

# SEDGWICK PARISH

NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS 2023



Montage by Steve Tanham

# WELCOME

Welcome to our last newsletter of 2023. It has been a busy end to the year and there are some important news and information topics to share. Firstly, Councillor Andrea Holmes has retired from the Council. We thank her for her contributions during her time on the Council, particularly in her role as Highways Officer and wish her well.

## 20mph Speed Limit Campaign

Following the announcement of Westmorland and Furness Council's new policy to support communities create 20mph Speed Limits on local roads, Sedgwick's formal application was submitted in September. We await further news.

## Cold Calling

During the last two weeks in September, residents were targeted by a persistent Cold Caller who became aggressive when challenged. We have received further advice from local Trading Standards officers and new stickers to display at residents' front doors, which we enclose with this letter. Residents are advised not to engage with any Cold Callers and close off any conversation quickly. In areas where Cold Callers are met with this unanimous and consistent response, they are less likely to continue and will move on to the next community where residents may not be as alert.

If you experience a Cold Call, please alert Trading Standards report them on 01539713583 or [trading.standards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk) and Cumbria Police on 101. If they are able to, their local Officers will come out to the incident. If you feel unable to call, or need assistance, please contact a member of the Council.

## Canal

A new seat has been installed near Sedgwick Hill Bridge to replace the one that was vandalised in July. This was made possible by a very generous donation by a resident. We are extremely grateful for this donation.

There are also 3 sections of stonewall that look like they have been vandalised. Two repairs have already been made and we estimate that vandalism will cost us over £2500 this year: an amount equivalent to 24% of our income. Our local PCSO is aware of the problem. Please report any further damage as soon as possible.

Following incidents along the canal involving dogs attacking and biting adults and children, we ask that all dogs are kept under close control when on the towpath and even on a lead if owners know they may have problems with children or other dogs. We have responded to a request from dog owners who are dismayed at the amount of dog poo along the towpath and installed bigger and brighter "Dog poo" signs. Please clean up the poo your dog leaves behind.

## The Millennium Field Playground

There are several Spring maintenance jobs that need to be carried out on the Millennium Field and we are going to hold a work party day provisionally on the first Sunday in March (March 3<sup>rd</sup>). We need volunteers to offer just an hour or two of their time to help weed, trim and clean equipment so that we can keep the field in the best possible condition. Please contact Boyan Holmes ([chair.sedgwick.parish@gmail.com](mailto:chair.sedgwick.parish@gmail.com)) If you can help out.

## Fundraising

Our Tree Slide is about 50 years old and unfortunately reaching the end of its working life. Recent annual inspections have highlighted wear and deterioration that simply cannot be repaired and so we have reluctantly embarked on a long-term project to buy a replacement before it deteriorates so badly, that it is condemned. Our aspirational ambition is to provide a multi-skills piece of play equipment – but the cost of the best option is £35,000. The only grant funding available is “seed funding” which means we must provide – usually half – of the amount requested. So, we need to build a significant reserve, before we can even start to make grant applications. We will be holding further fundraisers in the coming year and ask residents to support this initiative so we can continue to offer great play equipment suitable for the over-5s.

## Digital Switchover of Telephone Lines

By 2025, analogue telephone landlines in the UK, will be switched off and replaced with newer digital technology because they have reached the end of their serviceable life. Telecoms companies must contact their customers ahead of the migration taking place, so you do not need to take any action until your provider contacts you directly.

## Postal and Proxy Voting Changes

From 31st October 2023, all postal and proxy vote applications must contain a National Insurance Number, or a reason why one cannot be provided, in order to verify the applicant’s identity. This will affect all residents who register for this service.

## Councillor Vacancy and Elections 2024

Due to Cllr A Holmes’ retirement, we have a casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If a council becomes inquorate it cannot continue meeting and vital decisions will no longer be made locally, so the role of councillor is vital if residents in our community are to be properly supported and represented. It is rewarding; seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make. It is something that can give you a real sense of achievement and it fosters a true connection with where you live. Unlike a district councillor, the role is voluntary. It involves in attending 7 meetings a year. For more information, please visit our website and contact us if you are interested in joining our team.

Elections will take place for Sedgwick Parish on Thursday 2nd May 2024 – the term of office is usually 4 years and as the 2020 elections were postponed by a year, this round of elections realigns the original schedule.

Finally, there has been a big increase in burglary and vandalism in the area recently; residents are reminded to check their home and personal security and to take extra care over the holiday period.

**We wish you all a  
very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2024.  
Sedgwick Parish Council**

# SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

**Parish Clerk;** Rachel Harrison  
14 Helmside Gardens,  
Oxenholme  
LA9 7HN Tel: 07717357176



## Councillors:

**Chair: Boyan Holmes**  
The Oaks, 61644  
**Vice Chair: Bernie Tanham**  
The Wharf, 60179  
**Will Burrow**  
Railway Cottage, 07814575880  
**Val Macconnell**  
4 Orchard View, 07779912017  
**Gerry Stoker;**  
4, Wakefield Meadow, 60939

## Westmorland and Furness Council

[www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](http://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)

### South Kendal

Cllr Doug Rathbone  
M: 07795925328

[doug.rathbone@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:doug.rathbone@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)



# COUNCIL MEETINGS 2024

@ 7.30pm **Sedgwick Village Hall**

January 10<sup>th</sup> March 13<sup>th</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup>

September 11<sup>th</sup> November 13<sup>th</sup>

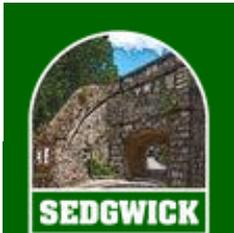
**Annual Parish Meeting March 20<sup>th</sup> 2024**

Residents are always welcome at meetings.

Each meeting includes a Public Forum as part of the agenda for residents to ask questions, raise items of concern or simply comment on issues.

Submission of questions in advance of the meeting is welcomed, so that they can be answered more fully.

Matters raised that are not included on that agenda will be considered for subsequent agendas.



Our Website [www.sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk)  
Our Email [sedgwick.parish@gmail.com](mailto:sedgwick.parish@gmail.com)



**Sedgwick**  
**NO COLD CALLING ZONE**

**COLD CALLERS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SEDGWICK!**  
If they call on you, contact Cumbria Police on 101 immediately and report them to 01539713583 [trading.standards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)



Our nearest defibrillator is located at the entrance to the Village Hall LA8 0JU  
What3words#  
///mutual.abundance.bleaker



**SEDGWICK**  
Community Emergency Plan

Sedgwick Parish Council has a Community Emergency Plan to help minimise the impact of a major local emergency on residents. In event of a major emergency, contact our Coordinator Gerry Stoker -Tel 60939

### IMPORTANT EMERGENCY ADVICE

Remember if you have to call the Emergency Services, to make sure they know which side of the aqueduct a vehicle is needed, because many modern appliances cannot pass under the aqueduct and the diversion is long.