

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SEDBERGH

Minutes of the monthly meeting for the Parish Council of Sedbergh, held at 8.15 pm (meeting followed the Annual Meetings) **in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh - Thursday 14 May 2026**

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

Part I

1. Apologies for absence

All Members were present at the meeting. It was resolved that the remaining vacancy be advertised again, online and on the notice board. Any closing date should allow any applicants to be considered as soon as practicable, at future meeting, for potential co-option. It was not practical to delay, as the Council will soon be within six months of Elections.

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

There were no Members of the public present at the meeting.

4. Matters to note from the Minutes of 16 April 2026 not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda

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

5. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllr Mitchell sent apologies, and offered to meet Members at another time to discuss any outstanding issues. Cllr Hodgson sent apologies and shared a brief report. Members were disappointed that WFC had not been able to attend and hoped that the forthcoming year, ahead of Elections and Ward boundary restructure, would see an improved working relationship and attendance.

6. Planning

There had been no new planning applications received for consultation.

7. Finance

Members resolved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 11 May 2026, which included the requests for payments.

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.

Following recommendation from the Finance Committee (11 May 2026) Members resolved to approve the Clerk remuneration. With an uplift to spinal column 34 on the National Joint Council (NJC) with an increase of one spinal point each year, for the three years with a formal review to follow at that time (2029).

8. Amenities Committee

Members had not met, it was hoped that any outstanding issues could be discussed at the next Committee meeting, where a Chair would need to be elected.

9. Update on Projects

- i) **Playground Project – BNG now received, Members to review next steps (in consideration of recent playground survey results/closure of equipment).** Members resolved that the Clerk liaise with an architect to progress with the formal planning application.
- ii) **Main Street toilets – update on progress of replacement door(s).** Members noted the update included in the Finance Committee minutes, and hope that progress on the timed doors can commence as soon as consent confirmed by Westmorland and Furness Council and a new quote confirmed.

10. Queens Garden

Members had not met.

11. 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) – Sedbergh to Kendal bus route.** Members noted that the scheduled tender renewal, had been delayed until September 2026.
- ii) **Westmorland and Furness Council (WFC) – recent Respect/MASCG meeting.** Cllrs Lancaster and Thomson had been unable to attend. The Clerk noted the official opening date for Scrogg Bank Field as Tuesday 26 May 2026.
- iii) **Playing field fence – recent damage.** Members noted that the Clerk has reported the incident to the insurers, and an outcome awaited.
- iv) **United Utilities – any update on Howgill Lane/replacement water mains connection.** Following various communications, Members resolved that the Clerk should sign the Early Entry permission agreement, with work due to commence 18 May 2026. Members noted that the majority of these works would now take place within the playing field and car park area.
- v) **Westmorland and Furness Council – Sedbergh CIC request to hold Artisan Markets on Joss Lane car park.** Members noted ongoing correspondence with from Westmorland and Furness Council, however, awaited an update from Sedbergh CIC on previous questions raised.
- vi) **Tennis Club under lease** – the Clerk noted that the draft has been prepared, Cllr Bromley will review, and if all in order (and compared to prior lease), the Clerk will request the Solicitor to proceed.
- vii) **Town Twinning** – the Clerk noted a series of events planned in the town over the weekend to celebrate the 21st Anniversary.

13. Date and Time of next meeting. The Parish Council normal monthly meeting 7.30pm on Thursday 11 June 2026 in the Committee Room, Sedbergh People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh.

(The meeting closed at 9.15pm)