

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 19th March 2025 7:30 pm

*The 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 B Tanham, Cllr G Stoker, Cllr J Hall,
Cllr D Rathbone W&F Council,
Mrs R Harrison (Parish Clerk) and 12 members of the Parish.

121/24 Welcome and Introduction

122/24 Local Issues Presentations

Cllr B Holmes – BT Digital Switchover

It was reported that the switchover is happening due to the old existing system, which uses copper wiring, becoming increasingly more difficult & expensive to repair. The switchover will commence in 2025 with the old system retiring in 2027. Customers will receive 4 weeks written notice and home phones will need to plug their phone line cable into their broadband router. The system will be more energy efficient, and the quality of calls will be more reliable with better quality, the option of 3 way calling and less nuisance calls. Customers who do not currently have broadband will be offered cheap deals and residents who do not wish to have it at all can be exempt until 2030.

Negatives of the switchover include vulnerable residents who may have alarm pendants, however BT are currently working with the providers of these.

Any customers under 75, who have a disability or additional needs, are asked to self-identify with BT.

The whole community are advised to look out for each other during a power cut and residents are advised to always have a charged mobile in case of an emergency.

Sedgwick Parish Council 20MPH Application

Cllr Tanham was delighted to report that we have been included in the 1st phase of introducing 20mph limit through the village and thanked all residents for submitting their feedback surveys. This means that Sedgwick will have a 20mph speed limit, subject to the statutory consultation, and approval by the locality board and legal departments. It is hoped the new signage will be in by late Summer/Autumn

123/24 Apologies

Apologies it was resolved for apologies with reasons given that Barbara Bethell (Badminton Club), Diana Holmes (Village Hall), Susan Tetlow (Embroidery Group) were unable to attend, however reports can be seen on the website.

124/24 Minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2024 were approved and signed as a true record.

125/24 Councillors Reports for 2024/25

Cllr B Holmes;

- Parish Councillors – There are 2 vacancies currently and anyone interested should contact the Clerk or one of the parish councillors.
- Canal – This is a quiet, peaceful have which we are proud to have, safety checks are made and trees monitored throughout the year The landowner next to the canal was thanked for his repair work and we are grateful to Kent Estuary YFC for offering to help with wall repairs.
- Millennium Field – Cllr Stoker, and the residents who help with the area, were thanked for all of their hard work throughout the year. Repairs are continually needed and we are grateful for their help.
- Tree Slide Replacement – Fundraising is continuing and the event at the Parish Hall planned for Saturday is sold out. Proceeds will go with the money already raised.

- Finance – Although inflation has slowed costs are still rising, the annual canal maintenance has been delayed into the next financial year, the surplus from 2024/25 will go to the slide fund and there is a reserve for the Canal and Millennium Field contingency. The Parish Council have decided to raise the precept this year by 2% to cover increasing and unforeseen costs.
- It was reported other responsibilities of the Parish Council include; Grass Cutting, Newsletters, Data Protection, Website, Training Events, Emergency Plan, No Cold Calling Zone.

Cllr Tanham

- Highways – Potholes have been reported and repairs have been made in the village. (residents are encouraged to easily report issues to W&F Highways)
- New Bench – This has been installed next to the bus shelter and look great.
- Planning – There have been a number of applications during the year which have generally been straightforward. W&F Council are in the process of preparing a new Local Plan for the area which the Parish Council and residents will be able to give feedback to. Applications for planning along the A65 will have an effect on Sedgwick and the volume of traffic passing through.
- Community Orchard – We were delighted to receive a grant from W&F Council to establish an orchard and hedge in the Millennium Field. The hedging, when established, will provide a natural windbreak. Local varieties of fruit trees were sourced for the orchard which, will provide residents with cooking & eating apples.

Cllr Rathbone

- 20mph Zone – Cllr Rathbone was glad the process was successful and thanked residents for their input. There was a 54% response and 95% of those were in favour.
- Ward Boundary Changes – Sedgwick Parish Council and residents are advised to respond and propose Sedgwick has more similarities with Natland and for this to be considered before any final decision is made.
- Local Plan – As mentioned by Cllr Tanham nearby developments will have a knock effect to Sedgwick.
- Parish Council Elections – These will all be held in 2027 to cut costs to Parish Councils.
- Devolution – As per the minutes of our last meeting a decision will be made in the Autumn.
- Budget – There will be a 2% rise in Council Tax which will ensure that front line services are protected and non will be cut or reduced.
- Parish Council – It has been a pleasure to work with Sedgwick who are responsive, proactive and a joy to work with.
- Cllr Rathbone was thanked for all of his help as it is beneficial to the whole village.

126/24 Reports from Parish Organisations

Reports were presented on behalf of the following Parish Groups:

- The Art Group – Dorothy Howson reported they meet on Mondays and have room for more if anyone is interested in coming along.
- Crosscrake Church – Marlene Little reported that it has been a challenging year with the permanent merger proposal which has been an 8 year battle to safeguard and build on what they already have in place. The congregation is 40-45 each week and they have a Mothers Union and youth groups. The new Community Hub is hopefully opening in May and will be for hospitality and education support. The interviews for a new vicar are underway and Crosscrake will have a full-time resident curate. This ensures a more secure future with changes by the Summer.

127/24 Public Participation: Questions and Future Priorities

128/24 Future Priorities

- Canal Maintenance
- 20mph Zone implementation
- Millennium Field Maintenance.
- VE Day – all residents are encouraged to fly flags, have bunting and put up lights.

The Chairperson conveyed thanks to everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed : (Chairman)

Date : 18th March 2026