

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7:30pm at Sedgwick Village Hall.

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

26/25 Apologies None

27/25 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2025 as a true record.

28/25 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.

29/25 Public Participation: None

30/25 Reports

Westmorland & Furness Council Cllr D Rathbone reported on Planning and Devolution.

Planning – The main concern currently for Sedgwick is the proposed development between Natland & Burton Road. It is recommended that any residents wishing to express their concerns should contact Story Homes directly. It was also recommended that Sedgwick Parish Council contact Natland Parish Council with regards to their response. The main concern is the extra traffic that will come through Sedgwick and the Parish Council would like to know what can be done to limit the effect of this. As soon as the opportunity arises it is recommended that Sedgwick Parish Council oppose and fight our case and W&F Councillors J. Brook & D. Rathbone will advocate the need for Sedgwick Parish Council to receive a % of the “CIL” money.

Devolution – As previously explained W&F Council have expressed an interest so that they are able to obtain more information from the government in the Summer before any final decisions in the Autumn. Devolution has been initiated by the government and all deadlines are being set by them.

31/25 Planning Application submitted/received:

a) 2025/1172/NMA 12 Wakefield Meadow – the Parish Council had no objections.

32/25 Highways/Footpaths

- a) The Highways report was presented and updated. Cllr Rathbone will see if he can help progress some of the faults.
- b) The Parish Council were updated on the 20mph zone and we are now just waiting for signage.
- c) The grass cutting contract was discussed and the quote for canal cut was approved. W&F Council have been in touch and have agreed to cut a 1 metre wide stretch of Back Lane in June & September. Cllr Holmes met with the new contractors to discuss the schedule and the contract will be once again reviewed at the end of the year.
- d) The Clerk reported that a sign and timetable has been requested from W&F Council and the Clerk has already chased this up for progress but will do so again.
- e) The Brownies proposal to install a bird nesting box near to the Bus Shelter was approved.
- f) It was reported that the noticeboard is beyond repair and the Clerk will obtain prices for a replacement.

33/25 Playground /Millennium Field

- a) Cllr G Stoker gave his monthly Safety Report and the vandalism and graffiti to the area was reported
- b) The Clerk reported she has had a notification that the ROSPA report will take place in August.
- c) The trees overhanging the Millennium Field were assessed and it was decided that the Clerk will email land owners to see if they can cut the dead Ash branches back.
- d) The new Orchard has been inspected and all trees are in leaf, any replacements that may be needed for the hedge will be done in the Autumn. The new signage has arrived from W&F Council & a quote from Cumbria Landscaping will be obtained for the installation and it was agreed that approval will be given by email when the quote had been distributed.

34/25 Fundraising & Events

- a) Equipment Replacement – no updates.
- b) Easyfundraising was discussed. The link will be shared on Facebook and on the Summer Newsletter and everyone is encouraged to help us raise funds in an easy convenient way.

35/25 Safeguarding Report

- a) No concerns.

36/25 VJ Day 2025 – 80th Anniversary – 15th August 2025

- a) All residents are encouraged to do the same for VJ Day on 15th August 2025 as they did for VE Day.

37/25 CALC Training

- a) Cllr Tanham has received information on Safeguarding Training and both Cllr Tanham and the Clerk have signed up for the Safeguarding Newsletters from W&F Council.

38/25 Canal

- a) A report by Cllr B Holmes was provided and can be seen in the noticeboard and on the website. The summer cut is due.
b) It was noted that CRT have cut the grass around the new sculpture, however their stretch of path needs repair.
c) A Hearn has been booked for his annual September inspection of the trees along the Canal.

39/25 Website/social media

- a) Cllr B Holmes reported that the website is up to date and Facebook posts are being made.
b) The Clerk will need a .org email address before the next Audit, after March 2026 and Treble 3 will be contacted for this provision.
c) The Clerk has made the relevant updates to the website following the 2025 AGAR.

40/25 Finance

- a) Bank balances as of 30/05/2025 Current = £16898.20 & 20/05/2025 Reserve = £22574.25 were noted.

- b) The below payments were approved:

Parish Clerks Salary May/June = £456.18

Parish Clerks Expenses May/June = £58.96

HMRC PAYE (Rachel Harrison) May/June = £136.98

D&C Atkinson (grass cutting) = £91.00 x 3 months = £273.00

Malcolm Richardson (audit) = £111.70

Gerry Stoker (B&Q Graffiti Removal Spray) = £10.00

The below receipts were approved:

Interest (April) = £22.61

VAT Refund 2024/25 = £646.70

- c) Bank reconciliations which include payments agreed on 14th May 2025 and cleared the bank account were signed.

41/25 Newsletter

- a) A draft Summer Newsletter has been sent to all Cllrs and is to be approved and sent to the printers for distribution at the end of August.

42/25 Correspondence: All the documents have been received and circulated to the Councillors.

43/25 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 Emergency Plan has been reviewed, and all paperwork is deemed sufficient. It will be reviewed annually. It was also noted that there will be another Government Emergency Alert to mobiles sent in September.
c) The raffle prize issue reported from the fundraiser was discussed and an apology letter will be sent to the individual.
d) The Clerk will set a date with Cllr Holmes & Cllr Tanham for the Clerks annual appraisal, to be held before the next meeting.

44/25 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be the APM on **Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.30pm**. Cllr B Holmes & Cllr D Rathbone have given their apologies as they will not be able to attend.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 10th September 2025