

MINUTES OF THE QUEEN'S GARDENS COMMITTEE OF SEDBERGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES AT 72, MAIN STREET, SEDBERGH ON THURSDAY 30 JULY 2026 at 7.00pm

Attendance. Cllrs Rachel Cowperthwaite, Kevin Lancaster and Douglas Thomson. Cllr Kevin Lancaster took the minutes of this meeting.

Election of Chairman. Cllr Kevin Lancaster was elected.

Apologies for absence. There were no apologies.

Declarations of Interest. There were none.

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2026. These were agreed.

Current Works. Cllr Thomson provided photographs of various aspects of current work in the Garden.

Stones Around the Monument. There had been no responses to the Tenders for the stone works needed. It was therefore agreed that the essential work to re-align the stones around the monument should be conducted if possible with a known contractor on a daily rate of around £300/400 per day. The work being expected to take about two days. He would be supervised by Jim Atkins and Cllr Thomson. This would not be a full repair and drilling, bolting and resurfacing would be done in the future as part of the repairs to the steps.

Walls Around the Park. There were on-going problems with the surrounding walls. It had already been offered that Cllr John Capstick would find a suitable contractor to do the repairs. Agreed – Cllr Lancaster to contact Cllr Capstick to check progress.

Ongoing Work. The trees which had needed to be re-positioned to create the wildflower area were thriving though two had needed more support. The wildflower area had been created. There had been some weed control and more would be needed to prevent overly strong competitors. It was appreciated that the Council's handyman did more work in the gardens than he was being paid for and that his efforts were much appreciated.

Sponsored Benches. The Garden's plan includes moving three benches from the southern area up to the monument. It was uncertain as to who had sponsored two of these memorial benches but that would need to be ascertained and any movement handled with consideration. Agreed – Cllr Lancaster to attempt to ascertain which families sponsored the two memorial benches.

Better Signage on the Gates. Cllr Thomson related how a member of the public, who had found the front gates locked, had fallen and injured herself in her attempt to find the entrance. Local residents had reported that there had

been another instance of this occurring. It was resolved to provide a wooden sign on the central gate directing the public to the always open gate on the north east corner and footway. Agreed – Cllr Cowperthwaite to endeavour to find somebody who could create a sign to the agreed specifications.

Sedbergh School 'Gives back' Project.

Sixteen girls from Robertson House provided a very useful day of work in the Garden. They carted wood and built a wood pile, spread stones on the paths, recorded where bird boxes were and what condition they were in, litter picked and generally tidied the garden. Their work was much appreciated. Earlier boys from Sedgwick House had constructed a compost bin for use by the Bowling Club. The Bowling Club's redundant green bins had been 'parked' in the Garden. Agreed – Cllr Thomson to arrange removal of the bins.

Bowling Green Toilets. Cllr Thomson had shown the progress of the works to the Bowling Green's new Toilets. Although it was taken as understood it was confirmed these toilets should not be open when Bowling Club members were not present.

2026 Tree Survey. This was being appraised and so far as they related to the Queen's Garden the works were being done.

Biodiversity Policy. This would be discussed at the next meeting and Cllr Mark Crawford would be invited.

Next Meetings. The Queen's Committee did not need to meet regularly. The wording of the main Parish Agendas gave the impression we should be meeting more regularly than we do but if there is no business to transact this would be a waste of everyone's time. However, it was resolved to meet again in October on a date to be agreed to consider progress on the matters discussed above and the Biodiversity Action Plan.