

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 9 October 2025

Present: Councillors Arnold (Chair), Longlands, Cowperthwaite, Thomson, Lancaster, Sedgwick, Bromley, Welti, Capstick, and the Clerk. (There was one member of the public in attendance.)

Part I

1. Apologies for absence and casual vacancy

Apologies were received from Cllr Brooks. There currently remains one casual vacancy.

2. Declarations of Interest and any new requests for dispensations

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

3. Public Participation

A resident from Bainbridge Road attended to highlight their general concerns for parking. The Chair was able to confirm that Sedbergh Parish Council have been in contact with Westmorland and Furness Council for several months in connection with highways matters (including parking), and that further information will be publicly available soon (see also Item 10)

4. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council’s monthly meeting, dated 11 September 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 11 September 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 matters to update at this meeting.

6. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Hodgson did not attend. The Clerk highlighted some recent updates from Westmorland and Furness Council, including local election delays (2027), the Mayoral led authority for Cumbria review and forthcoming Community Governance Review **i) final recommendations for Local Government Boundary Commission for England.** Members noted this included a review of the current Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale Ward (two member) to a single Member Ward (Sedbergh, Dent, Garsdale) **ii) recent road closures.** Members noted that the community had seen a high level of road closures/road works, with some incorrect signage at times, in recent weeks. Members requested the Clerk to write to Highways, asking for increased coordination and regular updates for the Council.

7. Planning

Members had not met and the following applications were discussed at the meeting.

S/03/ 777 – Barns at Foxhole Rigg Lane, Sedbergh Full Planning permission for conversion of the larger barn to a one-bedroom local occupancy dwelling or holiday let and conversion of the smaller barn to form a detached guest annex ancillary to the larger barn, and installation of package sewage treatment plant. Resolved, no objections, with final discretion of exact wording delegated to the Chair of the Planning Committee, to be circulated, which may additionally acknowledge support due to the application preserving the buildings in the landscape.

S/03/385L/DIS1 Uldale Farm, Ravenstonedale Approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan – HMMP) & 6 (external lighting details) of S/03/385L. Resolved, no objections.

S/03/16C Cautley Thwaite Farm, Cautley, Sedbergh Full planning permission for erection of farm building on to the side of the existing farm building for livestock housing purposes. Resolved, no objections.

8. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 6 October 2025, which included the requests for payments (attached). Along with an additional payment for the recent maintenance works at Joss Lane car park - £7032. Finally, following recommendation by the Finance Committee, Members resolved to approve the new pay and display ticket prices, effective April 2026. i) Members to consider Committee budget/plans 2025-2027 and beyond, in preparation for Annual Budget.

9. Amenities Committee

Members of the Amenities Committee had not met, and the Chair was absent from the meeting. The Clerk advised that a cheese stall was hoping to trial at the Market later this month.

10. Update on Projects

Members noted an update from Westmorland and Furness Highways in respect of the Parking Survey (see Part II). There were, currently, no further updates available for the playground, New Bridge lay-by projects.

11. Queens Garden

Members of the Queen's Garden Committee had not met; however, their draft plan had been circulated for Member feedback. **i) A Plan for Queen's Garden.** Members discussed the plan and highlighted some minor amendments, including reference to the old metal sign (now beyond repair), careful consideration of rhododendron species chosen (due to some being invasive), minimum amounts of weed spraying (and only when necessary). Finally, confirmation from Yorkshire Dales National Park and Westmorland and Furness Council, tree officers, that they are content with the plan (and movement of some existing trees) following previous funding of the trees proposed to be relocated. Members additionally agreed, that they hope to see some progress made on the stone steps/future improvements, as previously highlighted by the Committee.

12. Correspondence

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

- i) **Settlebeck School Awards Evening** – Members welcomed the invitation, with four Councillors hoping to attend.
- ii) **Yorkshire Dales Parish Forum** – Notice of the forthcoming forum meeting, Cllr Thomson hopes to attend.
- iii) **Pharmacy** – Members welcomed an update in respect of hopes for a new pharmacy on Main Street, Sedbergh.
- iv) **Cumbria Police Town and Parish Council Neighbourhood Pledge Meeting** – Members received an invitation to the second meeting of the group.
- v) **Sedbergh Economic Partnership (SEP)** – Correspondence had been received from the SEP in respect of the proposal for coach parking at New Bridge. However, Members resolved that they could not reply further, at this time, as they continue to consult directly with Westmorland and Furness Council.
- vi) **Traders – People's Hall car park** – Members noted that the current fish and chip trader, wished to attend weekly, and that a milkshake/waffle/crepe trader wished to trial. Members agreed, noting that the evening for the sweets van, should coincide with the fish and chip van on a trial basis.

13. Date and Time of next meetings. The Parish Council normal monthly meeting 7.30pm on Thursday 13 November 2025 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.

Cllr Ed Welti resigned from the Council at the end of this meeting, with thanks noted from all Members, and the Chair, for all his previous support of the Council.

Part II

In accordance with Standing Orders, it was proposed and resolved that the public should be excluded from the meeting, by reason of the confidential nature to be discussed, in relation to the following item:

10. Update on Projects – Parking Survey Members received an update from Westmorland and Furness Council; however, it had been received after the agenda had been issued for October. The parking report included various yellow lining etc. previously raised. Members discussed the report generally and noted one or two items for further feedback, prior to the document being finalised and released for public initial consultation by Westmorland and Furness Council.

14. Sedbergh United Charities – future representations/responsibilities

Members resolved to defer this Item to November, in the absence of all Members.

15. Contractor Review

Following recommendations from the Finance Committee (see Item 8, along with Finance Committee minutes) Members resolved to approve the suggested rates for the Main Street toilet contractor and the Parish Handy person.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm