

## SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
at 7:30pm at Sedgwick Village Hall.,*

**Present:** Cllr B Holmes (Chair), Cllr B Tanham, Cllr G Stoker,  
Mrs Rachel Harrison (Parish Clerk), Westmorland & Furness Cllr D Rathbone and one member of the Parish attended.

**79/24 Apologies:** The Parish Council accepted the apologies of Cllr Hall as he was ill.

**80/24 Minutes:** It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 as a true record.

**81/24 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.

**82/24 Public Participation:**

A member of the parish attended the meeting to voice their concerns about the flooding on the road between Sedgwick & Natland, near to Appletree.

They have concerns that, when the flooding is at its worse, motorists have to drive on the opposite side of the road which is hazardous and it is especially inconvenient to cyclists & pedestrians who cannot use the road at all. The issue was reported over 10 years ago and there has been no action taken and the problem is getting worse. In the past local residents have cleared the drains themselves which helped for a while, however flooding is becoming more frequent and deeper.

Cllr Rathbone has already been contacted with regards to the issue & he was asked what has been done in the last 4 weeks since his last correspondence. Cllr Rathbone reported that there has been a site meeting and it is in the hands of highways. It is a complex problem and they are looking for a "LONG TERM" solution which involves improving underground drainage on private land which will require liaising with the land owners, which will be the next course of action.

The member of the parish formally thanked Cllr Rathbone & informed the Parish Council that he will raise the issue again in 2 months' time at the next meeting.

**83/24 Reports**

- a) Police Report: The Council are receiving a monthly community newsletter and can access the Crime Map online.
- b) Westmorland & Furness Council Cllr D Rathbone reported;
- W&F are replying to a government consultation and are deciding whether to join the **Devolution Priority Programme** in order to have a seat at the table to look at becoming a Mayoral Strategic Authority with a final decision being made in the autumn when more specific financial information should be available, Cllr Rathbone will keep us informed.
- On the **Lighting Policy**, there will be a Teams meeting on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January which both Cllr Holmes & Cllr Rathbone will attend.
- **Road Repairs** from the village to the river are planned for the next financial year.
- The **CRT** have quarterly meetings for Cllrs, which he can attend, and will ask for the issue of the Parish Council having access to the minutes of meetings to help with keeping the Parish Council informed and to help with transparency.

**84/24 Planning Application submitted/received:**

- a) 2024/2076/LBC at 16 Sedgwick House, LA8 0JX
- b) 2024/2077/FPA at 16 Sedgwick House, LA8 0JX
- c) 2024/2195/FPA at 21 Castle View, LA8 0JL
- d) 2024/2302/FPA at Sedgwick House Tennis Courts  
2024/2367/FPA 12 Wakefield Meadow, LA8 0JD

All of the above were discussed with no objections from the Parish Council.

**85/24 Highways/Footpaths**

- a) The Highways report was presented, and the following issues will be added;
  - Pavement Repairs
  - Red Paint renewal under the viaduct.
  - Grit Bins to be checked and reported if refills are necessary.

- b) The Parish Council have been updated about the 20mph zone. The final design is being agreed with an extension along Back Lane and after formal approval there will be a statutory notice period before the zone is created.
- c) The Parish Council have received the new bench and the Clerk will obtain a quote and organise the installation. It was agreed that the quote can be approved by email before the next meeting.
- d) The Lighting Policy was discussed (see above).

**86/24 Playground /Millennium Field**

- a) Cllr G Stoker gave his monthly Safety Report & commented on how well the trees and hedges have been planted. Regarding repairs, there will be a new post for the gate installed, the swing seats to be swapped and small repairs to the slide. The residents who have agreed to help were thanked.
- b) Orchard Grant – The Parish Council are delighted with the work done with planting and the 1<sup>st</sup> monitoring form has been completed and sent back, with the next form due in 6 months. The project is just within budget with approximately £100 available to buy replacement saplings for any that do not survive the winter.

**87/24 Fundraising & Events**

- a) The fundraiser on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 at the Parish Hall in Kendal was discussed. Cllr Tanham will attend and Cllr Holmes will request raffle prizes and buy tickets. Details of the event were in the Christmas newsletter and it will feature in the Spring newsletter. Tickets will be available through a QR code. Cllr Holmes will contact Val Macconnell.
- b) It was decided new quotes and ideas will be obtained for the slide to be purchased.

**88/24 Safeguarding**

- a) Cllr Tanham had nothing to report but would like to do the safeguarding training.

**89/24 VE & VJ Day 2025 – 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

- a) As previously discussed, members of the Parish are encouraged to put up flags, bunting & lights.

**90/24 CALC Training**

- a) The Clerk will contact CALC to enrol Cllr Holmes & Cllr Tanham on the “Trees on Council Land” course and Cllr Tanham on a safeguarding course.

**91/24 Canal**

- a) A report by Cllr B Holmes was provided and can be seen in the noticeboard and on the website.
- b) Cllr Holmes will contact the Kent Estuary YFC to rearrange their visit.

**92/24 Website/social media**

- a) Cllr B Holmes reported that the website is up to date and Facebook posts are being made.
- b) Following a recent CALC training course Cllr Holmes discussed whether there is a need for .gov websites and email addresses. All members of the Parish Council were given a report to read before the next meeting and formal decisions will be made then.
- c) Work has been done on the website to ensure we have the rights to all images used.

**93/24 Policies & Procedures**

- a) The Clerk confirmed she had checked the NALC website and the Data Protection Policy we already use seems to be the most up to date. Following the GDPR Training, we will need to look at related policies and do an audit of data.

**94/24 Finance**

- a) The bank balances were noted as of 30/12/24 Current = £8406.56 & 20/11/2024 Reserve = £15440.25
- b) To following payments were approved:

**Parish Clerks Salary November/December/Back Dated Pay = £553.43**

**Parish Clerks Expenses November/December = £63.09**

**HMRC PAYE (Rachel Harrison) November/December = £114.40**

**CALC Chairperson Training £20.00**

**Printing Plus December Newsletter = £101.00**

**Bernie Tanham Orchard Trees = £69.00**

**Treble 3 (Annual Web Hosting) £156.00**

**Glasdon (new bench) = £702.00**

**J Park (Orchard Installation) = £700.00**

**G Stoker (Post for gate) = £63.50**

To following receipts of interest were acknowledged:

**Interest = £55.67**

- c) The accounts agreed on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were signed as cleared the bank account.

- d) The budget was finalised, and it was agreed the Precept should be increased by 2% in line with inflation to cover any rising/unexpected costs.
- e) The Financial Reserve Policy was approved and will be updated on the website.
- f) The clerk will contact the auditor used last year to see if they are happy to act for Sedgwick again this year.

**95/24 Newsletter**

- a) It was reported that sadly no volunteers had come forward since the newsletter was distributed.
- b) Everyone agreed that the format used was preferable and, where possible, should be used in the future.
- c) The spring newsletter will go to the printers in February and will include details of the 20mph zone and the March fundraiser.

**96/24 Correspondence:** All the documents have been received and circulated to the Councillors.

**97/24 Open Action**

- a) It was confirmed that there are still 2 vacancies for Parish Councillors. The posts have been advertised and anyone interested should contact the Clerk for more information.
- b) The topic of Proxy Voting and remote attendance at meeting was discussed and the Clerk will contact CALC for more information.
- c) It was decided that there will be no speaker at the APM however after correspondence from the Cumbria Community Foundation, the clerk will contact them to see if they would like to attend and speak.

**98/24 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- a) The trees overhanging the Millennium field are to be assessed in the Summer.
- b) The gov.uk website and email addresses will be discussed at the next meeting.

**99/24 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm**.

*The meeting closed at 9.15pm*

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025