

## 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 12 February 2026**

### **Part I**

**Present:** Councillors Arnold (Chair), Thomson, Sedgwick, Cowperthwaite, Brooks, Longlands, and the Clerk. Cllr Crawford joined at Item 4. Cllrs Lancaster and Bromley arrived at Part II Item 15 (taken after Item 4)

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

All Members were ultimately present at the meeting, with Cllrs Lancaster and Bromley arriving after Item 4, and during Part II Item 15, which had been re-ordered after Item 4 (Vacancies).

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

There were no Declarations of interest made, or new requests for dispensations. All existing dispensations were noted for Item 8 (Planning) in respect of Sedbergh School.

#### **3. Public Participation**

Members welcomed three representatives from Howgill. Residents wished to highlight their collective concern a full road close scheduled on Howgill Lane (19 February 2026). The closure is for United Utilities to replace a main water pipe (currently laid in the playing field) causing a significant impact to the residents of Havera/Lockbank/Howgill. This closure follows several weeks of ongoing disruption for recent resurfacing works in Howgill, causing significant diversions. Also, concerns for the condition/ deteriorating surface of Slacks Lane – which has seen increased use during the disruption. Also noting that the formal diversion is via Fair Mile, which is recognised as being an unsuitable route for many (including fire service). The Clerk was able to confirm that she has already been speaking directly to United Utilities in respect of the work, and Westmorland and Furness Council, and is hoping for an update soon. This includes discussions around access (carers/emergency services, feed wagons/tankers), along with potential ice hazards on untreated roads. Discussions took place around the potential to delay the work until improved weather, which might mitigate some concerns over ice/snow and give residents and the farming community longer to plan deliveries/collections. The Clerk is expecting further contact with United Utilities, and the Chair asked that the matter be escalated, at United Utilities, if solutions are not satisfactory.

#### **4. Vacancies – Co-option, consider any written application for Co-option to Sedbergh Parish Council**

Members had been pleased to receive an application from an eligible candidate – Mark Crawford. Mark Crawford was proposed and seconded and, following a vote, was duly elected by Members. Mark Crawford then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

### **Part II**

It was resolved and agreed that the public (and any press) should be excluded from the meeting for reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. Three members of the public left the meeting.

It was resolved to vary the **Agenda and bring forward Item 15 (Presentation from Westmorland and Furness Council (forthcoming Public Consultation) – Storm Desmond review, Guldrey Lane Options Appraisal.**

Representatives from Westmorland and Furness Council (WFC) Flood and Coast Risk Management Team attended ahead of a public engagement event scheduled, by them, on Monday 16 February.

Members discussed various proposals that had been suggested, with some involving parish council owned land, ultimately giving some provisional feedback for WFC to share with their consultants. Whilst acknowledging that the proposals were at an early engagement phase, Members were disappointed that they had not been consulted earlier in respect of potential use of their land. Members ultimately agreed that a proposal to potentially install an underground storage tank (north east corner) might be a feasible option, ruling out other proposals due to their own planned projects on the playing field. However, further details would be required – also noting the council’s hopes to increase the car parking area at this location when the playground relocates to the north west corner. Members also noted that, currently, Westmorland and Furness Council do not have any funds to complete any suggested works and that these initial stages are for feed back and fact finding for potential future funding bids. Members also took the opportunity to highlight their continued concern for the drains/culverts that run from Howgill Lane, under the playing field toward Woodside/Spar/Guldrey and beyond. Members also discussed the catch pit close to Spar, and how will WFC manage/maintain this in the future. Finally, WFC officers hope that Members will join them for one of the public engagement events scheduled on 16 February 2026, and urged Members to consider all viable options brought forward in the future to help mitigate a possible flood event. (Officers from WFC left the meeting following this item)

## **Part I**

### **5. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council’s monthly meeting, dated 15 January 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.

### **6. Matters to note from the Minutes of 15 January 2026 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 additional updates.

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

Cllrs Hodgson and Mitchell did not attend. Following issues raised at the January meeting, Cllr Longlands had met with Cllr Mitchell to discuss continuing concern for water running of Howgill Lane onto the playing field west of Havera Bank. Upon inspection, an old culvert was noted and an officer at Highways has suggested that it might be possible to reconnect to existing drainage on the playing field. This might help alleviate continued run off down to the bottom of Howgill Lane, toward the corner close to the playground area. Members agreed that this sounded feasible, and will look forward to further details/plan from WFC to progress.

### **8. Planning**

Members had not met and the following application was discussed at the meeting. Members noted that there had been very recent additional applications received and a Planning Committee meeting was scheduled for 7.30pm Tuesday 17 February 2026 to discuss those.

**S/03/781 Busk Lane, Sedbergh** Full planning permission for installation of 4 no. street lights (within school land only), with 3 no. to be solar powered. Members resolved, no objections.

Members additionally noted, at this item, a recent **Licence Application for White Hart Sports, and Social Club Ltd.** The request referred to a change from a Club Premises Certificate (CPC) to a Premises Licence – along with some minor changes to opening hours. Members had no objections.

### **9. Finance**

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 9 February 2026, which included the requests for payments (attached). Members of the Committee took the opportunity to briefly discuss the Public Convenience Capital Investment grant application being completed by the Clerk.

### **10. Amenities Committee**

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 26 January 2026. In addition, Members asked the Clerk to seek an update from Sedbergh & Dent United in respect of their delayed annual donation for the pitch on the playing field.

### 11. Update on Projects

- i) Playground – Howgill Lane. Cllr Arnold had now progressed his enquiry in respect of a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) report, along with tree survey and landscaping plan – and Members resolved to progress with the quote as soon as practicable.
- ii) Sedbergh Bowling Club – Members had received an update on Phase 1 of the planned improvement works to the club house; this includes the demolition of the old toilet block. Members, therefore, asked the Clerk to seek an update on the Council’s existing storage shed in the car parking area (close to the toilets), and what plans were being made to replace.

### 12. Queens Garden

Cllr Thomson reported that work on the Garden’s plan was steadily progressing. The Queen’s Garden Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday 16 February 2026.

### 13. Correspondence

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

- i) **Sedbergh in Bloom** – the Finance committee are finalizing the volunteer application/risk assessment and the Clerk hopes to liaise further with potential volunteers.
- ii) **Parish Lights** – Members await confirmation of the Asset Transfer to Westmorland and Furness Council.
- iii) **BT Kiosk adoption** – Members note that the Clerk is still waiting for a satisfactory response from BT in respect of the condition of the kiosk on Main Street and, if they will improve its appearance.
- iv) **Yorkshire Dales National Park – Parish Forum** – Members did not have any topics to raise.
- v) **Highways – Four Lanes End** – Members noted correspondence via Cllr Mitchell about the standard of recent resurfacing works. Additionally noting that Westmorland and Furness Council have now taken this matter forward with the contractor and instructed an additional road sweep.
- vi) **Sedbergh Tennis Club** – Members resolved that the Clerk progress renewing a new underlease for the tennis courts.
- vii) **Friends of the Lake District** – Members noted that planned ‘Fell Care; day scheduled 12 November 2026
- viii) **Temporary Pump Track proposal** – Members noted a request for financial support toward a temporary pump track installation on Lupton Field during Easter. The Clerk was asked to request a grant application, from the Community Trust, for the project.
- ix) **Thorns Lane** – temporary suspension of waste collections – Members noted recent communication from residents on Thorns Lane over WFC’s decision to suspend individual collections off Thorns Lane, due to the condition of the lane. Whilst Members were sympathetic, unfortunately acknowledged that this private lane/access was outside of the remit of the Parish Council. Cllr Lancaster advised, for information purposes, that this public footpath was the original road/track between Sedbergh and Kirkby Stephen.
- x) **Sedbergh School** – Members noted recent correspondence confirming the date of the annual Wilson Run (24 March 2026)
- xi) **Westmorland and Furness Council Highways** – Further to communications in October 2025, Members noted that the final parking/yellow lining consultation was ready for public consultation by Westmorland and Furness Council.

**14. Date and Time of next meetings. The Parish Council normal monthly meeting 7.30pm on Thursday 12 March 2026 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People’s Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.**

(The meeting closed at 9.20pm)