

# Queen's Gardens Meeting – Thursday 19 June 2025

## Held at Queen's Gardens, Station Road, Sedbergh

**Present** – Cllrs Lancaster, Thomson, Cowperthwaite.

1. **Election of Chairman.** Cllr Lancaster was elected as chairman for the forthcoming year.
2. **Apologies.** Cllr Sedgwick.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** There were none.
4. **Minutes.** Members noted the minutes of the meeting held 19 March 2024.
5. **Litter Bin.** There had been some discussion as to moving a Litter Bin from Ghyllas Lay-by to Queen's Gardens. This was being resisted by WFC and members present did not wish to pursue the matter further at the present time.
6. **Gravel Paths.** Members were appreciative of the work done by Young Farmers and others to the Paths. It was noted that the surplus gravel was now at the Gardens: thank you to everyone involved.
7. **Memorial Steps.** The structural issues remain. For a long term solution members were reminded of the advice from Nick Fecitt. Firstly the voids under the steps needed to be filled. If that were done then the steps could be re-instated but with the current bottom sides on top. If they were no longer load bearing most if not all of the steps could be safely re-used and would look good. Nick had been of the opinion if there was a need for one or more new steps he would be able to advise but because of the length of the steps it was not a route to be taken lightly.
8. **Long Term Plan for the Gardens.** There was a feeling decisions taken in the past had been ad hoc and were not part of any wider scheme. Cllr Thomson agreed to draft a plan to be considered by a future meeting of the committee.

There was some relief that the Band Stand / Conservatory had not been built and there was a feeling that that decision had not been taken with regard to the general well-being of the Gardens.

It was strongly felt that the trees which had fallen had on the whole greatly improved the Gardens, therefore the decision to plant new trees taken several years before had not been a wholly good thing.

The failed Lottery Bid had concentrated on what would attract funding rather than what was best for the Queen's Gardens, residents of the parish and regular users of the Gardens.

9. **Front Wall.** The application for Lottery Funding, and early advice from English Heritage had treated the Front Wall as sacrosanct in its present location. However, the chairman reminded members that the last officer from English Heritage had taken a very different view. He considered public use as the key justification for public gardens. Like the parish he considered the wall in its current location a major discouragement against public use. So, contrary to previous input for English Heritage he was not averse to the wall being moved.

Members agreed that moving the wall remained a desirable objective.

## **Queen's Gardens Meeting – Thursday 19 June 2025 Held at Queen's Gardens, Station Road, Sedbergh**

The Clerk had asked for an insurance valuation for the wall but members were unclear as to what would be needed so required further clarity before making a decision.

9. **Spellbound Theatre.** Members were supportive of the proposed event at Halloween
10. **Weed Control.** Notwithstanding previous decisions taken, members could see there was a strong need to spray the paths with an appropriate weed control product.
11. **Interpretation Panel.** Members were aware there was the intention to repair the panel as part of Challenge Week, this was much welcomed.
12. **Future Meeting.** This meeting had been restricted to parish members but it would be desirable to invite the Parish Handyman to the next meeting and former councillor Jim Atkins.