

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 7:30pm Venue: Sedgwick Village Hall

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

82/22 Apologies: It was resolved for apologies with reasons given that were accepted by Sedgwick Parish Council, Cllr B Holmes who was away on holiday and Cllr A Holmes who is ill

83/22 Non-Attendance: County Cllr B Gray

84/22 Minutes: It was resolved for the Vice Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2022 as a true record.

85/22 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.

86/22 Public Participation:

- A resident has raised issue with the removal of a bench along the canal path by the Parish Council. At the previous Council meeting it was agreed to remove the bench because it had extensive rot and woodworm to the seat and legs and could not be repaired as previously thought. It was removed for safety concerns and placed in the canal bed for the wildlife to use. Since receiving this complaint, the Parish Council have sent a letter explaining the situation to the resident.
- Sheep were reported lost on the canal path. Cllr Stoker reported he had contacted the farmer who has since put them back in their field.

87/22 Reports

Police Report: The Council are receiving Police Updates and a monthly community newsletter. Cllr D Rathbone said he had a direct email address he would send the Clerk for future reference.

District Cllrs: Cllr R Bingham – report is displayed in the cabinet and added he thought there would be a council tax increase but unsure of the %.

County Cllr B Gray: Shadow Unitary Cllr D Rathbone reported The Shadow Unitary New Council has appointed three Officers and further Officer have been appointed in December. Three offices are to be based at towns in Kendal, Barrow and Penrith with the HQ at Kendal County Council building. At present there are so many unknowns so if SPC have any questions to refer them to Cllr Rathbone or Cllr Brook but the Unitarian Council priorities are for Safety and Legal. Local parliamentary constituency boundaries are changing, and Sedgwick will become part of Morcombe Bay and Lunesdale whose current MP is David Morris. This will have an impact on how we are represented.

Village Hall Report – none received.

88/22 Training: Calc update September – December 2022, Cllr Macconnell attended code of conduct training on 3rd November- certificate received and module 1 Effective Councillor on 21st November and Safeguarding Adults Basic Awareness E learning 11th January

89/22 Planning Application submitted/received:

- Storey Homes- Natland/Kendal- Sedgwick Parish Council have raised a report outlining their objections and are liaising with Natland Parish Council. The grounds for opposition on the grounds that the inevitable increase in traffic volume through Sedgwick would further increase safety concerns, the scale of the development would eclipse Natland and that local infrastructure especially the sewage system is inadequate. Also that we are requesting that, if this development, or any further development in the Natland/Oxenholme/Kendal corridor is granted that there should be a condition added to oblige the developers to cover the cost of installing and maintaining a 20mph speed limit including permanent speed indicator devices in locations on the outskirts of Sedgwick. Consideration should also be given to speed calming measures to reduce the advantages of using Sedgwick as a rat run. In addition, we request that in order to cope with increased traffic, the steep hill (Cooper Hill) in the village which is on a service bus route, and which is extremely icy in winter and the location of many minor accidents, is added to the county priority gritting list.
- SL/2022/1152- Cricket Club – change of new changing rooms and toilet facilities- The Council agreed to look at the new proposal, but the upgrade was felt to be a good thing.

90/22 Highways/Footpaths

- a) Highways Report – Several pot holes have been reported around the village it was agreed that Cllr Tanham would report them and forward this information to Cllr Rathbone, Cllr A Holmes and The Clerk.
- b) Correspondence from the NHS Safety Team acknowledging the height restriction of the aqueduct bridge was a problem for larger ambulances and staff where knowledgeable of the area so hopefully it would not happen again.
- c) Cllr R Bingham funded the replacement sign from his budget and now two road signs are now on Back Lane. The Parish Council thanked him for helping in resolving this issue.
- d) Bus Shelter Installation. The Council were approached by residents to provide a bus shelter for people waiting for both service buses and school buses. It is not known whether this application has been successful. 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.
- e) Rubbish Bins: The Clerk has contacted Andrew Vickers Delivery and Commercial Officer SLDC who has assessed a rubbish bin by the Millennium Field and by the River Kent (to avoid the grit bin being used as a rubbish bin). He has agreed to provide a bin for the millennium field but if the Parish Council require a bin by the River Kent, they have an option of renting a bin at an annual cost of £260 per year. The Council agreed they did not have the funds to facilitate this project.

91/22 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.
- b) Equipment replacement – The Freestyle slide on wetpour at a cost of £33,285. was agreed so funding can now be applied for. Updates would be presented at the next meeting by Cllr W Burrow.
- c) Cllr Macconnell has contacted the Cricket club asking if they will help with the village fun run. She had received no response so Cllr W Burrow agreed to work with her in this matter. She had received feedback from several local people who all wanted to help with this fund raiser.
- d) Sedgwick Parish Council Safeguarding Officer –Cllr V Macconnell has contacted user groups that use the Millennium field explaining her role and requesting copies of their safeguarding policies.

92/22 Canal Wildlife Area Report

- a) Monthly report by Cllr B Tanham- The path muddy, canal basin filled up with water , no signs of cyclist, litter was minimal so was dog waste. The signs were not vandalized, and the woodland bulbs were starting to show their heads.
- b) Monitoring the use of the Canal Path – little usage because of the inclement weather
- c) CRT installation of the artwork - planning approval 4th January but has been given with conditions. A notice has been erected on site for an extension to the temporary closure extended to 31 March 2023, but they have planning permission to erect it in a 3-year period.
- d) Cllr B Tanham reported SLDC Ruth Leahy has still not replied to the request to forward the feasibility plan of March 21 and sent a further email. Cllr Rathbone agreed to investigate this matter and as he attended CRT meetings, he would ask them for permission to report back to Sedgwick Parish Council.

93/22 Website/social media: Cllr B Holmes reported that the website has been updated with planning, firework displays, the River Kent Safety Report, meeting minutes and agenda updates with dates of PC meeting in 2023. Also the annual bill from the website administrators Treble3 is due £130 + vat**94/22 Finance**

- a) The bank statements were received – Current Bank Balance as of 30th December 2022 £ 6,256.02 and Reserve Account £15.053.10
- b) To approve payments: Shell Energy Broadband Nov-Dec £18.98, Dec-Jan £18.98, SLDC -Election cost 22/23 £100, Printing Plus- newsletter £132.67, Treble3 Web Fee £156.00 and printerinks Ink cartridges BH £34.73
- c) Sign the accounts agreed on 9th November 2022 and cleared the bank account.
- d) Accounts Update 22/23 and Budget 23/24 – expenditure had been smaller than expected although there were unforeseen costs with the Deliberator upgrade and ash died back in the woodland. It was agreed next year spend would be even tighter to keep with inflation costs and necessary commitment spending.
- e) Precept 2023/24 a report was raised by the Clerk and discussed, the difficulty the Council faced was a loss of income thus year with the grant allocation being removed and 4 less houses exempt from council tax which created a loss of £330.68.(3%) it was agreed by all councillors to add 6%.This is an average increase per household of £3.54.The Council will be claiming for £11,651.16.
- f) Notification of external auditor appointment for 2022-23 -26-27 -Auditors Moore

- g) Westmorland & Furness Shadow Authority: Parish Council Election Costs email outlining that they are unsure if there is going to be a cost to the Parish Council, but no charge has been added to the precept 2023-24.
- h) Website Audit 2021-22 report – Kate McGibbon CALC- The Clerk reported she received an email stating that Sedgwick was not compliant with legislation. The Clerk informed CALC of where to look on the website and was thanked for this information.

95/22 Winter Newsletter: All were delivered and well received.

96/22 The Kings Coronation and celebrations in May 2023

This item will be discussed in detail at the next meeting which will include the opening of the late Queens plaque and tree canopy. The WI have emailed the Council stating they will not be attending the Coronation event but wish an update on the late Queens celebrations.

97/22 items for consideration for a future agenda

- Highways/Millennium Field/Website/Canal Report
- Local Government Reorganisation
- Millennium Field/ funding and replacement equipment/ fun run
- Annual Parish Meeting
- Spring Newsletter: include APM, Parish Clerk retirement/new clerk required, Funding raising.

98/22 Correspondence: All the documents have been circulated to the Councillors.

99/22 Open Action: all received and noted

- CALC- Local Government Reorganisation Newsletters Oct, Nov, Dec and Jan received and noted
- Cumbria Local Authority Climate update Dec 22

100/22 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **8th February 2023 at 7 30 pm** at Sedgwick Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9: 30 pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 8th February 2023