

## SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 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, District Cllr R Bingham and Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk). No members of the public attended.

**35/19 Apologies:** It was resolved for apologies with reasons given, to be noted from Cllr J Oscroft, District Cllr B Cooper and District Cllr T Harvey

**36/19 Non-Attendance:** PCSO Boaks and County Cllr B Gray

**37/19 Minutes:** It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 as a true record.

**38/19 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests:** Cllr Willacy declared an interest in agenda item 11b and left the room whilst it was being discussed.

**39/19 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 Building and is going off regularly. The owners have been notified and it is hoped this will not occur again.

Correspondence has been received from another resident raising concern about the danger to traffic pulling out of Wharfe Lane, as vehicles are driving too fast in and out of the village. There has been a further accident at the junction. Council agreed to refer the matter to Cumbria Highways to request an assessment of signage on the approaches.

Correspondence has been received about multiple near misses involving speeding cyclists riding in the path of oncoming traffic at the blind bend on Back Lane, close to Amelia.

A further complaint has been received about cyclists travelling too fast downhill through the aqueduct and turning at speed into Back Lane. Pedestrians are at risk and they come close to colliding with cars. It was acknowledged that cyclists are presenting an increasing number of problems and are themselves in danger. It was agreed to notify the police about these issues. It is feared that it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs as a result of cyclists riding without due care and attention in the village.

**Police Report:** 0 incidents reported; the report will be displayed on the noticeboard and website. Council wish to query why the rescue operation and subsequent discovery of a body along the River Kent at Sedgwick has been omitted. An apology has been received from PC Boak about the vagueness of the last report.

Sgt Suzanne O'Neil had indicated that the Police would attend this meeting to discuss issues raised by Council - namely the problems caused by cyclists using the canal footpath, their anti-social behaviour, petty vandalism and theft of NO Cycling signs and near misses reported due to dangerous parking at Brettagh Holt. However, no apologies have been sent and nobody has attended. The illegal cycling has escalated, and cars are still parked dangerously by Brettagh Holt roundabout. It was agreed that Cllr Holmes would relay this information to Sgt S O'Neil.

**District Cllr Harvey and District Cllr Cooper:** Apologies sent

**District Cllr Bingham:** Reported the police force was at full strength. Crime had gone up. The Housing Strategy Policy had identified sites for houses to be built but not all sites have been taken up. There was a shortage of Fire & Rescue Staff because not enough people lived within 5 minutes of a station. The community health records show that there are now fewer smokers in the area. Council Staff absence rates have increased and is being investigated.

**County Cllr B Gray:** Did not attend the meeting

**Village Hall Report:** No report received

**40/19 Parish Councillors Expenses:**

After discussion, it was agreed not to introduce the payment of Councillor Allowances, but that Councillors would be entitled to claim travel and subsistence when carrying out training and council duties. This will be added to the Financial Standing Orders at the next review and reported to the SLDC Parish Remuneration Panel

**41/19 Policies Review**

Data Protection Policies were reviewed and updated to May 2020.

Financial Standing Orders will be reviewed later this year in line with recent NALC recommendations.

Code of Conduct - no change- next review 2021

Standing Orders- reviewed- no change required - next review 2020

Draft long-term Financial Plan – no change - approved- next review 2020

Grant Application reviewed and updated - no change - approved - next review 2021

#### **42/19 Planning:**

Application with a Decision: SL/2019/0030 -Raines Hall: roof over existing midden – PN AGBU PA not required.

Planning Application SL/2019/0628 19 Castle View Sedgwick – single storey side extension. This was discussed and all agreed there were no objections

#### **43/19 Highways/Footpaths**

1. The Highways report was reviewed. Outstanding faults are still being assessed - Castle View pavements and opposite Sedgwick House Gateway, but in general the state of the roads is good especially compared to other parishes.
2. Notifications of road closures have been received and will be displayed on the noticeboard and website with the monthly report. (Nannypie Lane and Wells Head)
3. Two Gritting bins, one at Riverside and the other at the top of Hill Close need replacing. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Highways with this request.

#### **44/19 Playground /Millennium Field**

1. Cllr Stoker has carried out the monthly check for September and reported that there are no problems.
2. The annual ROSPA inspection was discussed and the outstanding repairs are as follows:
  - The wooden equipment had suffered slight damage by strimming. Clerk to contact the contractors and highlight the problem
  - 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 to investigate.
  - The rubber floor surface near the swing may need sealing at the edge - Cllr Stoker to investigate
3. The picnic seats are showing wear and need replacing in the future. Council agreed to look for funding to replace them with composite a more durable table.

#### **45/19 Canal**

1. Cllr Gill carried out the monthly inspection of the canal and reported a large section of stone wall was in need of repair. Cllr Willacy agreed to contact Mr Airey to arrange the repairs. The stock proof fence is in need of repair by the Stoker Seat; it had been reported that the cattle were causing a nuisance at that point. Cllr Willacy to supply the Clerk with Mr Simpson's contact details so he can be notified.
2. Correspondence received from Cllr Willacy regarding the canal boundary adjoining his property had been forwarded to SLDC, on receipt, in May 2019. It has been passed to Linda Fisher who has replaced Anthea Lowe as SLDC Solicitor and is now also the Monitoring Officer responsible for Councillor Standards. Over 3 months later, we are still waiting for a written response despite regular reminders made by email and telephone. Council regret the delay and requested the Clerk to write to Ms Fisher explaining again the need for a response - this time before the October meeting or the name of someone who could formulate a response on behalf of SLDC.
3. Vandalism of the no cycling signs is still occurring, signs are being defaced, it will be included in the update to the police.
4. NLHF Steering Group 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Attended by Cllr Holmes & Smith who reported that the towpath trail development was proceeding rapidly south from Kendal and from Crooklands to Stainton. Stainton Parish Council have expressed concern over increased litter, noise and crime. There has been a misunderstanding about plans to relocate the milepost on the council owned section in Sedgwick; it was assumed by LCT that we had been informed about it and had given permission. Cllr Holmes asked for any proposals to be put in writing so they could be formally considered. During this discussion, it was stated that there were plans to widen and resurface the council owned section of the towpath in Sedgwick. This goes against all reassurances previously given and caused considerable concern. Cllr Holmes reiterated the decision by council not to extend permission to cyclists along the section. She requested that reassurance that this information had been given in error be put in writing but two months and a reminder later, no such reassurance has been received. The absence of LCRP minutes has also been reported but again no response has been received. The next NLHF meeting is scheduled for October, date to be confirmed.
5. Council agreed that Cllr Holmes should repeat requests for written confirmation that the Sedgwick section is not being discussed and considered for inclusion in the cycle path scheme.
6. Canal Milestone project. Correspondence had been received from The Canal and River Trust offering the council two options - relocating the old milepost to the opposite bank or a replica post being placed on the apex of the easy path and towpath. Concern was expressed that our land had

been surveyed and discussed without our knowledge or permission. Council strongly rejected the option involving the original milepost being moved. It was felt that with the uncertainty over the cycle path plans outlined above, council were reluctant to give permission for the new milepost. It was agreed to discuss further at the next meeting, if reassurances are given.

7. Correspondence received from our Woodland Management Consultant, confirmed the Council's Ash Die Back Management strategy plans. Felling infected trees before they die or present a hazard is not recommended. His next inspection will be in June 2020 in line with his recommendations.
8. Canal Survey- an Ash Tree Audit has been carried out and the health of all ash trees has been categorised so they can be monitored long term. The disease is in its early stages and although no immediate work is necessary, close monitoring is required. It is inevitable that most if not all ash will be lost, and significant funding will be needed to fell trees when they die. Monthly inspections (supplemented by extra checks after significant weather events) will continue and the next Woodland Management Inspection will occur in June 2020 when the next growth cycle begins. Cllr Gill agreed to check several dead branches along the aqueduct to easy path section and report back.
9. Correspondence received from the Lancaster Environment Centre has invited councils to work with student projects. It was agreed for Cllr Holmes to investigate whether a project could be based on investigating how small landowners such as ourselves can/should respond to Ash Die Back.

**46/19 Website:**

Cllr Holmes reported the financial information relating to 2018/9 finances, agendas, minutes and reports from the July Council meeting had been added and the website is regularly visited and peaked in August at 185 page views.

**47/19 Finance**

- a) Bank Balance as of 30 August 2019 Current a/c £11,365.63 + Reserve a/c £10,021.85
- b) Payments Approved: Broadband Village Hall August/September £17.99+£17.99, Printing Plus – newsletters £123.50 and ROSPA Play Safety Report £120.00.
- c) The Accounts Report from meeting dated 10 July 2019, including transactions cleared was signed.

**48/19 Summer Newsletter:** It was noted that the newsletter was printed on A4 size as opposed to the ordered size of A5. Printing Plus agreed there would be no extra charge. The newsletter had been well received by residents and visitors. There had been no interest expressed about holding events to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.

**49/19 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Highways Report
- Canal; report, milestone and boundary fence issue
- Millennium Field report and ROSPA report update
- PCSO Report and update of ongoing issues

**50/19 Correspondence:**

- Bat Walk Stainton Aqueduct on 20<sup>th</sup> September at 6 30pm – received and notified
- CALC updated Training programme- received and discussed
- SLDC Training -Parish Councillors Effective Members/Code of Conduct – received and discussed
- SLDC- recycling of electrical items- received and discussed
- Joan Martin – Photos of Sedgwick via link to her business. Council not agreeable to promote her business as unfair to others.
- NALC new model template for Financial regulations 2019 – received and would be implemented
- ICO Information August and September – received and noted
- Kendal 10k run on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – received and noted
- Policy consultation E – briefing 10-19 – 5G mobile coverage in rural areas- received and noted
- Septembers CALC Newsletter received and noted
- Bus Service 552- Arnside to Kendal via Hincaster notification of withdrawn service from 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Council agreed to liaise with Natland and Hincaster in a bid to keep the service running. A poster to be put in the cabinet so that residents will be aware of this withdrawal and hopefully support the Council in adding their support.

**51/19 Date of next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 7 30 pm** and will be held in the Sedgwick Village Hall.

*The meeting closed at 9.30 pm*

Signed: ..... (Chairperson) Date: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019

11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 Minutes

Sedgwick Parish Council

2019/3