

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 20 May 2015 in Sedgwick Village Hall at 7:30pm

Present : Cllrs B Holmes (Chairman), J Oscroft, R Gill (*co-opted at this meeting*), D Willacy, G Willacy, Mrs J Davidson (Clerk) and no members of the public.

01/15 Election of Chairman

Cllr Holmes took the position of Chairman during this item.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that Cllr Holmes should be the Chairman for 2015/16.

02/15 Declarations of Acceptance

A Declaration of Acceptance form for 2015/16 was signed by Cllr Holmes and witnessed by the Clerk.

03/15 Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that Cllr Oscroft should be the Vice-Chairman for 2015/16.

04/15 Apologies

It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Goodland.

05/15 Minutes

It was resolved for the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2015 as a true record.

06/15 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests

None.

07/15 Casual Vacancy

Since the last meeting Mr Richard Gill had registered an interest in response to the Casual Vacancy advertisement. Mr Gill had been invited to attend this meeting and was welcomed. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that Mr Gill should be co-opted to fill the Casual Vacancy. Mr Gill had been provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct and completed a Declaration of Pecuniary Interests form. Cllr Gill signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office form which was received/witnessed by the Clerk and would be provided with copies of the current Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, CALC Training Timetable and any other relevant policies/procedures.

08/15 Public Participation

District Cllr S Eccles and County Cllr B Gray had both conveyed their apologies due to being unavailable to attend this meeting as the SLDC Annual Meeting had been scheduled to be held on the same evening.

09/15 Appointment of Representatives

The following representatives on outside bodies were appointed for 2015/16 :

- South Westmorland Local Area Partnership – Cllr Holmes;
- South Westmorland Village Maintenance Association – Cllr Oscroft;
- Village Hall Committee – Cllr D Willacy.

10/15 Policies and Procedures

The Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct, Grant Application Policy, and the procedure for handling requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 were noted.

11/15 Planning

a) The following planning application which had been submitted to SLDC since the last meeting was received and considered :

SL/2015/0352 – High Riverside, Sedgwick, Kendal

Alteration and conversion of detached garage and stable to self contained annexed flat
There were no objections/observations.

b) It was noted the following planning application has been granted by SLDC since the last meeting:

SL/2015/0144 – Riverside Cottage, Sedgwick, Kendal

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling

c) It was resolved that during 2015/16 in the eventuality of there not being a scheduled meeting of the Parish Council before a planning consultation deadline then the Clerk would have the delegated responsibility to be able to respond to small scale planning applications on behalf of member's observations.

12/15 Highways/Footpaths

a) The Clerk had contacted Cumbria Highways - in response to a request which had been made at the Parish Meeting – regarding the feasibility of there being a warning sign saying 'No Gritting in Village' to warn about the bridge which gets icy during the winter over the River Kent and Cooper Hill. A response had been received from Highways advising that ice or snow warning signs are intended for use as temporary signs when a route is unusually dangerous as a result of extensive icing or heavy snow. The signs must be removed when conditions return to normal and this location in Sedgwick would not be recommended as meeting the criteria for such warning signs.

b) Attention had been brought at the Parish Meeting to the condition of the road which leads under the railway bridge from the Natland/Sedgwick Road towards Raines Hall Farm, Sedgwick. It was felt the problem is more than that of potholes as there is an issue with the entire surface of the road which is deteriorating and felt to be creating a safety issue for all road users especially cyclists. The condition of this road was reported 12 months ago (Ref : 62/WEB141215726) and some patching work has been carried out during the year. However it is felt this work has not sufficiently resolved the problem and the above comments have been reflected to County Cllr Gray and Cumbria Highways (Ref : 62/WEB151349806). Cllr D Willacy reported he had spotted and engaged in conversation with a Highways Officer who had recently visited the area. She had confirmed this stretch of road was being measured for the full width to be resurfaced and also the area under the aqueduct was to be looked at. For any carriageway works to be carried out in the area of a railway/railway bridge there is a requirement for Highways to inform and adhere to any stipulations made by Network Rail.

c) It was reported some fence posts have appeared adjacent to the new wall next to the river between Cooper Hill/Force Bridge. Disappointment was expressed regarding the length of time which has elapsed between the wall being repaired and any further action being taken by Highways regarding the proposed fencing.

13/15 Playground /Millennium Field

a) The playground inspection report which had been carried out by Cllr Oscroft was further reviewed :

- Cllr D Willacy and Cllr G Willacy would carry out any necessary cleaning/staining/painting of the three bench seats around the edge of the field.
- The large slide would continue to be monitored as to when it was felt it needed to be cleaned.
- Cllr G Willacy had kindly supplied and placed some new chippings around the base of the slide. He would continue to monitor the level and add more as and when required.
- The Clerk had obtained a supply of plastic bin liners for the waste bin.

b) Cllr Willacy reported the grass has been cut and strimmed twice this season by Continental Landscapes and was of the opinion that a good job had been done.

14/15 Canal

a) The following Press Release from the Lancaster Canal Trust was received and noted :

Lancaster Canal Northern Reaches - all action on the Northern Reaches as a massive crane lifts dredging machinery into the water. Working from the county yard at Crooklands it was very gratifying to see the Canal and River Trust contractors co-ordinate their work with such efficiency. Samples are taken of the oxygen levels in the water before dredging and checked as work progresses.

Moving all the silt will obviously affect this and work has to stop until it becomes normal. Fortunately the 9 inch drop to the Tewitfield Locks give a steady flow of water and the stoppage is of a short duration.

- b) A discussion was introduced as to how it is felt the proposed updating of the Sedgwick Canal Management Plan should be progressed. It was agreed a Working Group comprising of all members of the Parish Council should be formed and the Clerk was actioned to explore dates for a meeting with Lancaster Canal Trust.
- c) Appreciation was conveyed to Mrs D Mackareth for establishing such a pretty little garden – to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012 – adjacent to the aqueduct steps. The commitment and contribution made to the Parish by all residents is very much valued.

15/15 Sedgwick Village Hall

- a) Cllr D Willacy reported the Village Hall had been used as a Polling Station on 7 May 2015 and it was understood there had been a good turnout.
- b) A request has been submitted to D.H.Willacy & Son Ltd. to carry out the proposed resurfacing of the path leading to the back door of the Village Hall. Cllr Willacy will liaise with the company and the landowner as to when the work will be carried out.

16/15 Finance

- a) It was noted the precept request of £9,500 and the SLDC grant payment of £134.09 had been credited from SLDC to the Parish Council bank account on 29 April 2015.
- b) An application for grant funding from Sedgwick Cricket Club was received and considered. It was resolved to award a grant of £40 towards the purchase of two match cricket balls.
- c) Three quotations for the Back Lane, Village Green and Canal grass cutting work were received and considered. It was resolved that the contract for 2015 should be awarded to Continental Landscapes.
- d) A discussion was introduced as to whether it was felt the Old Parish Council Notice Board which is now used as the Parish Notice Board should be replaced. It was agreed that three quotations needed to be obtained before giving any further consideration to this.
- e) To approve the following payments :

Cumbria Association of Local Councils – Annual Subscription 2015/16	£157.00
Sedgwick Cricket Club – Ball Sponsorship	£ 40.00
Mr A Hartley – Internal Audit	£ 50.00
Mr M Aldridge – Painting	£ 50.00
Sedgwick Cricket Club – Match Cricket Balls	£ 40.00

17/15 Correspondence

A file of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting and not included on the agenda was provided for circulation.

18/15 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Canal Management Plan
- Village Notice Board
- 'No Cold Calling'
- PCSO Report

19/15 Dates of 2015/16 Meetings

It was confirmed the dates of the meetings of the full Council for 2015/16 will be 10 June, 8 July, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 13 January, 10 February, 9 March, 16 March (Parish Meeting) and 13 April. All meetings will commence at 7.30pm and will be held in the Sedgwick Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:55 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
Date : 11 June 2015