

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 11 September 2025

Present: Councillors Arnold (Chair), Longlands, Cowperthwaite, Thomson, Welti, Brooks, Capstick, and the Clerk.

There were nine members of the public, including the team from Kier (Item 3). Members resolved to move Item 12 (Public Transport User Group) to Item 6 (Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council) resulting in the renumbering of relevant Items.

Part I

1. Apologies for absence and casual vacancy

Apologies were received from Cllr Bromley, Lancaster, and Sedgwick. 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, including representation from the Lune Gorge Project (M6)

Members welcomed representatives of Kier. Kier have been appointed by National Highways to carry out an essential maintenance programme on eight bridges spanning the M6 motorway between junctions J37 (Sedbergh) and J38 (Tebay). Preparatory works have already commenced (with some local overnight closures), with the main project due to commence in Spring 2027. A contra flow system between J36 and J39 will be established throughout the planned works. Kier is liaising with all known stakeholders, including Westmorland and Council, emergency services, transport, and network operators etc, in preparation and will continue to host community engagement events as the main project nears. Sedbergh Parish Council will aim add a link to their website for Kier, where it is hoped up to date information will be shared in the future. Members also asked if a single point of contact would be made available to all Parish clerks on the route as the project progresses and that appropriate condition survey reports of major access roads, in the area, will be completed prior to work (to measure impact of increased traffic). Kier was also able to provide information on National Highway’s Social Value Fund and the Clerk was asked to seek further information, with Members then hoping to consider an application to the Fund to potentially contribute to the playground project at Howgill Lane. Thanks, were also expressed for attending and updating Members.

4. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council’s monthly meeting, dated 14 August 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 14 August 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. Public Transport User Group (moved from Item 12)

Members received an update from the Chair of the Transport User Group (Cllr Ed Welti), which included a proposed timetable submitted, by the Group, to Westmorland and Furness Council. This submission included the hope for a commercial operator to run a service between Kirkby Stephen and Kendal (via Sedbergh).

Research, by the group, had highlighted that Sedbergh appears to have one of the lowest numbers of available buses, for a town of its size, including no current provision before 9am or after 5pm.

Also noting that, on average, passengers are being turned away once a week – with the largest report being 17 passengers unable to travel on one journey in the summer. The User Group hope that the current (volunteer) Western Dales Bus could then be supported to scope new routes, giving increased connectivity to new destinations. Members, therefore, resolved to send a letter of support for the proposals to Westmorland and Furness Council. Members believe that these proposals will promote an increase in public transport into and out of town for residents, and promote public transport tourism. This also has the potential to extend both visitor and resident experiences generally and the potential to reduce pressure on car parks in the town. Members wished to thank the Chairman, and the Committee, of the Transport Group for all their ongoing work. In response, representatives of Western Dales Bus (attending as members of the public) confirmed they would be willing step away and explore other options with the community, if the proposed new commercial timetable/tender was successful in the future.

7. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllr Hodgson was able to give a brief general update to Members, including ongoing work with Westmorland and Furness Cabinet in support of the Transport User Group proposals. Also, ongoing investigations into the recent issues faced by the community when a local communications mast ceased to be operational 4/5 September, impacting almost all mobile network coverage in the area. Also, to report back to Members about any emergency services communications which are believed to share the same mast. Cllr Mitchell did not attend.

8. Planning

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

S/03/771 – 2 Main Street, Sedbergh Full planning permission for erection of an external staircase and alteration to fenestration to provide first floor access; and removal of rendering. Members resolved no objections to the removal of render. Members had no objection, in principle, to the external staircase providing and the design were sympathetically traditional (ie, not metal or glass). Also including the potential to raise the external (west) boundary wall, to help shield the external stair case proposed. There was some concern raised about reduced parking due to external steps. Members also expressed some views around the external staircase potentially facilitating two separate units (as, currently, access had been via an internal staircase). The Clerk, therefore, was asked to liaise with YDNPA over any potential Section 106 agreement that could be considered feasible. This might include, for example, provision to prevent future holiday accommodation conversion and/or tying the commercial unit with the residential unit.

S/07/1A/LB – Crook of Lune Bridge, B6257, Beck Foot, Lowgill Listed building consent for repairs – Resolved, no objections.

S/03/590A – Ghyllas, Cautley Road, Sedbergh Householder planning permission for erection of single storey front extension with internal and external alterations to the existing residential dwelling, together with a new ground source heat pump and borehole installation and new water supply borehole – Resolved, no objections.

S/03/590B – Ghyllas, Cautley Road, Sedbergh Full planning permission for installation of 2no. arrays of PV panels (56 panels in total) on a ground level ‘Solarport’ 2-in-portrait racking system with association land levelling and bunding to screen the installation – Resolved, to request the Clerk contact the Agent a request a site visit by the Planning Committee. ***Members of the Planning Committee later visited the site, and the Planning Committee latterly resolved no objections to the scheme as it will not be obviously publicly visible from any angle. Reflection from the panels should not be visible as the southerly aspect is screened by a mature woodland. Members did question the need for the berm and felt that this could be omitted to retain the natural lie of the landscape and suggested this could be replaced with a hedge along the existing fence lines. This would improve the net biodiversity gain and probably reduce the cost for the applicant***

S/03/258C Wardses Cottage, Frostraw Lane, Sedbergh Full planning permission for change of use of detached stone barn to form ancillary accommodation to Wardses Cottage, including extended garden curtilage area at Barn – Resolved, to support the application.

Members additionally discussed a Licensing application (variation) for The Thirsty Rambler, 14-16 Main Street – Resolved, no objections. Noting that the extended opening hours requested were in keeping with other establishments.

Finally, Members noted an update on the TPO Woodside/Sycamore (Planning Item 7i August 2025) The Clerk has been asked to arrange a site meeting, however, due to time constraints, YDNPA had not been able to facilitate this request. Members felt, therefore, that they had been left with no option but to object to the TPO application, to prevent the formalisation of an unnecessary order. Additionally contesting that all four thresholds for the TPO had been met, these being a) nuisance (as demonstrated by neighbouring properties initiating the query) and b) threat, as Members believed the agent had simply asked for guidance on future management and no impending work had been planned.

9. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 8 September 2025, which included the requests for payments (attached). The Chair highlighted the request that Members should commence use of their gov.uk emails as soon as practicable (and before the next meeting) and Members additionally resolved to adopt the IT Policy (circulated).

And, finally, following recommendation by the Finance Committee, Members resolved to approve the realignment of reserves to create a new Bowling Club sinking fund.

10. Amenities Committee

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 3 September 2025. The Chair confirmed that the disabled access/market store doors were now being manufactured and an install date will be advised in due course.

11. Update on Projects

There were no significant updates for Members.

12. Queens Garden

Members of the Queen's Garden Committee had agreed a plan for the garden and hope to circulate this to Members for the next meeting.

13. Sedbergh Town

Members discussed the ongoing situation with Jhoots pharmacy (currently closed) and the difficulties for the community in accessing prescriptions etc. It was noted that AN Other pharmacy has shown some interest in establishing a community pharmacy in Sedbergh, however, this is in its early stages at present (including confirming a suitable premises), and awaiting confirmation of the future of Jhoots. Members therefore resolved to ask the Clerk to contact the pharmacy asking for updates, when available, so Members could consider ways to support in the future. Also noting the current number of empty units on Main Street.

.

14. Correspondence

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

- i) **Remembrance Sunday** – The draft order and now been received, and Members asked the Clerk to confirm the draft, so that formal consultation could commence.
- ii) **Killington WI** – Members noted a kind invitation to their meeting in November, which includes a Q&A on recycling, the Clerk hopes to attend.
- iii) **Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan, Annual Forum** – Cllr Thomson hopes to attend on 23 October 2025
- iv) **Sheepfest** – Members received a thank you letter from the committee.

15. Date and Time of next meetings. The Parish Council normal monthly meeting 7.30pm on Thursday 9 October 2025 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.

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:

16. Sedbergh United Charities – future representations/responsibilities

Members resolved to defer this Item to October

The meeting closed at 9.45pm