

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7:30pm
at Sedgwick Village Hall.*

Present: Cllr B Holmes (Chair), Cllr G Stoker, Cllr J Hall, Mrs Rachel Harrison (Parish Clerk), Westmorland & Furness Cllr D Rathbone.

62/25 Apologies were received and accepted from both Cllr Tanham.

63/25 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2025 as a true record.

64/25 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests:
None

65/25 Public Participation: None

66/25 Reports

Westmorland & Furness Council Cllr D Rathbone reported the following;

Devolution/Mayoral Vote – The cabinet has decided to vote in favour of proceeding, and the next stage will be for the government to confirm more details. The administration will be dealt with in 2026 ready for Mayor Elections in 2027.

W&F Council Peer Review – After 2 years of operating as W&F Council a review has taken place, the response has been good and there is some feedback to work on. Overall, it was reported that W&F Council is ambitious, open to challenge, well lead and committed. They will receive an action plan in December.

W&F Council – The new chief executive, Miranda Cannon, has been appointed.

Call for Sites – no update but it is being worked on, and the design code is due to be released.

Ward Boundaries – The Parish Council acknowledged they are not happy that the ward boundaries will be changing.

Quorum Procedures – Cllr Rathbone discussed procedures that are available to the Parish Council should they become inquorate.

67/25 Planning Application submitted/received:
None

68/25 Highways/Footpaths

- a) The Highways report was presented and updated.
- b) The Parish Council will discuss the bedding in period at the March 2026 meeting.
- c) Cllr Rathbone will chase the following unresolved items; permission to cut the grass around the area of the bus stop, road surface repairs on Coopers Hill & Carex finger post sign replacement
- d) The new bus stop sign has been installed and now includes a timetable for residents to refer to.
- e) The 3 quotes for a new noticeboard were presented to the parish council and one was chosen which the Parish Clerk will order and arrange installation.

69/25 Playground /Millennium Field

- a) Cllr G Stoker gave his monthly Safety Report and reported that some repairs have been made. Some tasks will be completed in the Spring. Cllr Stoker & the member of the public who regularly help with repairs were both thanked for all their hard work.

70/25 Fundraising & Events

- a) Equipment Replacement – no updates.

71/25 Safeguarding Report

- a) Nothing to report.

72/25 Canal

- a) A report by Cllr B Holmes can be seen on the website and in the noticeboard.
- b) Alistair Hearn's report was discussed, and the ash trees are doing well. There is work required on the large Ash near the Stoker Seat and on the entrance to the easy path. James Park, our contractor has inspected and has provided a quote for the work.
- c) The Kent Estuary YFC are unable to make any dry-stone wall repairs. Cllr Holmes will contact a contractor for a quote.
- d) It was noted that the CRT have cleared their section of the canal and banking.

- e) The quote of £400 from James Park for works to the canal was approved.

73/25 Website/social media

- a) Cllr B Holmes reported that the website is up to date and Facebook posts are being made.
- b) The three quotes for a new website and email addresses to comply with the new regulations were discussed and the Treble3 quote was approved.
- c) It was noted that the Parish Council believe the need for a new website is a disproportionate burden to a small parish council and a burden on finances in a short timescale.
- d) Cllr Holmes hopes to attend a CALC course regarding the new website requirements.

74/25 Finance

- a) Bank balances as of 30/09/2025 Current = £14575.17 and 20/08/2025 Reserve = £22636.43 were noted and the bank reconciliation including payments agreed on 3rd September 2025 was signed.
- b) The below payments were approved:

Parish Clerks Salary September/October = **£530.32**
Parish Clerks Expenses September/October = **£52.00**
HMRC PAYE (Rachel Harrison) September/October = **£169.49**
D&C Atkinson (Grass Cutting) = **Oct/Nov 2 x £91.00 = £182.00**
Treescapes Consultancy (Canal Inspection) = **£334.32**

- c) The Clerk presented the draft 25/26 budget for initial discussion before it will be finalised at the January meeting.

75/25 Newsletter

- a) The winter newsletter will be drafted ready to go to the printers the 1st week of December.

76/25 Correspondence: All the documents have been received and circulated to the Councillors.

77/25 Open Action not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- 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 2026 meeting dates were confirmed and will be publicised on the website.
- c) The Parish Council acknowledged receipt of the Village Hall committee AGM minutes, and it was noted that the hall was much warmer for the meeting.
- d) Cllr Holmes & Cllr Rathbone had both attended the opening of the new Crosscrake hub.
- e) It was reported that Crosscrake now has a new priest.
- f) The resignation of the Clerk was accepted, and the post will be advertised on the website, with CALC and in the newsletter.

78/25 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.30pm.**
The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 14th January 2026