

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2019 at 7:30pm Venue: Sedgwick Village Hall

Present: Cllr B Holmes (Chairperson), Cllr D Willacy, Cllr R Gill, Cllr R Smith, Cllr G Stoker, Sgt S Scott O'Neill and Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk). No members of the public attended.

52/19 Apologies: It was resolved for apologies with reasons given, to be noted from Cllr J Oscroft, District Cllr B Cooper, District Cllr T Harvey, District Cllr R Bingham and PCSO Boaks

53/19 Non-Attendance: County Cllr B Gray

54/19 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2019 as a true record.

55/19 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests: Cllr Willacy declared an interest in agenda item 6b and left the room whilst it was being discussed.

56/19 Public Participation: no persons attended

Cllr Holmes reported a resident had complained about being woken several times during the night by an alarm. It was found to be a vehicle parked at the BT Exchange Building and was going off regularly. The owners were notified and it has been rectified.

BT Exchange Building: Cllr Stoker reported that a new Manager has been appointed and he would contact him to find out what has happened with the stonewall repair and tree pruning which had previously been reported.

Police Report: 0 incidents reported; the report will be displayed on the noticeboard and website.

Sgt Suzanne Scott O'Neill reported although the Police Force will recruit more Officers in the future, many PCSOs in this area were leaving and so the present staff and resources are stretched and so they had to prioritise workloads. There are only 6 officers covering the wider area and a further officer might be lost to cover the adjacent area.

Police Reports; Sgt Scott O'Neil explained that the way in which crimes were reported had changed and now only incidents in the Parish are appearing. Some types of incidents eg domestic violence, sexual crimes etc would not appear. Council expressed concern that neither the recent death in the River Kent or the aggressive Cold Calling incident in Sedgwick appeared in any figures or reports. Council were informed that the death would not have been reported because of the press interest and were advised to get any figures they wanted themselves from the CC website.

Cold Calling Incident: A resident had reported a Cold Calling incident had occurred where the caller had been aggressive. A picture of the vehicle used had been taken and the incident reported on the 101 number. Despite being informed that the police would respond, nobody has contacted the resident, who is concerned that the callers had details of other residents. Sgt Scott O'Neil explained that on the same day another serious incident had happened which had caused this incident not to be dealt with and a follow up never happened. She agreed to find out why but would need to know the details of the call, Council agreed to pass this information the resident. Council were advised to report cold callers to trading standards in the future as they might be in a position to help.

Cyclist travelling too fast through the Village: Sgt Scott O'Neill agreed with council this was an issue and would write to the Cycling Clubs raising the concerns. The Council has already contacted Highways to request them to erect slow signs at the danger points.

Antisocial behaviour by cyclists on the Canal Path/use of the footpath by cyclists/theft and damage to no cycling signs: Sgt Scott O'Neill agreed any antisocial behaviour and theft should be reported to the Police but that without evidence that would lead to action being taken it would probably not be possible to assist in this matter. Council were advised to ask SLDC and CCC for support in ensuring cyclists did not use the path as it was not a police matter.

Dangerous parking near Brettagh Holt roundabout: Council reported that cars are still parking dangerously by Brettagh Holt roundabout, in particular on the Nanny Pie Lane Junction which obscures vision of cars pulling out. This has been mentioned by the Police at a meeting with Highways but Sgt Scott O'Neill said the Police do not have the power to act to stop it. Any dangerous parking should be reported on 101.

Sgt Scott O'Neill was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

It was agreed that the current format of the Police Report was not informative or helpful and that in future the Clerk would use the Police Website to create a monthly report. The wording of the Cold Calling section of the newsletter will be amended to reduce expectation that the police will be able to take action. Sgt Scott O'Neill's responses will be used when responding to resident concerns.

District Cllr Harvey, District Cllr Bingham and District Cllr Cooper: Apologies sent

County Cllr B Gray: Did not attend the meeting

Village Hall Report: None received

57/19 Canal

1. Cllr Gill carried out the monthly inspection of the canal and reported the stone wall had been repaired but he noticed many infected ash trees had lost all the foliage due to ash die back. Council agreed to continue to carry out monthly monitoring of the situation and the trees will be inspected by our Woodland Consultant in June as per his recommendations. Cllr Willacy reported the wall near to the ice house is in need of repair - Cllr Gill agreed to inspect and report back next meeting.
2. Correspondence received from Cllr Willacy in May 2019, regarding the canal boundary adjoining his property had been forwarded to SLDC, on receipt. It has been passed to Linda Fisher who has replied on 7th October asking for further information, which the Clerk has provided, Council is now awaiting a response from Ms Fisher.
3. Vandalism/ Antisocial Behaviour see Police Report (56/19)
4. NLHF Steering Group meeting will take place on Wednesday 23 October 2019, at 10am venue - Growing Well Project Site near Kendal. It was agreed that Cllr Holmes & Smith would be attending the meeting.
5. Correspondence had been received from LCRP Chair Audrey Smith. Council expressed concern about the tone of the letter and the lack of reassurance about possible LCRP plans to widen the path on Council property, which had been divulged at the previous LCRP meeting. It was noted that the alternate plan involving routing the towpath trail along the bridleway by the River Kent, bypassing the privately-owned sections of the canal in the parish is not to be progressed. Council had not been informed about this previously. The Chair had replied to the letter outlining concerns, but no reply had been offered. Council felt no further response would be helpful at the present time.
6. Canal Milestone project. Correspondence had been received from The Canal and River Trust offering the council two options – 1) relocating the old milepost to the opposite bank- this was opposed by Cllr Willacy and agreed or 2) a replica post being placed on the apex of the easy path and towpath- this was opposed by Cllr Stoker and also agreed. However, Council acknowledged the historical importance of the milestone and agreed to have the vegetation cut twice a year, so it remained visible. In this way, the public benefit would be maximised because they would be able to see the original post in its original position.
7. Correspondence had been received from Cllr Willacy about ash die back but he felt his concerns had been dealt with.
8. Cllr Willacy reported Mr Airey had repaired the section of stonewall along the canal path. The Clerk reported Mr Simpson would be repairing the stock proof fence by the Stoker Seat in the near future.
9. Lancaster Environment Centre – Student Project: Cllr Holmes had contacted them to find out more and unfortunately the resources available were more suited to large companies not parish councils.

58/19 Planning: Planning Application – None received

59/19 Highways/Footpaths

1. The Highways report was reviewed. Outstanding faults are still being assessed - Castle View pavements and opposite Sedgwick House Gateway. The request for two slow signs resulting from a re-appraisal of the safety at Carex Crossroads had been added to the report.
2. Notifications of road closures have been received and will be displayed on the noticeboard and website with the monthly report. At Harry Brow C5071 Hincaster and Levens Lane A6 Levens
3. The Clerk has contacted Highways regarding the replacement gritting bins required in the village and has requested all bins are refilled.
4. It was noted that the stonewalls belonging to Sedgwick House were in need of repair and it was agreed to contact Sedgwick House to advise them.

60/19 Playground /Millennium Field

1. Cllr Stoker has carried out the monthly check for September and reported the bins had been emptied and due to the time of year there was little usage
2. The annual ROSPA inspection was discussed and the outstanding repairs are as follows:
 - The fibreglass coating on the slide is worn and will be continued to be monitored monthly
 - The wooden side on the slide is rotten. Cllr Stoker has investigated and felt there was no need for any repair at present.

- The rubber floor surface near the swing may need sealing at the edge - Cllr Stoker has investigated and filled the shrinkage with sand.
- The wooden steppingstone in need of a repair would be shortened by Cllr Stoker.

61/19 Website:

Cllr Holmes reported the agenda, minutes and reports from the September's Council meeting had been added. The website usage is slightly down possibly because of the end of school holidays and the inclement weather.

62/19 Finance

- Bank Balance as of 30 September 2019 Current a/c £11,104.14
- Payments Approved: Broadband Village Hall October £17.99 and Mr P Airey repair stonewall £38.00
- The Accounts Report from meeting dated 11 September 2019, including transactions cleared was signed.
- September's bank reconciliation was approved.

63/19 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Highways Report
- Canal report
- Millennium Field report
- PCSO Report and update of ongoing issues
- Review Financial Standing Orders
- Christmas Newsletter

64/19 Correspondence:

- **Non native invasive species:** received and noted
- **CALC - Climate Change Event:** received and noted
- **CALC AGM on 9th November at Wigton:** received and noted
- **SLDC- Rural Strategy Roadshow – Kendal 17th October:** received and noted
- **Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places:** received and noted
- **Mental Health Provider Forum Bulletin 25/09/19:** received and noted
- **The Lanky Exhibition Launch 11th October at 4pm – Celebrate Lancaster Canal Bicentenary:** received and noted
- **Wellbeing Walk from Millness -World Mental Health Day 10th October:** received and noted
- **Register for Complimentary Neighbourhood Planning Service:** received and noted
- **Rospa Play Safety Conference – 5th December 2019 Birmingham:** received and noted
- **Community Art Project – 4- 25th October Jt 36 NWA Auction Centre:** received and noted
- **Emergency Planning, Community Resilience and Neighbourliness:** The Clerk would contact to see if household Emergency Plan leaflet are available for the residents.

65/19 Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 7 30 pm** and will be held in the Sedgwick Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed: (Chairperson) Date: 13th November 2019