Long Lane, opposite Settlebeck Row, Long Lane, opposite its junction with the A684 toward New Bridge and Busk Lane, junction mouth with Loftus Hill. Maryfell, Long Lane, Busk Lane/Loftus Hill Members wished to express thanks, for the areas now being considered, and understand that Westmorland and Furness Council will now consult nearby residents and stakeholders.

### 11. Queens Garden

Members of the Committee have not met; a meeting is scheduled on 19 June 2025.

### 12. Correspondence

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

- i) **Resident, alterations to footpath at Millthrop and, separate request, pushchair accessible riverside path.** The Clerk had passed on concern for the footpath alteration at Millthrop, close to Derry Cottage, to Yorkshire Dales National Park. In addition, the query raised over pushchair access to the riverside (south bank) had been passed to Yorkshire Dales National Park, and Westmorland and Furness Council Ward Councillors.
- ii) **Sedbergh Economic Partnership (SEP) – any update following correspondence issued in March/latest SEP meeting.** No further reply had been received in respect of current chairmanship and that recent reference to ‘succession’ had referred to the Vice Chair role.
- iii) **MASCG –** Members noted that a wash up meeting was scheduled in July.
- iv) **National Highways M6 Lune Gorge Project –** Cllrs Capstick and Longlands (along with the Clerk) had recently attended an information session in Tebay. It was understood that some preparatory works are scheduled later this year, which could see full overnight closures in place from J36 to J39. The main part of the project being planned to commence in 2027 – which would see full south or north lane closures, with a contraflow in operation on opposite carriageways. Further details will follow, with hopes to welcome the project leaders to Sedbergh in the future.
- v) **Festive Lighting, December – Members to begin to consider 2025 lighting/consent.** Members noted that the contractor had been in contact with the Clerk around plans for December 2025. With some changes planned for this season, Members resolved to financially support the proposal – additional cost circa £550.00.
- vi) **Remembrance Sunday –** Members noted a verbal enquiry from the local branch of the Royal British Legion, hoping that Sedbergh Parish Council would request a road closure again this year (as 2024) under the Town and Police Clauses Act.
- vii) **Sedbergh School –** Members noted a whole school solstice walk planned on 21 June 2025, to replicate a similar walk completed 100 years ago.

**14. Date and Time of next meetings. The Parish Council normal monthly meeting 7.30pm on Thursday 10 July 2025 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.**