

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 7:30pm Venue: Sedgwick Village Hall

Present: Cllr B Holmes (Chairperson), Cllr G Stoker, Cllr A Holmes, District Cllr R Bingham, Cllr D Rathbone and Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk) no residents attended

43/21 Apologies: It was resolved for apologies with reasons given that were accepted by Sedgwick Parish Council, to be noted from Cllr B Tanham -personal commitment, Cllr W Burrow- work commitment and Cllr B Smith – health reasons

44/21 Non-Attendance: County Cllr B Gray

45/21 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2021 as a true record.

46/21 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests: None

47/21 Public Participation:

- a) Complaints received about firework events at The Villa- outcome the villa will notify SPC of future events.
- b) Correspondence regarding a resident being verbally abused by a motorist: Council all agreed this must be reported to the Police and would advise residents to report by calling 101 line.
- c) Correspondence from a visitor praising the Council's work "Splendid, stunning, serene Sedgwick": The Council was pleased to read this and a reply has been sent.
- d) Correspondence regarding Sedgwick Walk leaflet: Council agreed the walk would need to be inspected and updated and a warning would be added to the display case giving details of who to report broken stiles and overgrown paths to and advising of the change in railway crossing.

48/21 Reports

Police Report: The Council are receiving Covid Police Updates and a monthly community newsletter. It was noted that the report of the bench vandalism was featured in the monthly police report. It is possible to report non-emergency crime incidents online via the police website

District Cllrs: Cllr R Bingham reported that Covid still dominated Council's concerns as case numbers are rising again, although Cumbria is below the average for England. Fortunately, hospital cases are far fewer than previous surges. Lancaster hospital is having a new 500-space car park built and Westmorland now has a new CT Scan operational. Both County and District have reported satisfactory financial balances and reserves due to government grants to help with Covid. The Local Government Reorganisation proposal is going to judicial review and he will update the PC at the next meeting.

County Cllr B Gray: Cllr D Rathbone reported that plans for the Unitarian Council were being formulated including a poll about the name. He could foresee that many changes within the District and County Council would affect all aspects of their work and therefore affect residents and Parish Councils and advises that we participate fully in consultations to help ensure representation is kept as local as possible. There is funding available for bus shelters/benches the PC to consider suitable locations in the Village and report back to Cllr Rathbone. He suggested if the PC wished to have a post office service in the village to write to him and MP Tim Farron. This was agreed by all Councillors, letters to follow.

Village Hall Report: The village hall is now open for bookings. They are holding the AGM on 20th Sept and will review how things are operating. Regarding defib training they have made contact with rep from Stainton Institute to consider organising joint training as a new defib has been installed there.

49/21 Training: The programme was received and Councillors would consider these sessions. The Community Flood Training Sessions are currently arranging training dates in Kendal, the Clerk to update asap.

50/21 Parish Council Apologies - CALC Update: The Council received, all accepted and agreed to the policy which requires reasons for absence to be provided and recorded.

51/21 Review NALC Financial Regulations: The policy has been updated to a maximum spend of £500 before 3 Quotes are required. This was agreed and accepted by all Councillors. The website will be updated.

52/21 Planning Application submitted: none received.

53/21 Sedgwick Parish Council COVID 19 – Cllr B Holmes reported that the website had been updated with lockdown information. **Sedgwick Neighbours and Friends Resilience Group**. This group remains in operation and will continue to support residents.
Correspondence: SLDC News Release 26 August 2021, Calc figures and News on self -isolation 16/8/21, SLDC News Release 2nd September

54/21 Highways/Footpaths

- a) Cllr A Holmes presented the highways report. Cllr B Holmes reported the new system was very confusing as items have been labelled as “completed” but no work has been done. Cllr Rathbone agreed to investigate if the items are on a job list of jobs to do and in what priority. Also, Cllr A Holmes feels some of the outstanding items are incorrect and she has begun to investigate this with the Highways Department
- b) Repairs that we have campaigned for since 2019 have been carried out by the Riverside and at Raines Hall, but potholes remain at Box Cottage, Wellheads Lane and Back Lane. She went through the audit which the Clerk had updated, and she will follow up outstanding issues (Back Lane, Aqueduct and Riverside signage, Wharfe Lane Junction etc) with Highways.
- c) Cllr A Holmes reported she, Cllr Stoker and Cllr Rathbones carried out a village highway inspection
- d) Safer Roads and Footpaths Initiative/funding – Cllr Rathbone reported that he would update us if there is any progress in the future.
- e) Request for extra Litter Bins – Cllr Tanham has contacted SLDC Sion Thomas and completed application for funding for waste bins. - Awaiting update
- f) Cllr B Holmes reported she had attended the four-parish council meeting on 11th August and with Helen Karaaslan am Manager at Cumbria Highways
Stainton requested replacement of the broken school safety lights and reported many wall strikes caused by speeding traffic particularly lorries. They would like a 30mph speed limit throughout the area. Many Heversham residents want a 20mph limit through the village. Hincaster want the positioning of the 30mph speed limit signs reviewing.
Sedgwick residents' complaints about not feeling safe walking in the parish due to speeding traffic and the number of pedestrian and cycle strikes were reported and specific problems at the aqueduct, Back Lane and Carex Crossroads were discussed. It was agreed that a speed monitoring exercise would be carried out (hopefully in September) if suitable locations can be found (ie away from junctions). They will notify and liaise with Parish Clerk.
We were warned that the chance of the monitoring exercise resulting in a 20mph limit is small - if the average speed is over 24mph that is too fast for a 20mph limit and the only option would be for the Parish Council to fund speed bumps and/or gates which would require resident approval (they are notoriously unpopular because of increased noise and pollution). If results show speeds of 20-24mph a 20mph limit might be feasible but will require a long planning process and needs to be funded by the Parish (costs run into many thousands). Average speed is the key indicator not the outliers of speeding vehicles which seems counter intuitive. Basically, the system seems stacked up against anyone being granted a 20mph limit. Furthermore, the “20 is plenty scheme” has been abolished and signs are being removed which excludes that as an alternative. Speed Indicator Devices start at £2500 and will only be approved by CCC and the Police based on traffic data. They are difficult to locate safely and are not considered effective unless they are moved and maintained regularly.
If the promised monitoring exercise does not trigger some help, it seems that we are only left with two options; getting any faded speed/warning signs replaced and requesting road markings are added to existing warnings to improve safety.
- g) Cllr G Stoker reported the footpath Information sign by the aqueduct steps has been cleaned and the information updated.

55/21 Playground /Millennium Field

- a) Monthly Safety Report- by Cllr Stoker who reported he had checked the field, and all was satisfactory
- b) The ROSPA Annual Playground report was discussed - all issues were minor and not a significant risk. All required actions had already been completed It was decided not to raise the height of the swing to reduce grass wear as it would discourage smaller children using it.

56/21 Canal Wildlife Area Report

- a) Monthly report - see attached
- b) Inspection arranged with A Hearn – Arboricultural Consultant – 14th September 2021
- c) Monitoring of use of the canal path: it was agreed that at present the path was extremely popular with walkers and joggers but that cyclists were still using the path illegally.
- d) Update on the old benches along the path, insurance cover is valid as long as they are covered in the month risk assessment which is reported every month. The vandalised benches have been reported to the police by the parish clerk ref CR100110546

- e) Post of Woodland Contractor: The Clerk reported the interview had taken place and the post offered to James Park and the contract was agreed and signed.
- f) It was agreed to purchase replacement No Cycling signs.
- g) LCRP issues arising from meeting of the NHLF Towpath Trail Group meeting 25th August 2021 attended by Cllrs B Holmes and Tanham:
 - i) The repair to the Towpath over the aqueduct has been not been progressed and should now be reported to Angela Parkinson Green of the CRT maintenance team - we are still waiting for this contact.
 - ii) The proposed wildflower project will not include Sedgwick. An interview has taken place as part of the oral history project. 30 volunteers have been trained and plans will be considered about how they will be used in the future. Sedgwick Guides have not been contacted yet.
 - iii) The installation of a safety handrail on Sedgwick Aqueduct steps is being re-considered as the CRT now believe they do own the steps and that a mapping error has occurred. It may form part of the planning application for the new art installation which is yet to be submitted. Consequently, there will be a delay in its installation. We reported the dangerous condition. The existing LCT information board will be replaced and we understand that the information will be replicated on the new installation. The old board has since been removed by Cllr Tanham as it was a hazard and the LCT have been informed of this.
 - iv) There has been no progress made on contacting the CRT national marketing team to progress a behaviour change campaign to tackle antisocial behaviour ie dog poo and cycling.
 - v) The first furlong project has experienced further problems and will not be rewatered in the foreseeable future
 - vi) The landowner of Sedgwick Hill Bridge has not yet engaged with the group to give permission for the installation of the waymarker there. CH was advised that any request to SPC to have the waymarker on their land should be made through the clerk.
 - vii) There has been no progress made in developing a maintenance plan for the installations. CRT owned land will benefit from their regular contractors maintaining the signs and cutting grass to keep them visible but there are no arrangements for maintenance of signs on private land.
 - viii) The celebration event to mark the completion of the Stainton Aqueduct restoration will take place in early October and will include a mobile exhibition hopefully at the library in Kendal and Stainton Institute, lantern making and a candle lit procession and paddle along the section. It will coincide with the 10k run between Crooklands and Hincaster, which is being independently organised. Carrie House will update us on details as she finalises them.
 - ix) There will be a wrap up meeting of the group before CH leaves her post at the end of October
 - x) The project evaluation has been postponed until more aspects of the project have been completed.

57/21 **Website:** Cllr Holmes reported that the website has been updated and was well used.

58/21 **Finance**

- a) The bank statements received Bank Balance as of 27th August £13,032.76 and Reserve Account £10,039.65
- b) Payments Approved: Shell Energy Broadband £16.98(Aug-Sept), Continental Landscapes Ltd grass cutting April -July £672.00, Playsafety Ltd - Rospa Report £120.00, D Willacy – update Roll Board £66.00, Printing Plus Newsletter £119.62 S Roberts -Cartridgesave £41.68, S Roberts – Asda – Printing Paper £5.50 and G Stoker- B&Q – Slate Chippings £8.40
- c) Accounts reported on 21st July which cleared the bank account was approved by Cllr A Holmes

59/21 **Review Summer Newsletter** – well received, Councillors to consider future information and photos

60/21 **Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Update on Covid-19
- Highways Report
- Canal Wildlife Area Report including benches and maintenance update
- Millennium Field Report
- Local Government reorganisation
- Draft Budget and September Bank Reconciliation

61/21 **Correspondence:** All the documents have been circulated to the Councillors.

62/21 **Open Action not covered elsewhere on the Agenda**

- **The Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2nd June 2022 Event;** A request would be put in the next newsletter requesting volunteers
- **Update on Council Roll Board – Village Hall:** Council thanked Mr Willacy for his continual support to the PC in arranging the update.

- **Closure of Natland Post Office:** PC to write to MP T Farron/Cllr Rathbone requesting a mobile Post Office service in Sedgwick.
- **Local Government Reorganisation Update:** received and noted
- **Cumbria Community Resilience Group: Call for Evidence for the National Resilience Strategy**
- **SLDC Locality Services- Newsletter:** received and noted
- **SLDC District Meeting 16th September 2021- remote 7-9pm:** received and noted
- **New Hospital Programme:** received and noted
- **CALC South Funding Fair – Wednesday 29th September 10- 3 pm @ Kendal Town Hall:** received and noted

63/21 Date of next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 7 30 pm**

This would take place in Sedgwick Village Hall unless there is a change in the Government's Covid Restrictions.

The meeting closed at 9: 30 pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 13th October 2021