

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7:30pm Venue: Sedgwick Village Hall

Present: Cllr B Holmes (chairperson), Cllr B Tanham (Vice), Cllr G Stoker, Cllr D Rathbone, Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk) and 1 member of the public attended.

1/22 Election of Chairperson The Clerk took the chair for this item. It was proposed by Cllr Tanham, seconded by Cllr Stoker and unanimously resolved that Cllr Holmes should be the Chairperson for 2022/23

2/22 Declaration of Acceptance The Chairperson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for 2022/23 this was signed by Cllr Holmes and witnessed by the Clerk.

3/22 Election of Vice-Chairperson It was proposed by Cllr B Holmes, seconded by Cllr G Stoker and unanimously resolved that Cllr Bernie Tanham should be the Vice-Chairperson for 2022/23

4/22 Apologies: It was resolved for apologies with reasons given that were accepted by Sedgwick Parish Council, Cllr A Holmes – attended a hospital appointment, Cllr W Burrow- work commitments and Unitary Shadow Councillors D Rathbone and J Brook – both attending Unitary Council meeting at 7pm this evening but Cllr D Rathbone hoped to attend SPC meeting later if possible.

5/22 Non-Attendance: County Cllr B Gray and District Cllr R Bingham

6/22 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2022 as a true record.

7/22 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.

8/22 Public Participation: correspondence was received about the clean-up campaign on the River Kent. The resident who attended this meeting, told the Council it was one of the worst polluted rivers in the country with high levels of E. coli which fluctuated and that further testing was planned to identify the factors causing the pollution. It was agreed for the resident to update them on further correspondence.

9/22 Reports

Police Report: The Council are receiving Police Updates and a monthly community newsletter. It was noted there is a Firearms & Knife Surrender period in South Lakeland from 12th May-29th May 2022. Weapons to be handed in to Kendal and Barrow Station between 9am-1pm.

District Cllrs: Cllr R Bingham – did not attend and no report available

County Cllr B Gray: Unitary Cllr D Rathbone reported it was the first Shadow Council meeting on Monday followed with a full Council meeting next Tuesday afternoon with a full agenda. At present there are so many unknowns so if SPC have any questions to refer them to Cllr Rathbone or Cllr Brook.

Results of the Shadow Authority for Westmorland and Furness Council- Elections 5th May 2022 two Councillors elected for Kendal South Ward which covers the Parish of Sedgwick. The nominated Councillors are Councillor Jonathan Brook and Councillor Doug Rathbone. The Council congratulated both successful Councillors.

Village Hall Report the VHC meeting on 19th April which Cllr A Holmes attend and the minutes have been circulated. The proposal of new infrared heaters in the hall was approved 9th May by the Trustees at an estimated cost of £6817+vat, with work commencing next week. Also, the kitchen will be refreshed with 3 base units, worktops, handles etc and painting the existing units to match. Clearly there will disruption, but users are asked to bear with them, so the project is completed asap. Any specific problems to contact the VHC.

10/22 Vacancy of a Parish Councillor: The Parish Council have advertised the Casual Vacancy – a resident has shown an interest, but she wishes to attend a meeting before she commits herself.

11/22 Officers Roles and Responsibilities- Councillors confirm roles for 2022/23 which are displayed on the Noticeboard and website.

12/22 Planning Application submitted/received: None received

13/22 Highways/Footpaths

- a) Highways Report – It was noted that Sedgwick had road closures last month whilst the drain by the River Kent had been repaired. Cllr B Holmes reported that several potholes are in need of repair 2 on Cooper Hill, (already reported twice and assigned but not repaired) 1 at Carex farm junction and 1 at Force Lane Bridge, it was agreed she would report them.
- b) Cllr B Holmes has contacted Peter Hoskings who confirmed that gritting in Cumbria was done on a priority basis and that from Brettagh Holt round about to Sedgwick was priority 3 which is only gritted after all priority 1 and 2 routes are done (which council noted is effectively never) and that the Back Lane Bus route was not prioritised at all. The Council agreed to challenge this due to the dangerous conditions on Cooper Hill, which is a bus route, using the speed data and lack of paths and lighting. Councillor D Rathbone ask to be copied into the email and will support this challenge along with Cllr J Brook.
- c) Correspondence with Helen Karaaslan – The speed monitoring exercise had been completed in November and data was being reviewed in early December, then the monitoring was repeated in January. Correspondence was only received on 3/5/22. The document received concludes a 20mph speed limit will not be considered on the grounds of average speed – however it does not break down the data in the categories that we had previously been advised would make a case for the limit. The Council is disappointed with this report and will respond to re-iterate the need for a 20mph limit using their interpretation of the data in light of CCC's previous advice and the lack of lighting, pavements, gritting and the recent accidents within the current 30mph zone. Cllr B Holmes will be emailing Helen Karaaslan and copy Cllr D Rathbone & J Brook who will fully support SPC.
- d) Cllr R Bingham will be contacted regarding the lack of action over the replacement of the Back Lane sign.
- e) Bus Shelter Installation. The County infrastructure officer has confirmed a 2m square stone-built shelter would be recommended and that funding is available but finding a contractor to undertake this work has proved impossible. Cllr B Tanham has explored alternatives and found wooden structures and a heritage structure by Glasdon but with different dimensions. She agreed to liaise with Linda Hardy about the best way forward and report back.

14/22 Playground /Millennium Field

- a) Monthly Safety Report- by Cllr Stoker reported that he had replaced the rotten stump and that there were no safety concerns. It was agreed that Cllr W Burrow would assist him at the end of this month to install the other stumps as it was a two-person job. Also the bins have been emptied.
- b) Equipment replacement – Cllr Burrow has liaised with Asda community funding and had further ideas to raise funds and then look for match funding. Cllr Stoker would contact Cllr Burrow and update the Council on the progress of funding. It was agreed that all 3 options with quotes would be agreed on for a choice at the next meeting.
- c) Safeguarding Policy and training – The importance of safeguarding in the community was outlined and the Council's responsibilities discussed. The policy was approved and it was agreed that a Safeguarding Officer would be appointed at the next meeting.
- d) It was agreed to arrange the annual ROSPA inspection.

15/22 Canal Wildlife Area Report

- a) Monthly report by Cllr B Homes- This is available on the website and noticeboard, It was noted that although the spring bulbs are looking well, Spanish bluebells have been invaded. To protect the native English Bluebells Cllr B Tanham agreed to remove them. Some of the diseased ash trees are not in leaf yet while others look fine so it was agreed to monitor the situation and appraise the situation at a site visit at 7pm before the next meeting.
- b) At present there is a high level of usage along the Woodland footpath including cyclists and horses who are using the path even though it is not permitted.
- c) All but one of the No Cycling signs have been torn down and stolen – this is the second time in two months. The clerk agreed to notify the police. Cllr B Tanham agreed to discuss whether anti-vandal signs are available when she meets PCSO Newman.
- d) It was agreed to organise the annual woodland management inspection for September...

16/22 Website/social media: Cllr B Holmes reported that the website has been updated and was well used. The Canal information board is now featured on a page of its own and the Platinum Jubilee information has been added.**17/22 Finance**

- a) The bank statements were received - Bank Balance as of 30th March Current £17,570.30
- b) To receive £11,359.34 SLDC Precept and Grant Gritting Refund £535.24, SLDC Grant £500, Vat refund £468.81
- c) Payments Approved: S Roberts /Microsoft annual fee £59.99, Shell Energy Broadband May/June £16.98, G Blenkarn Internal Audit Fee £80.00, BHIB Insurance £391.57 Jubilee Celebration fund £100 and Cllr G Stoker materials repair £17.70.

- d) Accounts reported on 9th March & 13th April which cleared the bank account on 30th April was approved by Cllr G Stoker
- e) 2022/23 Insurance policy BHIB Councils Insurance £391.57 fixed for 3 years., the renewal date is 1/6/22 was agreed and approved by all Councillors.
- f) The Accounts have been approved by the internal Audit with the AGAR statement being compiled along with the necessary paperwork, this was approved by Council and the AGAR signed by the Chairperson and financial Officer. The Certificate of Exemption was accepted and approved by Council to be signed by The Chairperson and financial Officer. The Notification of completed Audit was accepted, signed and is ready to be displayed in the cabinet and website from Monday 13th June- Friday 22 July 2022. The Clerk agreed to upload and display the documents accordingly.
- g) The Financial Report for 2022/23 including the Financial Reserve Statement and revised Budget for 2022-3 was received and approved by all Councillors.
- h) The Council had confirmation of changes to bank charges and terms. It was noted that the reserve account interest charges will be raised from the 4th April from 0.01% to 0.10%. It was agreed to transfer £5,000.00 from the current account to the reserve account.

18/22 The Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons- 2nd June 2022:

Posters are displayed in the Village with event details. It was agreed to purchase two prizes to be awarded to the best and most humorous display and that Cllr Holmes would approach a resident to judge and liaise with Councillors available that weekend to liaise with the judge. Cllr B Holmes agreed to attend the next steering group meeting on 18th May 2022. It was agreed to help fund the Beacon event at the Church with a donation of £100.

19/22 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Highways/Millennium Field/Website/Canal Report
- Local Government Reorganisation
- Millennium Field/ funding and replacement equipment
- Due to the Parish Clerk announcing her retirement from office this year, it was agreed to add a recruitment letter in the summer newsletter
- Summer Newsletter/ Recruitment Parish Clerk
- Install Jubilee Plaque at the July Parish Council Meeting

20/22 Correspondence: All the documents have been circulated to the Councillors

- Calc – CCRG Meeting and notes – received 29/4/22
- Calc – Nalc legal update April 2022- received and noted
- Street Naming & Numbering Addressing Guidance and Policy- received and noted
- Possible Spam Grant Funding Opportunities- received and noted
- ICO Newsletter

21/22 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **6th July 2022 at 7 30 pm** at Sedgwick Village Hall. **Date to be confirmed subject to the Village Hall being available**

The meeting closed at 9: 40 pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 6 July 2022