

## SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7:30pm Venue: Sedgwick Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr B Holmes (Chair), Cllr B Tanham (Vice), Cllr G Stoker, Cllr W Burrow, Unitary Shadow Cllr D Rathbone District Cllr R Bingham and Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk) no members of the public attended.

**101/22 Apologies:** It was resolved for apologies with reasons given that were accepted by Sedgwick Parish Council, Cllr V Macconnell was attending another meeting and Cllr A Holmes who is unwell.

**102/22 Non-Attendance:** County Cllr B Gray

**103/22 Minutes:** It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 as a true record.

**104/22 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests:** Cllr B Tanham declared that as she is the owner of a part of the canal towpath, she can take part in discussion regarding the Canal but cannot vote on any decisions regarding the Canal.

**105/22 Public Participation:** None received.

**106/22 Reports**

**Police Report:** The Council are receiving Police updates and a monthly community newsletter.

**District Cllrs:** Cllr R Bingham – report is displayed in the cabinet.

**County Cllr B Gray: Shadow Unitary Cllr D Rathbone** reported The Shadow Unitary New Council has appointed another tier down and there are in the process of TUPE staff across to the new Council. All had to be in place for the services to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Council tax is still under consultation with a figure of 2.9% and adult care services a further 2% increase being proposed.

**Village Hall Report** – none received.

**107/22 Planning Application submitted/received:**

- Storey Homes- Natland/Kendal- Sedgwick Parish Council have agreed a report outlining their objections and are liaising with Natland Parish Council.

**108/22 Highways/Footpaths**

- a) Highways Report by The Clerk: who stated all reported pot holes had been repaired, the report will be displayed on the web site and in the cabinet. Further potholes have been identified and will be reported.
- b) The proposed bus shelter: The cost of the Shelter from Glasson is £6,000.00. but there is also a delivery charge Cllr Tanham will contact Glasson to establish this price and 3 quotes will be acquired for the groundwork. She agreed to check the deadline date for the funding application.
- c) Grit bins. It was agreed to check if the bins to establish if more grit was needed.

**109/22 Playground /Millennium Field**

- a) Monthly Safety Report- by Cllr Stoker reported that he carried out the monthly inspection early in the week and said the field had little usage, rubbish bins emptied, and equipment checked over. The Tree Slide has a section of rotten wood under the slide which needs repair, David Willacy was waiting for the weather to improve and would look at repairing the slide steps. The goal post had been damaged but Cllr Stoker was able to repair them. It was noted In the foreseeable future the goal posts would need replacing. Cllr Stoker will shortly be cleaning and painting and repairing a bench on the field.
- b) Equipment replacement – Cllr W Burrow reported The Freestyle slide on wetpour at a cost of £33,285. was agreed so funding can now be applied for by various sources and the funding pot was now kick started by a further £500, thanks to Cllr D Rathbone who the Council thanked for his support.
- c) Cllr Macconnell reported she has contacted the Cricket club who agreed to help with the village fun run, date to be confirmed She had received help by offers of a raffle prize, coffee mornings and volunteer to help in the events. Councillor Burrow agreed to help and liaise with Cllr Macconnell.

**Safeguarding:** Cllr Macconnell has completed children's safeguarding training with Cumbria County Council. We have safeguarding policies for all the groups that use the playground. The playgroup has given me a hard copy which I will pass onto Sylvia, for our records.

**110/22 Canal Wildlife Area Report**

- a) Monthly report by Cllr B Holmes- The path muddy over the viaduct, canal basin filled up with water , litter was minimal so was dog waste. A no cycling sign had been removed by the Queens canopy plaque , Cllr Stoker agreed to replace this. A full report available on the website and in the cabinet
- b) Monitoring the use of the Canal Path – busy especially at weekends.
- c) CRT installation of the artwork - planning approval 4<sup>th</sup> January but has been given with conditions, contractors have met with who will deliver the final phase, the expectation date for completion is end of May 23 so celebrations can begin in June 23. The Council are concerned about closure being whilst the Kings celebration and the fun run so Cllr Tanham will contact to established closure dates. It was agreed for the Clerk to send an invite to Kate for the Parish Annual meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> March .
- d) Cllr B Tanham reported SLDC Ruth Leahy has still not replied to our request to forward a copy of the feasibility plan of February 2021 as directed by the LCRP outgoing chairman in September 2022, and she had also not responded to a further email. The Council are very disappointed and dissatisfied with the lack of response from this Council Officer. It is understood that the LCRP have been required to re-constitute and that remaining funds are being held by third parties. There are no contact details for the LCRP so it impossible to receive any updates. Concern was expressed over the lack of financial accountability and transparency of the decisions that have been made and are being made now that the organisation was either in limbo or meeting privately. It was agreed to wait a little longer for a response from Ms Leahy and if no access is allowed to the 2021 consultation, then we would press for accountability information especially regarding the NHLF.

**111/22 Website/social media:** Cllr B Holmes reported that the website has been updated with meeting minutes, agenda and facebook information.

**112/22 Finance**

- a) The bank statements were received – Current Bank Balance as of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 £5,981.04
- b) To apply for a grant of £500 made available by Cllr D Rathbone SLDC
- c) To approve payments: Shell Energy Broadband feb-march £18.98, March-April £18.98, S Roberts salary Dec-March 23 £1,745.12, Calc Training £30.00 Estimated invoices Printing Plus- newsletter £132.67, ICO DD £35 B Holmes APM refreshments £30 and J Park Contractor – Canal Work £800 CXLD
- d) Sign the accounts agreed on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and cleared the bank account.
- e) Precept 2023/24 was agreed by all to amend with the acceptance of the grant of £145.67 by SLDC
- f) The financial reserve policy was discussed and accepted by all Councillors.

**113/22 Policy Audit:** all the policies where listed and dates agreed to be reviewed.

**114/22 Spring Newsletter:** The draft copy was well received by all, and any further changes would need to be completed by the end of this week. Delivery must be prompt to give notice of APM.

**115/22 The Kings Coronation and celebrations in May 2023**

It was thought residents would spend Saturday at home watching the celebration. St Thomas Church has informed the Council of a outdoor service and Jacob's Join meal on the Millennium Field/ village hall on the Sunday. Cllr B Holmes agreed to contact them to establish that public liability insurance and safeguarding measures in line with Council policy are all in place. Street parties were also being arrange on the Sunday. It was also agreed to have the Queens canopy opening before the July's meeting at 7pm

**116/22 APM 8<sup>th</sup> March arrangements agreed**

The meeting would commence with a presentation from the Clean up the River Kent project after the welcome by the Chairman, followed by the Councillors annual reports. Then the District and Council Councillors then village groups would be invited to report about their activities and events, with the evening finishing with questions and answers, then refreshments . The clerk was requested to send the invites and prepare the financial report, keeping the Council updated.

**117/22 items for consideration for a future agenda- Annual General Meeting**

- Appointment of officers 2023-4
- Highways/Millennium Field/Website/Canal Report
- Local Government Reorganisation
- Millennium Field/ funding and replacement equipment/ fun run
- Parish Clerk retirement/advertising for a Parish Clerk
- SPC Policies review dates
- Acceptance of Accounts and procedures 2022/23 after Internal Audit 2023

**118/22 Correspondence:** All the documents have been circulated to the Councillors.

**119/22 Open Action: all received and noted**

- CALC- Local Government Reorganisation Newsletters Jan 23
- Cumbria Local Authority Climate update Jan 23
- Calc Training relevant to Community Resilience
- SLDC News release 30<sup>th</sup> January 23
- Westmorland and Furness Consultation Event 8<sup>th</sup> February 23- teams meeting 6 45 pm
- CALC- Royal Garden party 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023- all agreed to nominate Cllr B Holmes
- Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy -Town/Parish Consultation - completed
- News Release SLDC - your say on plans for Village.

**110/22 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next Extraordinary Parish Meeting will be on **8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 9 30 pm** at Sedgwick Village Hall.

*The meeting closed at 9: 10 pm*

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023