

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2024 7:30 pm

*This meeting took place at Sedgwick Village Hall
The Annual Parish Meeting was held in accordance with the
requirements of the Local Government Act 1972.*

Present: Cllrs B Holmes (Chairman), Cllr V Macconnell, Cllr G Stoker, Cllr J Hall, Cllr D Rathbone W&F Council, Cllr J Brook W&F Council, Mrs R Harrison (Parish Clerk) and 20 members of the Parish.

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Local Issues Presentations

Marlene Little from Crosscraze Church

It was reported that the church has a regular congregation of 40-50 members of the public as well as groups including the Toddlers and Mothers Union, which can have up to 20 people in attendance. They are extremely grateful to Terry & Ruth Wilcock: Terry takes the service most Sundays and they both offer support to the school.

In the Autumn there were rumours of Crosscraze joining with Natland, Old Hutton & New Hutton. They are already part of the Helm Group but this would be very different. Having no leader at Crosscraze Church would certainly impact the school and community. Unfortunately, this is happening all over the country and in some cases 11 churches may be in a merger.

If the merger was to get the go ahead the church could not maintain all it is doing now.

A public meeting has been hugely helpful as it has created a rethink from the Diocese and the next meeting with the PCC is on the 8th April.

All updates on the situation will be in the Church Magazine and it was made clear that the church does have rights and are exerting them.

The second part of the presentation focused on the Community Hub. They are very grateful to John Stott for the land that was donated and the building will initially be built as a standalone as this will be VAT free. It will not be in competition with the Village Hall and will mainly be used for a social meeting place and for education with many organisations already interested.

With regards to funding, they are very grateful for the public's support and donations. Any updates on the project will be in the Church Magazine. They now have enough money to start building and this will commence in May/June for 6 weeks where ½ the car park will still remain in use. They will also be receiving help from the Young Farmers with some walling jobs.

Geoff Critchlow will be the Project Manager and he has volunteered and undertaken a lot of research on the project.

The Parish Council wished them all the luck for the future with both of the above.

Sedgwick Parish Council 20MPH Application

Cllr Holmes reported that traffic had always been an issue and was disproportionately high. Over the years the volume has increased and Sedgwick is used as a rat run. People do not feel safe and the only solution that the Council has found is a 20mph zone.

W&F Council are supportive of 20mph areas, and we believe we have a compelling case and strong argument to be accepted as we have a mix of traffic including National Cycle Route, hardly any pavements, only 2 streetlights, on road parking and hardly any pavements.

The members of the public who attended were asked for their opinion and it was unanimously supported.

The Parish Council are waiting for approval and when a member of the public asked when we may expect to hear anything Cllr Brook said there is no guarantee of a date at this stage.

A member of the public noted that road signs and paint work are faded and need renewing whilst we wait and it was recommended that all complaints and requests of this nature are reported to W&F council through their website which is a simple procedure.

3. Apologies

Apologies it was resolved for apologies with reasons given that were accepted by Sedgwick Parish Council to be noted Cllr B Tanham as she was away.

PCSO Newman (no longer resourced to Parish council meetings & doesn't work Wednesday's anyway), Helen Moriarity LCRP, Lesley Singleton WI, Barbara Bethell Badminton Club.

4. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 8th March 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.

5. Councillors Reports for 2022/23

Cllr B Holmes;

It has been a full year for the council. Cllr Burrow has resigned and both he and Cllr A Holmes were thanked for all of their work whilst they were Parish Councillors. A space on the council has therefore become available if anyone is interested in this rewarding role. Cllr Rathbone was also thanked for his continuing help and attendance at our meetings.

The Bus Shelter was installed in May & Cllr Tanham was thanked for help on this project, The Highways takes up a lot of the Parish Council's time with the 20mph application, along with logging all road repairs needed. It was again noted we are dissatisfied with the progress of repairs.

The Canal area is a lovely space, and the tree stock is currently safe. Last year the Queen's Canopy was unveiled with the WI. Vandalism on the canal however has been an issue, with damage to the wall and the irreparable damage to The Stoker Seat, which has now been replaced thanks to a generous donation from a member of the parish.

The CRT have been contacted about the completion of the artwork installation and it is hopeful that it will be done by the end of the week.

Other areas of the Parish Council's responsibilities are Safeguarding, the Emergency Plan, Cold Calling and updating the website and Facebook along with finance. If anyone has any questions regarding the budget on the agenda, they were asked to contact a member of the Parish Council or the Parish Clerk.

Cllr G Stoker;

The Millennium Field is well used by all ages. It is noted some pieces of equipment are getting old and need repairs, replacing or removing in the future. An annual inspection by ROSPA is carried out and a monthly inspection by Cllr Stoker too.

Volunteers for fundraising projects are needed to replace and upkeep the equipment.

The public were asked to help themselves to compost before April when it will be emptied ready for the next couple of grass cutting seasons.

A grant will be applied for for a new Community Orchard area in the corner of the field. Thanks was also given to all who helped with the work day tasks.

Cllr Brook – Leader of W&F Council

It was reported that W&F council was new from 1st April last year and has a new plan and vision which is a mammoth task but has received positive feedback and made good progress.

When departments such as planning and waste are combined, they are more efficient and all Cllrs meet at the Locality Boards where local people are making local decisions. W&F Council are supporting the introduction of more 20mph areas, and there are grant funding opportunities for projects in need such as the money donated to Crosscrake Church for the Community Hub and the Community Orchard Scheme.

Cllr Rathbone

The W&F council will receive more funding for highways which will be spent where there is need for improvement on things such as potholes, signs and repainting, the list of reported items will be looked at and they want to get as far down the list as possible.

Funding is available for projects that need a figure of up to £500.

It was also noted that residents should be aware that the Constituency Boundaries are changing, and Sedgwick will be in the constituency of Morecambe & Lunesdale for the next General Election.

If any member of the public has a question, they can contact Cllr Rathbone at Doug.Rathbone@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

6. Reports from Parish Organisations

Reports were presented on behalf of the following Parish Groups:

- Sedgwick Cricket Club
- The Art Group
- PCSO Newman

- Creative Embroidery Group
- Sedgwick Badminton Group
- Sedgwick Village Hall
- LCRP
- Crosscrake School
- Crosscrake WI
- Sedgwick Beavers, Cubs, Scouts
- A representative from the CRT attended but did not submit a report.

Copies of the reports are available for inspection from the Clerk and on our website.

7. Public Participation: Questions and Future Priorities

- The Parish Council were asked if they know when the footbridge over the River Kent will re-open. The Parish Council will contact the National Trust for an update and post on facebook.
- The Parish Council and W&F Councillors were asked about hedge cutting in the village after debris is continually left each year causing damage to tyres. Cllr J Brook advised they should be cleaning up after themselves and will look into it.

Future Priorities

- The Community Orchard Scheme
- 20mph Application
- Potholes and Highways repairs.

The Chairperson conveyed thanks to everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed : (Chairman)
Date : March 2025