

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 16 April 2026

The Chair led a period of reflection as the community unites in support for the family of Jaydon Cottam. Members also agreed to donate to the family's chosen charity, North West Air Ambulance, in tribute to Jaydon.

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Sedgwick (1 x vacancy).

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 three members of the public to the meeting. The applicant for S/03/773 Land off Frostrow Lane, Garsdale Road Sedbergh (see Item 7) attended to give a brief update on his planning application (see previous Parish Council minutes April, July 2025, and March 2026)) and the subsequent ongoing consideration by Yorkshire Dales Planning Committee. Various additional information had been submitted and the applicant is now additionally scheduled to meet with Westmorland and Furness Council Highways to discuss plans for the proposed pathway. Currently, the applicant is waiting for YDNPA to confirm if he will be able to speak at any future Planning Committee meeting, and he asks if the Parish Council might consider speaking again too, if available and permitted. The Chair (Cllr Arnold) agreed that he would, if possible, speak again. However, if unavailable, Members agreed that further correspondence should be submitted on behalf of Sedbergh Parish Council - as they all remain in support of the proposal. Members noted the results of the recent survey conducted by the applicant, illustrating 97% support for the introduction of the pathway, along with details of a potential Section 30 Agreement. A Section 30 outlines responsibilities that can be agreed, including specific maintenance/liabilities, between land owners/highways/Parish etc. Members noted that, if permission is ultimately granted by YDNPA and a Section 30 is deemed appropriate, they would be content to seek their own independent advice about the potential provision.

4. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council's monthly meeting, dated 11 March 2026

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 February 2026 not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda

There were no matters to note. i) any relevant Member updates from outside bodies None.

6. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllrs Hodgson and Mitchell did not attend. However, more generally in relation to the Transport Group (March 2026), it had been noted that Dent Parish Council had recently written to Westmorland and Furness Council regarding local bus services (February 2026). Specifically, Dent Parish Council note 'that the proposed new service between Sedbergh and Kendal was likely to have a detrimental effect on the service provided by Western Dales Bus'. Members were, therefore, concerned to note the apparent opposing position of Dent Parish Council. The Clerk will seek feedback from Cllrs Mitchell and Hodgson in respect of documents shared with Dent Parish Council.

7. Planning

Members resolved to accept the minutes of 31 March 2026 (attached). The following application was discussed at the meeting

- i) **Update on application S/03/773 Land off Frostrow Lane, Garsdale Road, Sedbergh** 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 (see Item 3).
- ii) **Yorkshire Dales Local Plan Main Modifications Consultation including allocation amendment for former Baliol site.** The Council notes that the site has now been allocated to C1 Housing (formerly E1 Business). While Members acknowledge that to support the future development of the site (vacant since 2012) a proportion of the site will be needed for C1 Housing, they wish to reiterate their previously submitted comments (Local Plan Consultation 3). Whereby, Members emphasise that the site must retain a mix of business use too, giving greater benefit and balance to the town. Members expressed concern that the complete loss of business/commercial use at this location could result in Sedbergh becoming a predominantly dormitory town, lacking in sufficient local employment/commercial opportunity, along with potential workshop units. It was resolved therefore, by Members, that the Clerk write in response to the new consultation highlighting these previous observations, and requesting YDNPA to reconsider the designation to ensure a more balanced mix-use approach of the site. Members believe that this will ultimately support and safeguard the town's long-term economic sustainability. (Cllr Thomson abstained).

8. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 13 April 2026, which included the requests for payments, details of the updated Asset Register and forthcoming External Audit.

9. Amenities Committee

Members had not met.

10. Update on Projects

- i) **New Bridge layby** proposal – Members noted that Westmorland and Furness Council had recently advised that the request for coach parking at New Bridge layby is listed for consideration for future funding and to allow resurfacing works and the marking of coach parking bays. However, further assessment is required in respect of potential for drop off/pick up in town. Members noted the update, and hoped that there may be future opportunity/scope to investigate and establish an improved bus stop/coach drop/off pick up on Main Street and that if current parking short stay laybys were lost as part of the provision, then alternative short stay parking could be considered close by.
- ii) **Playground – Howgill Lane.** The Clerk confirmed that she had recently followed up with the contractor for the Biodiversity Net Gain report (along with associated tree and landscaping).

11. Queens Garden

Members had not met. It was noted that a contractor was due to complete the minor wall repairs soon, and that Cllr Thomson and Clerk hope to issue a tender for proposed improvement/maintenance/realignment work to the stone steps/monument surround this month. Finally, Members noted that a tree had been identified as requiring immediate maintenance (west pathway) due to branch shedding and general decline. The Clerk had been tasked with seeking a contractor to confirm a price for removal as soon as possible.

12. Correspondence

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

- i) **Westmorland and Furness Council (WFC) – Biodiversity Duty for Town and Parish Councils.** Members noted recent correspondence advising that all Parish/Town Councils have a biodiversity duty. The Clerk was asked to liaise further with Westmorland and Furness Council and/or Cumbria Association of Local Council to establish a template for the recommended policy.

- ii) **Lizzi Collinge MP – feedback on Home to School Transport Consultation (WFC).** The Clerk noted that a petition had recently been circulated in respect of the proposed changes to home to school transport, particularly highlighting the potential implication for rural towns.
- iii) **Sedbergh Economic Partnership – Former Udales Building structural survey report.** Members noted the recently shared report, which confirmed that the building needed significant work.
- iv) **United Utilities – update on Howgill Lane/replacement water mains connection.** The Clerk advised that United Utilities had recently been in contact with a proposed Section 159, however, the proposed new route followed a different plan to the existing water main and involved a third party. This had been highlighted to their agent, and an update is awaited.
- v) **Westmorland and Furness Council – Garden Waste subscription service.** Members noted that since the notice of garden waste subscription had been announced online, that letters had still not been sent to residents. Westmorland and Furness Councillor Mitchell had advised that letters should be issued by the end of April, with the new subscription coming into force in June. All agreed that communication around this, from Westmorland and Furness Council, had been poor.
- vi) **Yorkshire Dales National Park – Parish Forum.** Members noted that the forum was scheduled in Barbon in April. Cllr Lancaster and Thomson hope to attend.
- vii) **Integrated Transport Event (WFC).** Cllr Bromley hopes to attend an online meeting later this month.

13. Date and Time of next meetings. The Annual Parish (Electors) Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council are scheduled to commence from 7.00pm and 7.30pm respectively, on Thursday 14 May 2026 and these will be followed by the normal monthly meeting. All meetings will be held in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.

(The meeting closed at 8.35pm)