

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 7:30pm Venue: Sedgwick Village Hall

Present: Cllr B Holmes (Chairperson), Cllr R Gill, Cllr G Stoker, Cllr D Willacy, Cllr R Smith, District Cllr B Cooper, District Cllr T Harvey, District Cllr R Bingham and Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk). Two members of the public attended.

83/19 Apologies: It was resolved for apologies with reasons given, to be noted from Cllr J Oscroft and PCSO Boaks

84/19 Non-Attendance: County Cllr B Gray

85/19 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2019 as a true record.

86/19 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests: Cllr Willacy interest to (ref 88/19 1) boundary fence.

87/19 Public Participation: two members of the public attended

1. Road Closure between Sedgwick and Natland; information received from Cumbria Highways stated that pedestrians and dismounted cyclists would be able to pass at all times. However, a resident was informed at the site of the road closure that it was dangerous to pass on foot and that would be the case for 2 weeks. Clerk to contact Highways and report this matter.
2. A resident queried the rules for public participation, as he wished to speak after each agenda item. He was informed that standing orders specify that public participation was at the beginning of the meeting only. Meetings of the Parish Council are not public meetings, but members of the public can attend meetings of the council as observers. As part of its community engagement, council include time for public participation at the start of the meeting when members of the public can speak.
3. The flooding on the road to Natland: a resident informed council that he had written to MP Tim Farron and felt that he would deal with this issue. He had also contacted Natland Parish Council who had informed him they had reported the flooding to highways Department and was waiting for them to deal with the problem. The Council instructed the Clerk to report this issue to highways and email District Cllr Gray explaining the problem, asking her support - Natland Parish Council to be copied in to emails.
4. It was reported on 1st January 2020 that a pedestrian was hit by a vehicle that did not give way under the aqueduct. The vehicle did not stop. This incident has been reported to the Police by the Clerk.
5. It was reported that there had been a theft of Christmas decorations and a box from the telephone box at the exchange building. It has also reported it to the Police.

Police Report: 69 incidents reported in the wider area; resulting in 10 crimes being recorded, the report will be displayed on the noticeboard and website.

Policing Matters Update Cllr Holmes replied to an email from Sgt Scott-O'Neill report regarding contact with Councils and has requested a PSCO attend the annual PM and if issues occur that require support.

District Cllr Bingham: reported on the 2020/21 budget and that Council Tax will rise by 2.5%. An extra government grant will mean fewer cuts. The Council is currently examining an extended bio-diversity strategy. Developers are required to submit landscape plans which take this into consideration. Crime is still an issue with county lines drug peddling. The Police expect to gain extra officers but may not apply to this area

District Cllr Cooper: Reported he had attended meetings about the green agenda. Following concerns about council vehicles safety a new 'Lane End' scheme is being used to collect smaller refuse to minimise risk from vehicle manoeuvres where access is restricted. Affordable housing quotas have been reduced to as low as 10% on the grounds of developer viability. Cllr Smith expressed opposition to this reduction.

County Cllr B Gray: Did not attend the meeting

Village Hall Report: Report none received

88/19 Canal

1. Cllr Gill has carried out the monthly inspection of the canal and there was nothing new to report. Cllr Willacy left the meeting. The repairs along the icehouse boundary were discussed and the quote from Mr Airey for £190.00. was accepted. Cllr Willacy rejoined the meeting and agreed to instruct Mr Airey to carry out the work.
2. NLHF Steering Group meeting 29th January 2020; it was agreed that Cllr Smith would attend on behalf of Sedgwick Council. Clerk to send Cllr Smith relevant paperwork.
3. The Parish Council has received comments expressing concern about the general condition of the Aqueduct and damage caused by vehicle strikes. It was agreed to ask NLHF to add this matter to their January agenda as the aqueduct is included in their project and request information about any structural surveys that have been carried out and if not request one.

89/19 Planning: Planning Application

Received Application – SL/2019/0887 The Lodge, Sedgwick – two story side extension- Invalid SL/2019/0888 The Lodge Sedgwick – two story side extension to west side of house- Listed Building - No Decision. The Parish Council had no issues with the minor changes.

90/19 Highways/Footpaths

1. The Highways report was reviewed. All faults have been reported and all outstanding faults are still being assessed. Council had not been informed of the closure at Well Heads Lane.
2. An email has been received from a visitor notifying the Council of their concerns about the severity of recent hedgerow cutting on Cooper Hill and the debris left behind. It was agreed the extent of the cutting had been appropriate but that the amount of debris left behind had been excessive. It was agreed for Cllr Willacy to speak to the landowner and establish who had cut the hedge and not removed the debris and report back at the next meeting
3. The new bus service through the village uses Cooper Hill which is not on the County Gritting route and concern has been expressed about whether this is likely to cause a hazard. Council will inform Highways of the change and request the gritting route is amended to meet the service requirements. It was felt the new route which includes the riverside bend was not as safe as the old route and that the lack of a Saturday service was an issue. The Clerk will raise this with our CCC contact.
4. Gritting Update: The external funding for the Parish Gritting Scheme has almost been used up so Parishes need to budget to support the scheme. The current cost for Sedgwick is £105 per run. Cllr Gill is informed when the roads are gritted, normally 2-4 times per year. It was agreed to budget £420 next year to meet gritting requirements.

91/19 Playground /Millennium Field

1. Cllr Stoker has carried out the monthly check for November and reported the football nets have been broken beyond repair. As these are well used, it was agreed to acquire quotes for new goal post for April 2020.
2. It has been reported that dogs (belonging to visitors not residents) have been taken onto the Millennium Field. It was agreed that Cllr Holmes would investigate designated public space orders which would enable the Council would be able to enforce a 'No Dog Order' on the area, this will be discussed at the next meeting.
3. A bid for a National Lottery Funding grant has been completed to fund two picnic tables –decision expected January 31st.

92/19 Website:

Cllr Holmes reported the agenda, minutes and reports from the Novembers Council meeting had been added. The website providers have updated the way in which visitors are counted which reduces figures – this explains why we noticed a reduction. Overall figures indicate a 15% increase in use over the last 90 days, so usage appears to be holding up. The WI have provided updated information but the Village Hall need to check the information we display on their behalf. The clerk will request this. The Clerk informed council that any requests she receives about the village hall through the website are passed to the Committee.

93/19 Finance

1. Bank Balance as of 30 December 2019 Current a/c £8,740.21 Reserve a/c £10,026.90
2. Payments Approved: Broadband Village Hall - December £17.99 & January £17.99 and Printing Plus £148.34 Christmas newsletter
3. The Accounts Report from meeting dated 13th November 2019 was signed.

94/19 Parish Council Precept and Tax base for 2020/21: This was discussed and it was agreed to increase the precept by 2.5% in line with Council Tax. The document was signed and would be sent to SLDC.

95/19 Christmas Newsletter: - All agreed the newsletter was well received

- Emergency Planning, Community Resilience and Neighbourliness: Household Emergency Plan leaflet had been received and distributed with the newsletters
- 220 had been ordered but 250 had been received so a credit note had been agreed.

96/19 VE Day Celebrations 2020: There was no response to the second appeal for volunteers to run/help with the event. However, the Council will replace the dead Weeping Ash that was planted on the 50th Anniversary of VE Day and provide a commemorative plaque.

97/19 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Highways Report
- Canal report and wall repair
- Millennium Field; update of repair to stepping stone/PSPO
- APM arrangements and notice/Spring Newsletter
- Review Financial Standing Orders
- Election in May
- VE Day tree purchase

98/19 Correspondence:

- Leaflets received from Heversham- New heritage Exhibition: copies received and distributed
- CALC – Training and Development programme January - July 2020: received and discussed
- Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2020: It was agreed for Cllr Holmes to apply
- Defibrillator Signage: Cllrs Holmes had found affordable signage and it was agreed to order 8 signs
- Cumbria Arts and Culture Network Newsletter: received and noted
- CALC December Newsletter: received and noted
- Information received -Funding requests -Repairs to property relating to Church Affairs: received and noted; Legal advice; Parish Councils are not permitted to make grants to Churches relating to property.
- ICO December Newsletter: received and noted

99/19 Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 7 30 pm** and will be held in the Sedgwick Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9 15 pm

Signed: (Chairperson) Date: 12th February 2020