

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 March 2026

Part I

Present: Councillors Arnold (Chair), Thomson, Capstick, Cowperthwaite, Longlands, Crawford, and the Clerk. Cllr Sedgwick arrived at Item 3 and Cllr Bromley arrived at Item 10

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Brooks and Lancaster. All remaining Members were present. (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. All existing dispensations were noted for Item 7 (Planning) in respect of S/03/785

3. Public Participation

Members welcomed four members of the public to the meeting. The applicant for S/03/773 Land off Frostrow Lane, Garsdale Road Sedbergh (see Item 8) had hoped to give Members a full update on the ongoing planning application (see previous Parish Council minutes April and July 2025) and subsequent deferral at Yorkshire Dales Planning Committee. However, had recently been impeded whilst waiting for Westmorland and Furness Council to respond to an additional report submitted to them, by the applicant, four weeks previously. The applicant hopes to attend again, in April, with further information for Members. Two members of the public attended about S/03/777 Barns at Foxhole Rigg Lane, Full Planning permission for conversion of barn to a one-bedroom local occupancy dwelling and the installation of package sewage treatment plant. (Members had previously responded). The residents highlighted their concern for the potential impact on the surrounding Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), along with other matters, including preservation of red squirrels and other wildlife, as well as practical issues over access. They advised that amended plans had recently been submitted, which altered the original request. The Chair advised that the Parish Council had not been notified of the amended plan and he would now liaise with YDNPA Planning Ecologist for clarification (also noted that the Planning Ecologist had now recommended refusal). It was also agreed that the Clerk should write to Yorkshire Dales planning, more generally, seeking clarity on why the amendment had not been notified to the Parish Council. Any further response would, therefore, be deferred to the Planning Committee – and would have regard to any new substantive changes submitted in the amended plans. Finally, the applicant of a property outside of Sedbergh Parish Council (S/06/10A Moss Foot, Firbank) attended to ask if Members might consider support for their application. This follows a YDNPA Planning Committee, where the application has been recommended for refusal by the Planning Officer. The application was subsequently deferred earlier this week, due to a clerical error. Whilst Members cannot formally comment as a consultee on this application (outside of Parish), Members did agree that visitors to this accommodation do bring trade/employment to Sedbergh, as its primary service centre. The Chair suggested that it might be useful if YDNPA worked with the applicant on resolving matters raised (including noise restrictions/landscaping/objections to retrospective changes etc) and, therefore, Members resolved to delegate any response to the Planning Committee.

4. To adopt the minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council's monthly meeting, dated 12 February 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

The Clerk noted that, following the road closure proposal at Howgill Lane (see Council Minutes February 2026) for new mains water pipe, a further site meeting had been convened to discuss. i) **any relevant Member updates from outside bodies** (see Item 10).

6. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllrs Hodgson and Mitchell did not attend.

7. Planning

Members resolved to accept the minutes of 17 February 2026 (attached). The following application was discussed at the meeting

S/03/785 2 The Leyes, Station Road, Sedbergh Full planning permission for external alterations comprising reinstatement of chimney to west gable, installation of new windows and French door; replacement Velux rooflight and provision of 2no. sun-tubes and internally the proposal includes reinstatement of the staircase to the original location and reinstatement of a single dwelling from 3 no. flats for continued use as staff accommodation. **Members resolved, no objections** (Cllrs Arnold and Cowperthwaite took no part in discussion). 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). Members agreed to include this Item on the Agenda again in April. Finally, Members of the Planning Committee agreed to convene a meeting of the Planning Committee at 7.30pm Tuesday 31 March 2026.

8. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 9 March 2026, which included the requests for payments (attached), and advance payments due before next meeting (WaterPlus - £8081.58). **8i) Sedbergh Community Trust Grant application.** Members noted the recent grant application for the temporary pump track event planned over three days during Easter. Members noted that the Trust had completed several grant applications/requests for sponsorship – but were not yet aware of any fundraisers being held, in advance, to support the event or if donations were to be sought at the event. Members ultimately resolved to approve the sum of £700.00, acknowledging comments noted at Finance Committee. **8i&ii) Risk Assessment and Asset Register review, Internal Audit appointment and insurance review.** Members resolved to adopt the Risk Assessment and Asset Register, agreeing that a £100 threshold on future purchases included on the Register. The Clerk also confirmed that items on the Register should include all property/plant/equipment with a useful life of 12 months or more. Members noted the Insurance review and formal appointment of the Internal Auditor (Lakes Auditing Services).

9. Amenities Committee

Members noted the minutes from the meeting held on 26 January 2026. The Clerk was able to confirm that a £500 donation had now been received from Sedbergh & Dent United Football Club.

10. Update on Projects

i) **New Bridge layby** proposal – Members asked the Clerk, again, to follow up a response from Westmorland and Furness Council (outstanding since June 2025).

ii) **Playground – Howgill Lane.** The Clerk confirmed that the site visit had recently taken place in respect of the Biodiversity Net Gain report (associated tree and landscaping) and is now awaited.

Cllr Bromley arrived at this item, following earlier attendance of the Sedbergh Tennis Club AGM. She was able to advise members that the Club had seen an uptake in members recently, attributed to Pickle Ball participation. It was also noted that the Tennis Club had recently received correspondence from the Valuation Office Agency (for completion as underlease holder). The Clerk took this opportunity to advise Members that their lease renewal was currently being undertaken with the Council Solicitors (including obtaining new consent from Westmorland and Furness Council). Finally, Cllr Bromley noted that the Club had asked if there were any plans for the informal car parking area. None were noted at this time, however, as previously – the area remains under general review.

11. Queens Garden

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 16 February 2026.

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 CIC (Information Centre)** Members noted a request for the Council to consider allowing the Artisan Markets to be held on Joss Lane car park in the future (2027). There were many threads of debate, which included how attractive the Market looks on the Main Street (current format), though the difficulties are appreciated. Whether the CIC had considered Finkle Street as an alternative location. Also, Members were not clear if the CIC would compensate the Parish Council for loss of income on the car park, but also had some concerns about where visitors/residents would park (as well as stall holders) if the Artisan Market filled most of the space. Members also noted that it may not be straight forward for the Council (as leaseholder) to allow the Market on the car park, and would therefore need to seek clarification from the landlord if the CIC wished to pursue further.
- ii) **BT Kiosk adoption** – The Clerk confirmed that the Kiosk on Main Street had been added to the maintenance list for repainting, by BT, in 2026.
- iii) **Sedbergh Bowling Club** – Following the update from the Club in February, the Clerk confirmed the Club had no plans to remove the old toilet block, or Parish Council storage shed yet. And would contact the Council when they were able to progress further.
- iv) **Sedbergh CIC (Information Centre)** – Members noted that the CIC were now leading on a future new website for the town. Members noted that, if necessary, historic Parish Council information currently stored on the existing website should be moved to cloud storage.
- v) **United Utilities** – Members noted that UU had been carrying out surveys in the town.
- vi) **Transport User Group** – Members noted that the Group continue to liaise with Westmorland and Furness Council. And, a new service from Dales Bus, will be commencing at Easter. This service will hopefully bring visitors into the town, and give onward travel to Kirkby Lonsdale on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays until October.
- vii) **Yorkshire Dales National Park – Parish Forum** – Members noted that the forum was scheduled in Barbon in April. Members hope that Cllr Lancaster and/or Thomson might attend.
- viii) **Give a day to Sedbergh** – Members noted that a resident has asked if Sedbergh might consider an event like the one being arranged in Kendal by Churches together (and others). The Council concluded that the Council do not have the administrative capacity and, Sedbergh was fortunate that it already has many individuals/groups/organisations and schools that give time to the community.

13. Date and Time of next meetings. The Parish Council normal monthly meeting 7.30pm on Thursday 16 April 2026 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.

Please note that the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council are scheduled to commence from 7.00pm on Thursday 14 May 2026 and these will be followed by the normal monthly 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.

14. Contractor Reviews – Members to consider recent submission for contracts advertised

- i) **Main Street Toilet cleaning/maintenance** (see Finance Committee), deferred.

ii) **Grass Cutting (playing field and Ghyllas)** Following recommendation from the Finance Committee, it was resolved to accept Quote 2. Northern Plant Trading Company Limited will be advised to commence as soon as practicable.

(The meeting closed at 9.00pm)