

## SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Sedgwick Parish Council  
held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7:30pm**

**This meeting took place using the videoconferencing platform "Zoom".  
Members of the public were given the opportunity to join the meeting online or by phone.**

**Present:** Cllr B Holmes (Chairperson), Cllr R Smith, Cllr Stoker, Cllr B Tanham, Cllr A Holmes, Cllr W Burrow and Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk). No residents attended

- 1/21 Election of Chairperson** – The Clerk took the chair for this item. It was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Stoker and unanimously resolved that Cllr Holmes should be the Chairperson for 2021/22
- 2/21 Declaration of Acceptance** – Chairperson would sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for 2021/22 but this was a Virtual meeting this would be signed by Cllr Holmes and witnessed by the Clerk then emailed to Sedgwick Parish Councillors.
- 3/21 Election of Vice-Chairperson** – It was proposed by Cllr Stoker, seconded by Cllr A Holmes and unanimously resolved that Cllr Bernie Tanham should be the Vice-Chairperson for 2021/22
- 4/21 Apologies:** It was resolved for apologies with reasons given, to be noted from District Cllr R Bingham and Cllr Doug Rathbone.
- 5/21 Non-Attendance:** County Cllr B Gray
- 6/21 Minutes:** It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 as a true record. Before the minutes were agreed the Clerk mentions that the Draft Minutes have been amended under item 179/20 reports, the alteration was factual and was accepted by the Council.
- 7/21 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests:** Cllr B Tanham declared that as she is the owner of a part of the canal towpath she is able to take part in the discussion but cannot vote on any decisions.
- 8/21 Public Participation:**
- Lark wood – drugs report- reported to Community Police and Natland Parish Council
  - Dog fouling along Sedgwick Canal Path- reported it seems worse with tourism, so bad that the residents husband picked it up and removed it. The signs do not seem to make a difference! It was agreed to display different signage near the aqueduct steps to help deter offenders.
  - Sedgwick & Crosscrake Scout Group – Litter Pick – request any areas in need in the village ! The Clerk has received an email with litter pick information of which she offered to email to the group.
- 9/21 Reports**
- Police Report:** The Council are receiving regular Covid Police Updates and a monthly community newsletter. The clerk has emailed [Mark.Walker@cumbria.police.uk](mailto:Mark.Walker@cumbria.police.uk) who has agreed to add Lark Wood to the patrol area with his colleague PCSO Taylor, they will update the Parish Council.
- District Cllrs: Cllr Bingham** sent a report; the in-coming unitary system is that from 2023 there will only be one councillor to deal with instead of the current arrangement introduced four years ago when three of us have nine parishes so initially we had three district councillors turning often when the County Councillor was unable to attend which also led clashes with other meetings and complicated elections. At the moment the relevant minister Mr Jendrick has not come to a decision about whether there should just be one unitary authority for all Cumbria or that there should be two authorities. I am led to understand that the Morecambe Bay Authority which is still being pressed by one party is unlikely because it would involve crossing the County boundary-but we will have to wait and see. Currently the main issues on the District Council concerned the anti-flood measures in Kendal particularly a wall near Abbot Hall and glazed panels elsewhere. Secondly a huge government grant has been mad to refurbish Grange promenade and to repair what they now insist on calling The Lido which my generation knew as Grange B paths with a hard A. But it will only be the grade II building which will be restores as the pool part will only be landscaped -making it in some people's view an over expensive flower bed. Thanks also for the highways information some of which I'd reported including the Nanny Pie Lane roundabout which I did not think is in your parish.

**County Cllr B Gray:** Cllr D Rathbone was unable to attend the meeting and reported in the next couple of weeks it was expected a decision from Whitehall about a unitary council decision but nothing certain has been forthcoming.

The government's budget for Cumbria County Council road repairs has been reduced once again, by £10.5 million this coming year so I suggest we sit down together virtually, and work put some sort of plan to work for the ever-decreasing funding. Victoria Upton has received what I believe is a promotion. That may explain why I have not received any progress report on the items we have discussed. However, I have a call out to her successor to meet up virtually and discuss items in the near future. You may wish to introduce yourselves to her, I will report back as soon as I have any news on that front. Her name and email address is: [helen.karaaslan@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:helen.karaaslan@cumbria.gov.uk)

Hopefully I will be in contact sooner than the next meeting, but silence doesn't mean inaction.

**Village Hall Report:** : Reported it will be open for elections and consideration end of June to reopen – call general meeting- information to follow.

SPC has received a template risk assessment which they discussed, Cllr B Holmes has updated and it would be emailed to all Cllrs for approval so it can be implemented before the face to face meeting takes place. The Clerk would contact the Village Hall Committee requesting permission to book the Hall for July's meeting. Also the Council would ask for their permission to reinstate broadband in the village hall, which will be reviewed annually.

**10/21 Officers Roles and Responsibilities:** After much discussion, the roles and responsibilities were agreed and will be displayed on the noticeboard and website.

**11/21 Review Emergency Plan:** The Plan has been viewed by several Officers and it was agreed being fit for purpose, the team leaders named would need updating and when this was completed it would be approved by the Parish Council.

**12/21 Planning Application submitted:**

SL/2021/0383 – Natland Sedgwick Rd West – 20 + new builds approved- sought for a change in application Jones Homes- although this is not in the Parish the Clerk felt it should be brought to Sedgwick Parish attention. This was discussed and it was noted when considering the proposed speed reduction in the village these houses would impact on more road usage.

**13/21 Sedgwick Parish Council COVID 19** – Cllr B Holmes reported that the website had been updated with lockdown information. **Sedgwick Neighbours and Friends Resilience Group**. This group remains in operation and will continue to support residents.

**Correspondence:** SLDC Covid cases remain low- 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**14/21 Highways/Footpaths**

- a) To receive the monthly highways report - Cllr A Holmes reported it was difficult to understand why the report was stating no problem found when these items had been agreed by highways to be completed. It was agreed that Cllr A Holmes would write to Helen Karaaslan Highways department and ask why with an introduction also copying Cllr D Rathbone and County Cllr R Bingham.
- b) Safer Roads and Footpaths Initiative/funding – no update from Cllr Rathbone
- c) Safer Roads Issues joined up with Station Parish Council- Cllr B Holmes reported Stainton Parish was having the same issues as Sedgwick and agreed when restrictions are lifted to have a meeting in order to work together on these issues. Date to be agreed after the next meeting.
- d) Request for extra Litter Bins – Cllr Tanham has contacted SLDC Sion Thomas and completed application for funding for waste bins. These issues were discussed at great length and it was agreed for the clerk to look into costing of a grey bin for the millennium field and to arrange collection.
- e) Request for replacement children play sign on Hill Close. It was agreed to purchase this sign for £16.99, we have now received it and Cllr Stoker & Cllr A Holmes would erect it.
- f) It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Mr Pocock to help identify how matters can be improved with the cyclist using the village roads. Date to be confirmed- on a Wednesday evening.
- g) Highways -heads up for Parish Councils by CALC- all agreed to attend the proposed training.

**15/21 Playground /Millennium Field**

- a) Monthly Safety Report- by Cllr Stoker who reported he and Cllr Tanham had prepared the composting of the cut grass and further work would be required. Cllr Stoker had also spring cleaned most of the play equipment. The Council thanked him for his commitment to the millennium field.
- b) Stepping Stones ordered from Playdale – email received today ready for collection, Cllr Stoker to arrange a date and with the help of Cllr Burrow will install the stepping stones- report back at the next meeting.
- c) Cllr Stoker would erect the plaque on the monkey tree and it was hoped to have a ceremony in July before the meeting so the Council could thank Mr D Willacy for his commitment to the Parish Council.

**16/21 Canal Wildlife Area Report**

- a) Monthly report - Cllr B Holmes reported -checked the canal on 4/5/21- Usage has been exceptionally high again - parking along Back Lane is a concern especially for the school bus which needs passing room. There is some evidence of use by cycles Almost all the trunks have been removed by the contractor; the area has been left looking very tidy considering how much has been felled. Thanks go to the contractor for a good job. The bluebells are better than ever and the area looks great. The path is not as muddy as I thought it would be after the rain. The only "litter" is dog fouling It looks like there are 20-30 more ash trees that are growing within falling distance of the path; although they were still healthy last September, we need to plan for their removal as soon as they become badly diseased - this could take 5 years. In June we will see how many of them have survived the winter and the spring drought - Alistair will re-inspect in September when the full cycle of the virus will show the trees at their worst. A possible way forward to manage the trees is to appoint a contractor to maintain the canal. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact CALC to see if this was feasible before advertising the role.
- b)LCRP issues
  - i) Repair to the Towpath over the aqueduct - The issue has been passed to the CRT. In the meantime, the path is deteriorating. This will be reported at the next NHLF meeting. Plans continue to install the new signage on the aqueduct, it was agreed to report that weeds growing up the steps and on the bridge its self and ask if the rail on the steps would have an installation date.
  - ii) Correspondence received from Richard Frank requesting information from Sedgwick Parish Council after reading the minutes. It was agreed that Cllr B Holmes would reply to his email
  - iii) Towpath Trail Group next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021, it was agreed that Cllr Tanham & Cllr Smith would attend and report back.

**17/21 Website:** Cllr Holmes reported that the website was well used thoughts be that of more tourist. Cllr Holmes has been updating Sedgwick History as and when she can. The April's minutes, May's draft minutes, Accounts for 2019/20, update of Councillors with the roles & responsibilities would be added.

**18/21 Finance**

- a) The bank statement received Bank Balance as of 30 April 2021 – No statement received
- b) To receive SLDC Remittance £10,931.40 on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021
- c) Payments Approved: Zurich Annual Insurance £410.91, G Blenkarn Internal Audit £80.00 and Microsoft Office Annual Fees – S Roberts £59.99
- d) Accounts reported on 13<sup>th</sup> January/10<sup>th</sup> March 2021, which cleared the bank account not approved as no bank statement has been received. This will be completed at the next meeting.
- e) The Draft Annual Year End Accounts, AGAR report 20/21, exemption certificate was approved by all Councillors and it was agreed to display the notice of completion in the cabinet and on the website.
- f) Council reviewed and accepted the Financial Risk + Risk Assessments and Asset Register for 2020/21.
- g) It was approved to reclaim VAT Jan/March 2021 £97.12
- f) The gazebo was not approved because Council must now meet in a public building as directed by government.

**19/21 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Update on Covid-19
- Highways Report with progress of outstanding issues
- Canal Wildlife Area Report
- Millennium Field Report
- Standing Orders/ Financial Standing Orders review
- PSPO 2021- Consultation Process
- Local Government reorganisation
- Consideration to Appoint a maintenance contractor.

**20/21 Correspondence:** All the documents have been circulated to the Councillors.

**21/21 Open Action not covered elsewhere on the Agenda**

- Great Cumbria Litter Pick- information received and noted
- Nalc Cyber Security Guide- received and noted
- Nalc Response to Government on LGR in Cumbria- received and noted
- MHCLG Electronic Communications Infrastructure Consultation - for Nalc briefing PC4-21- received and noted
- DCMS Rural Broadband Consultation- Nalc briefing PC3-21- received and noted
- High Court Judgement on Virtual Meetings from Calc- received and noted
- CVS Funding Opportunities- received and noted
- Climate Change 90 Minute Interactive session- received and noted

- Local Council Review (LCR) for 2021/22- received and noted
- Cllr Tanham reported that Mr Goodland is repairing the gate on the footpath as elderly residence are finding it difficult to open!

**22/21 Date of next remote Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7 30 pm**  
This would take place in the Millennium Field and there would be no meeting in June. This was later changed to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to meet with covid restrictions

*The meeting closed at 9: 54 pm*

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021