

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 15 January 2026

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

1. Apologies for absence and casual vacancies

All Members were present at the meeting. There are currently two vacancies advertised, with a closing date for applications on 26 January 2026.

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. A representative of the Bus User Group attended to give Members a brief update, this included various information around bus routes being ‘weighted’ and concern about how some aspects had been categorised. For example, specific references are made about access to Lake District National Park, however, no reference to Yorkshire Dales National Park. Members noted that the group also hope to attend a Westmorland and Furness Council Cabinet Meeting on 20 January 2026 for the Agenda Item ‘Approval of New and Renewal Bus Service Contracts Funded Through the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)’. Members wished to express their continued thanks to the group for their ongoing efforts.

One resident asked for an update in respect of queries raised (December 2025) about the potential project at New Bridge (coach parking). The Chair confirmed that there was still no update available from Westmorland and Furness Council. The resident additionally requested that the Parish Council ask for clarity over other potential locations to park, including Busk Lane. The Clerk advised that Westmorland and Furness Council have indicated that an update on progress will be received by March.

4. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council’s monthly meeting, dated 11 December 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 December 2025 not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda

There were no additional items to note, all items included on the agenda. However, Members took the opportunity to note sincere thanks to the festive light contractor again for the display this year. Additionally, thanks were noted in respect of the display completed on behalf of the Council for the Flower Festival held in December, Cllr Thomson had arranged a card. i) **any relevant Member updates from outside bodies** There were no additional updates.

6. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllrs Hodgson and Mitchell did not attend. The Clerk noted that both Councillors had recently attended Sedbergh to meet with individual residents in respect of specific concerns raised directly. These included, Highways and the Bus Service. Cllr Longlands raised his continuing concern for water running of Howgill Lane onto the playing field, and the Clerk confirmed that an Officer from Westmorland and Furness Council has offered a site meeting in February.

7. Planning

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

S/03/355C Branthwaite, Howgill Full planning permission for erection of extension to an existing agricultural building to provide a new bull pen and to roof over the existing muck midden. Members resolved, no objections.

S/06/4B/LB Lincoln's Inn Bridge Farm, Firbank Listed building consent for repairs to 3.6m of the accident damaged approach wall parapet. Members resolved to object to this application based on the requirement of the full road closure (included in the method statement). Members accept that the work is required, however, note that on this occasion most of the work is to be completed on the field side of the highway/bridge. Therefore, Members would like to see traffic management being considered as an alternative to a full closure. The town has already suffered significant impact from bridge closures in recent times, particularly Lincoln's Inn Bridge, and hope that on this occasion appropriate measures can be taken to allow minimum disruption. If therefore, an alternative method statement can be implemented to retain access under traffic management, Members would have no objections.

S/03/779 30 Bainbridge Road, Sedbergh Full planning permission for change of use to full time holiday rental use (C3) and insertion of new ground floor window to kitchen on north elevation. Members noted this application had been withdrawn.

S/03/258C Wardses Cottage, Frostrow Lane 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. Members noted this application had been withdrawn.

8. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 12 January 2026, which included the requests for payments (attached). **i) Members to review/confirm proposed Precept 2026-2027 (Westmorland and Furness Council).** Members resolved to approve the Precept for 2026-2027, £61998.40, following recommendation from the Finance Committee. The Clerk will submit the formal request to Westmorland and Furness Council prior to 31 January 2026, as required.

9. Amenities Committee

Members of the Amenities Committee had not met. A meeting had provisionally been scheduled for Wednesday 28 January 2026. However, this was rescheduled to 7.15pm Monday 26 January 2026. The Chair asked the Clerk to re-advertise for the Main Street toilet contract, and to seek an update on the door replacement project at Main Street toilets (disabled access and market store).

10. Update on Projects

There were, currently, no updates available for playground or parking/New Bridge lay-by project. The Chair hopes to liaise further with the Clerk in due course.

11. Queens Garden

Members of the Queen's Garden Committee had not met. **i) amended Queen's Garden Plan and proposed tender for works.** Members resolved to proceed with the amended plan after incorporating a minor amendment in respect of 'progressive' clearance of fir trees in the north area (leaving a wide view up the steps to the monument...). And, the draft tender should include increased emphasis on health and safety responsibility. Cllr Thomson will liaise with the Clerk. Finally, the Parish Handyman had noted some dislodged stone on the outer wall of the bastion, however, Members advise that no work was required at this time.

12. 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 Clerk noted that one or two residents have come forward to potentially help with the flower beds. The Clerk will now share an online advert seeking further support and report to Members at a future meeting.
- ii) Parish Lights** – Members await confirmation of the Asset Transfer.
- iii) BT Kiosk adoption** – Members note that BT will not reopen the kiosk at the library, and that if a group wished to adopt, they could make a direct approach to BT in the future.

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Members continue to agree that they do not wish to take on the future liability of maintaining a listed structure.

The Clerk was, however, asked to write to BT highlighting its current poor condition and that BT have an obligation to improve its appearance.

- iv) **New Bridge (Settlebeck Bridge).** Members noted that the damaged wall, close to the picnic area, has still not been repaired. The Clerk was asked to write to Westmorland and Furness Council for an update.

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

(The meeting closed at 8.20pm)