

## SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Sedgwick Parish Council  
held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 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. District Cllr R Bingham Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk) and J Ellerby

**67/20 Apologies:** It was resolved for apologies with reasons given, to be noted from PCSO Boaks & Cllr Gill

**68/20 Non-Attendance:** County Cllr B Gray. District Cllr B Cooper District and District Cllr T Harvey

**69/20 Minutes:** It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 as a true record.

**70/20 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests:**

Parish Clerk left the meeting at item 14 (g) Finance – National Pay Award for Parish Clerks

**71/20 Darker Skies Presentation by Mr Jack Ellerby:** Mr Ellerby gave a slideshow presentation which he has since emailed to the Parish Clerk. Members were extremely impressed with this presentation and will look into ways of promoting this ethos. It was agreed to put this on the agenda at next month's meeting. Cllr B Holmes thanked Mr Ellerby for his presentation. District Cllr Bingham agreed to look further into this issue and assist Mr Ellerby if possible.

**72/20 Public Participation: None received**

**73/20 Reports**

**Police Report:** None Available due to Covid-19 lock down, but receive weekly updates on Covid\_19  
**District Cllr Bingham:** Cllr Bingham reported Covid-19 is worse in the Barrow Area and that rules and regulations are changing all the time. SLDC have received funds from central government to offset loss of car parking charges during lock down. Different parts of the Council's Services are getting back to normal but all at different paces. He is receiving many complaints about road works in this area. The canal bridge at Crooklands has been damaged again. The Council have had virtual meetings about various subjects including, green energy, poverty, and policing matters.

**County Cllr B Gray:** Cllr Gray did not attend the meeting.

**Village Hall Report:** The Village Hall cannot consider opening in the foreseeable future due to COVID. The Council continues to pass on any grant funding information to supplement the grant they have already received. It was noted the Council provision of Broadband continues; the clerk will investigate the contract.

**74/20 Training / Developing your Skills – CALC September to December 2020 & South Lakeland Area**

**Support Training:** Cllr Tanham has attended training on the planning process.

Training has been booked for Cllr Tanham and Cllr A Holmes is on the CALC waiting list

**75/20 Planning:** None Received

**76/20 Sedgwick Parish Council COVID 19** The Clerk had received an update from CCC Community

Development team that information about support groups is being updated and it was likely that the 0800-helpline desk would be reinstated if cases continue to rise. A booklet encouraging activity during the crisis will be provided so they can be delivered with the Parish Council's December Newsletter.

**Correspondence:** NHS test & trace App received, Cumbria County Council News Release 17<sup>th</sup> September & 8<sup>th</sup> October All received and noted.

**Sedgwick Neighbours and Friends Resilience Group.** This group remains in operation and will continue to support residents as the second wave worsens in the area. **S McCann (Community Development Officer – Cumbria County Council)** also thanked the good work the volunteers are doing across the Parish helping others during these difficult and uncertain times.

**77/20 Highways/Footpaths**

1. Highways report and audit report was presented by Cllr Stoker. All current faults are logged and it was agreed to use the audit as evidence to highlight the fact that the Parish Council have reported incidents and logged them. The Audit will be displayed on the website and notice board. A significant number of historical issues from over a year ago are not being progressed. The overdue issues will be reported to

highways. Highways issues not falling under the fault log (eg 20mph campaign, aqueduct safety) will be added as a second section of the audit.

2. Road Closures A590/M6J36 – September to December 2020, The Clerk did contact the agency requesting the no access sign to be in a more prominent location and make them aware of the signs falling down. Traffic volume through the village seems to be more excessive than ever.
3. Sedgwick Village Sign knocked over and reported- W2081013571
4. Report of near miss at aqueduct: the incident was reported to Cllr Gray by the resident involved, but no response has been received. It was agreed that as District Cllr Gray had not attended a Council meeting for over twelve months and has not acknowledged emails from the Council for a considerable time, the matter would have to be escalated to Tim Farron by sending him an email making him aware of Cllr Gray's absence from meetings and her lack of correspondence. A request will be made for him to help the Council raise the outstanding highways matters and carry on working with us to raise the Aqueduct problem.
5. Cllr Smith raised a safety issue along Back Lane where footpath users need to cross the road. The crossing straddles the 30mph speed limit and safety would be increased by relocation of the speed limit. It was agreed the Council would request the relocation of the 30mph speed limit so the crossing place is inside the speed limit area.

#### **78/20 Playground /Millennium Field**

1. Monthly Safety Report: Cllr Stoker reported the playground is not used as much due to the inclement weather, the hand sanitizers have been replaced, bin emptied, equipment checked over.
2. David Willacy has agreed to repair the rotten wood on the tree house slide. This is not urgent.

#### **79/20 Canal**

- a) The monthly safety check by Cllr Gill was discussed. There are no new issues and he recommended further delaying the small wall repair until after the felling is carried out.
- b) Cyclists using the Canal Path – still occurring but is not increasing.
- c) Grass cutting along the Canal Path was now completed to the Council's satisfaction.
- d) Woodland Management: the Canal Woodland was inspected by our Consultant Arboriculturalist A.Hearne on 18<sup>th</sup> September. The effects of Ash Die back has spread to affect most if not all of our ash trees and some require felling in the short term, with many more looking like they will need removing in 2-4 years. He has assessed each tree and marked those that require felling this winter and will advise Council if we require a felling license, which as agreed, he will acquire for us. He also advised that the stand of Elm trees on the embankment are currently in good health but are extremely prone to the fatal Dutch Elm Disease. If effected, they would need felling. This could occur rapidly. It was agreed to aim to retain the contingency fund to enable us to respond to this.

The Council have obtained three quotes to have the marked trees removed this autumn.

- James Park £4,260.00
- DH Forestry & Landscape Management £5,300.00
- Bergen Trees Services £8,350.00

It was agreed to appoint James Park as our contractor and accept his quote, on the understanding that if the quote needed re calculating it would be reconsidered.

It was agreed that Council would contact D. Willacy asking permission for the contractor to access the canal over his field and that after the work had been carried out, a disclaimer would be displayed on the canal in case residents attempt to remove any residual timber.

Cllr Holmes is trying to obtain grant funding to cover some or all of the felling work and at present had a few leads. A community grant for match funding could be applied for (£1500) and District Cllrs Bingham and Harvey have indicated that they could offer some support in April 2021.

- e) A Canal River Trust Volunteer Task Force removed weeds from the aqueduct steps on 10/9/20. Cllr Stoker met the team and reported that they have done a good job and would come back in the spring to clear the stone walkway. Cllr Holmes will send thanks. The handrail is still an ongoing issue.

#### **80/20 Website**

A verbal report was given by Cllr B Holmes who reported the Accessibility Policy is now on the website with the Minutes from September's meeting and the draft of October's meeting. The highways audit will be added on a new page this month when it is updated.

#### **81/20 Finance**

- a) Bank Balance as of 30 September 2020 Current a/c £12,161.71
- b) Payments Approved: Broadband Village Hall October £17.99, Weasdale Nurseries £59.16
- c) The Accounts Report from meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> September including transactions cleared was signed. (Cheques awaiting signing and banking due to Covid-19)
- d) The Revised Budget 20-21 was approved.
- e) The September 2020 Bank Reconciliation was approved.

f) It was agreed to remove David Willacy as signature on the Parish Bank Accounts and add Cllr G Stoker as signature on the Parish Bank Accounts; the required wording was approved.

We resolve that:

- if we add or remove Authorised Signatures in the “Add or remove individuals” section of this form, the Bank will update our mandate accordingly for the accounts we specify in this form's “About your business” section
- if we change the Signing Rules in the “Account Signing Rules” section of this form, the Bank will update our mandate accordingly for the accounts we specify in this form's “About your business” section
- the Bank can phone the individuals we've identified as “Call Back Contacts” to confirm or correct any instructions or information that we've given the Bank
- and the current mandate will continue as amended.

g) The Clerk's salary was reviewed. It was unanimously agreed to award the national annual pay award and award a further incremental increase to SCP 22 and backdate it to April 2020. The Clerk was thanked for her continued hard work.

**82/20 Sedgwick Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2021:** the dates have been circulated and were agreed. The Clerk would email the dates to the Village Hall so when they reopen, they can be booked in.

**83/20 Summer Newsletter Review:**

Next newsletter due December 2020 - it was agreed to use residents' photos; the darker skies project, ash die back, highways update and covid-19 support information would also be included.

**84/20 Arrangements to acknowledge David Willacy's Long Service to Sedgwick** Cllr B Tanham has ordered a Monkey Puzzle tree which will be planted when it arrives in November. Cllr B Holmes will arrange for a plaque to be made when the suitable words were agreed. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions an official ceremony will have to be postponed. Cllr Holmes to contact D.Willacy to update.

**85/20 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
- Tree Planting date to confirm – if possible (covid-19 restrictions)
- PCSO Report – if available
- Update Newsletter
- Darker Skies review
- Update Village Hall Broadband contract
- Parish Council Precept and Council Tax base for 2021/22

**86/20 Correspondence:** All the documents have been circulated to the Councillors

- **Town and Council Local Briefing:** received and noted
- **Local Plan review Update- SLDC presentation to CALC on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020;** received and noted
- **SLDC News Release -Councils potential reorganisation:** received and noted
- **Neighbourhood Alert: Scams 11/10/20:** received and noted
- **NALC response to changes to current planning system policy consultation;** received and noted

**87/20 Date of next remote Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next Remote Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7 30 pm**

*The meeting closed at 9: 20 pm*

Signed: ..... (Chairperson) Date: 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020