

## SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Sedgwick Parish Council  
held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 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 Rathbone, Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk) and one resident

**129/20 Apologies:** It was resolved for apologies with reasons given, to be noted from PCSO Boaks and District Cllr R Bingham

**130/20 Non-Attendance:** County Cllr B Gray, District Cllr B Cooper and District Cllr T Harvey

**131/20 Minutes:** It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 as a true record.

**132/20 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests:** Cllr B Tanham declared that she is the owner of a part of the towpath which is the subject of the feasibility study to be discussed. It was agreed that she may take part in the discussion but cannot vote on any decisions agreed by Council in this matter.

**133/20 Public Participation:** Correspondence received:

- Update BT Building – revamp of the building has been agreed in an email from Tim Farron
- ENWL power cut; resident complaint - ENW agreed to reduce power cut to 2 hours on 29/1/21

**134/20 Reports**

**Police Report:** None Available due to Covid-19 lock down, but receive weekly updates on Covid\_19

**District Cllrs:** Cllr Bingham sent a report; The number of Covid deaths in Cumbria has reached 100 and our hospitals have as many COVID patients as during the first lock down last Spring. Even so the Minister of Health, Matt Hancock, and Cumbria's Senior Health officer and Colin Cox believe that the pandemic has peaked. Locally all care home residents, NHS front line staffs, health carers, people over 80 and many in their seventies have been vaccinated along with volunteer helpers. The Ministry of Health has just announced that vaccination is being extended to Police and Fire personnel, mountain rescue and Royal Life Boat members, private business people who have to work from home and finally teachers and assistants looking after Early Years children.

It is expected that the Council taxes will rise by about 3%. The Police Rate will rise for our Cumbria Force by 4.7%.

Local Government reorganisation, when the County and District Councils will be replaced by Unitary Authorities, has started. So far only two official schemes have been submitted 1) a Single authority consisting of the whole County; 2) a Morecambe Bay authority consisting of Barrow, Lancaster and South Lakeland.

Resumption of Green Waste collection is being delayed by a fortnight until the beginning of March.

**Cycling:** I have received several objections from residents of canal side villages as well as from people in Sedgwick to proposals to allow cycling on the tow-path.

**County Cllr B Gray: Cllr D Rathbone** attended the meeting on County Cllr Gray's behalf and reported about the Unitary Authorities, which will be agreed by Central Government shortly. Cllr Rathbone attended Kendal Local Cycling Infrastructure Plan – Workshop Event Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, where funding aimed at improving cycle roads/walking paths/pavements in and around Kendal was discussed. Cllrs Rathbone asked if the Council was interested in partaking in this programme. It was agreed for Council to look into this matter and report back by next Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February. The Council Zoom meetings are coming to an end next month. There are changes to the planning system and Cllr Rathbone will email this information to the Clerk. It will affect Parish Councils and their Neighbourhood Plans; no training has been agreed for Parish Councils. Cllr B Holmes pointed out Sedgwick did not have a plan as this needed to be community led and no volunteers have come forward to enable a plan to be formulated. Another funding stream was being made available to SLDC for safer roads and footpaths.

**Village Hall Report:** None received

**135/20 Parish Councillor Vacancy:** The Council have agreed to Co-opt a Parish Councillor and are advertising this post. At present one application has been received and the appointment process will be completed at the March Parish Council Meeting.

**136/20 Planning:**

SL/2020/0874 16 Hill Close - Council had emailed points to be discussed to B Fettis- SLDC Planning Officer – still awaiting a reply- Cllr Rathbone agreed to chase up if we did not receive a reply before the next meeting.

SL/2020/0890 Raines Hall Farm – Withdrawn – extension of caravan site

**137/20 Sedgwick Parish Council COVID 19** – Cllr B Holmes reported the update of the website with lockdown information. **Sedgwick Neighbours and Friends Resilience Group**. This group remains in operation and will continue to support residents as the second wave continues in the area. **Correspondence**: SLDC Large/Community Vaccination Centres, SLDC new infection drop but hospitals treating more patients than ever.**138/20 Highways/Footpaths**

- The Highways report was presented by Cllr A Holmes. All previous faults are logged and update, which can be found on the website. When Covid restrictions are lifted it was agreed to contact V Upton to arrange a Village walk with her, Cllr Stoker and Cllr A Holmes.
- Cllr A Holmes reported when she had checked the grit bin by the river it had poo bags in it, it was suggested for a bin to be requested by the river, Clerk to action and report back at the next meeting.
- Update of 20mile speed restriction – Cllr B Tanham has emailed PC Jackson has suggested that residents form a community speed watch group to monitor traffic – It may not be feasible as the volunteers needed to be in a safe place to carry out duties. It was agreed to ask PC Jackson to survey Sedgwick and identify safe places.
- Signage 20 plenty – Highways Officer Mr Dooz has yet to respond to requests for information – Cllr Rathbone will take this up with V Upton.
- Victoria Upton from CCC Highways department has replied to our letter regarding pedestrian safety where the footpath crosses Back Lane. Extending the speed limit is not recommended but road markings and a beware of pedestrian sign would be investigated by CCC. Awaiting confirmation of a start date
- Safety at the aqueduct - highways have agreed to improve signage on the north side by the addition of a sign closer to the aqueduct. Awaiting confirmation of a start date.
- Kendal Local Cycling Infrastructure Plan – Workshop Event Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 at 1 30- 3 pm Cllr B Tanham reported she had attended this meeting and found it very informative about encouraging residents to walk and cycle where possible.
- Report of resident being abused by cyclists on Back Lane 24/1/21
- Highways Customer survey has been completed by Cllr B Holmes, pointing out difficulties with the system logging faults, request for postcode/ road names when none exist, a better system was requested using What3Words.

**139/20 Playground /Millennium Field**

1. Monthly Safety Report: Cllr Stoker reported the playground hand sanitizers have been replaced, bin emptied, equipment checked over all ok. David Willacy has the wood to repair the tree house slide. If there is a cost to the repair it has been agreed the amount has to be brought to the Council for approval.
2. Update on Covid-19 5/1/21 lockdown implications reported by Cllr Stoker. The children's play area can remain open, but the adult gym equipment is still closed. All Covid-19 measures are in place and risk assessment updated. The adult gym equipment has been cordoned off and signage displayed that this equipment cannot be used during lockdown.
3. It was agreed to leave the Monkey tree to grow as the rabbits cannot eat the taller branches.
4. Cllr Stoker reported Mr G Wadsworth has agreed to empty grass cuttings and the Clerk will look into other means for future removal.

*Cllr Rathbone left the meeting and was thanked for his attendance.*

**140/20 Canal Wildlife Area**

- a) The monthly safety check by Cllr Tanham was discussed and it was noted the spring bulbs had begun to flower and how it was being used more often by residents during Lock down.
- b) Cyclists using the Canal Path – One of the “No Cycling” signs had been vandalised but was still in place.
- c) Woodland Management: contractors commenced work and signs erected to prevent residents taking wood away. The first stage along Back Lane has been completed but removing the diseased trees has caused other trees to lean precariously. Cllr B Holmes had agreed to meet the contractor on site and would speak to Mr Hearne to ensure these trees could be removed under the felling licence. The Contractor would remove these trees of no further charge if Council agreed to this.

- d) LCRP Kendal to Lancaster Canal Cycle Path Feasibility Study – an invitation to a consultation meeting with 2020 Highways and Transport Consultants on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 has been received. Cllr Tanham Cllr B Holmes, Cllr A Holmes and the Clerk will attend the meeting and report back.
- e) NLHF Kendal to Lancaster Towpath Trail Project Steering Group - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 it was agreed Cllr Tanham Cllr B Holmes and Cllr Smith would attend the meeting and report back.
- f) Correspondence: C House – She had arranged the repair to the Towpath over the aqueduct and was advised of a potential access to the site by Cllr B Holmes.
- g) Nature Recovery Event 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7 pm, it was agreed that Cllr B Holmes, Cllr A Holmes, Cllr B Tanham and the Clerk would attend this meeting and report back.

**141/20 Website**

A verbal report was given by Cllr B Holmes who reported the website has not been accessed as often since the tourist season ended prematurely due to COVID 19. Updated information about Covid-19 has been added to the website with the helpline details and all updates have been added. Also the WI update had been completed and a additional darker skies page added.

**142/20 Finance**

- a) Bank Balance as of 29 January 2021 Current a/c £9,657.18
- b) Payments Approved – None Received
- c) The Accounts Report from meeting dated 13<sup>th</sup> January including transactions cleared was signed. (Cheques awaiting signing and banking due to Covid-19)
- d) CALC – Section 137 limit for 2021-22 – this is the section for Council giving donations.

**143/20 Darker Skies:** It was agreed support this initiative by creating a website page and when Planning Applications are under consideration, Darker Sky measures will be requested in our comments.

**144/20 Annual Parish Meeting:** This will be a Virtual Meeting and the Clerk will invite the usual parties. It was agreed the Councillors would introduce themselves and explain their roles and duties carried out in the previous twelve months. The LCRP proposals for the cycle path will be on the agenda. The Clerk would present the draft Financial report.

**145/20 March Newsletter:** The Clerk to request the costing for an A4 size newsletter which would have all the information about the Annual Parish Meeting for all residents of the Parish. Information sent to Cllr B Holmes and the draft copy to be emailed and agreed before sending to the printers

**146/20 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Update on Covid-19
- Highways Report with progress of outstanding issues
- Canal Report including Ash Die Back Report/ Grants available
- Millennium Field Report
- APM and newsletter
- Co-opt Parish Councillor
- Update Emergency Plan
- Resumption of face-to-face meetings

**147/20 Correspondence:** All the documents have been circulated to the Councillors

- **Consultation Event – Change to local Government Structures- Thursday 4 February 2021 at 6pm-** Cllr Holmes attended this and has requested more details about where the unitary authority would be based and what plans were in place to continue vital services such as police, education, social services etc.
- **Virtual Dark Skies Festival 5 – 21 February** - program received and added to website
- **Emergency Plan** –query over public liability insurance
- **Climate Change- opportunity for Volunteers**
- **ICO Latest News**

**148/20 Date of next remote Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next Remote Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 7 30 pm**  
*The meeting closed at 9: 30 pm*

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021