

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7:30pm at Sedgwick Village Hall.,

Present: Cllr B Holmes (Chair), Cllr B Tanham, Cllr G Stoker, Cllr Hall, Mrs Rachel Harrison (Parish Clerk), Westmorland & Furness Cllr D Rathbone.

60/24 Apologies: The Parish Council accepted the resignation of Cllr Macconnell and thanked her for all of her hard work. Cllr Tanham agreed to take on the Safeguarding responsibility.

61/24 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2024 as a true record.

62/24 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests:

Cllr B Tanham declared that as she is the owner of a part of the canal towpath, she can take part in discussion regarding the Canal but cannot vote on any decisions.

63/24 Public Participation:

None

64/24 Reports

- a) Police Report: The Council are receiving a monthly community newsletter and can access the Crime Map online.
- b) Westmorland & Furness Council Cllr D Rathbone reported;
- **Ward Boundaries** Cllr Rathbone informed the Parish Council that there is another round of consultation due and Sedgwick may move wards to be grouped with Milnthorpe and Levens. Once ward boundaries have been finalised there will also be a review of Parishes.
- **National Trust River Kent Footbridge** Cllr Rathbone kindly informed the Parish Council that the bridge is now re-open.
- **The Local Plan & Call for Sites** It was reported that this has now been delayed. Cllr Rathbone will let us know if he hears any more.
- **Grit Bins** Parish Councillors were reminded to check the Grit Bins in the Parish and report to highways any refills that are needed.
- **20mph Zone** It was reported that there are no final figures following the survey, however initial data suggests W&F Council are happy with the volume of response and the project can move to the next phase, being a further consultation, regarding boundary reviews, before the legal formalities take place. Timescale is likely to be approx.. 4 months for the next consultation and a further 3-4 months for legal proceedings. Funds for the project have already been earmarked by W&F Council
- **Roadworks** After concern regarding signs that have been put up in the village informing residents of road closures, with no details available on W&F Highways, Cllr Rathbone recommended the one.network website to check for roadworks within the area. The planned roadworks are now on said website and the Clerk will monitor this in the future.
- **Bypass Bridge Closures** Due to increased volume in traffic through Sedgwick due to the bridges being closed, the Parish Council have again requested to be on the relevant mailing list for updates.
- **Green Bins** Members of the Parish are advised to report any missed bin collections on the W&F Council website. Cllr Rathbone was also asked about the current survey regarding Bin Collections and the potential for residents paying for Green Bin Collections, however it was confirmed that nothing has yet been finalised.
- **Remembrance Sunday** Cllr Rathbone informed the Parish Council that he laid a wreath at Crosscrake Church and the service was well attended.

65/24 Planning Application submitted/received:

NONE

66/24 Highways/Footpaths

- a) The Highways report was sent to Cllr Brook after the last meeting and some repairs have taken place.
- b) The Parish Council were updated on the 20mph zone, (see above). Cllr Holes will contact Steph Davis to request and update.
- c) The Parish Council reviewed 3 quotes provided for the replacement of the bench next to the Bus Shelter and the Phoenix bench was agreed upon at a cost of £585.00+VAT this will be ordered by the Parish Clerk for delivery in January 2025.

67/24 Playground /Millennium Field

- a) Cllr G Stoker gave his monthly Safety Report & the grass has been cut and bins have been emptied. The new signs regarding NO DOGS on the Millenium Field have been received and put up.
- b) Following the ROSPA report, most work has been completed and the 2 swing seats will be installed as soon as possible.
- c) Orchard Grant - The Parish Council have ordered the hedge for the Millenium field along with the fruit trees which will be planted in the far corner. Hedge delivery is scheduled for w/b 21/11 and J Park will plant once they have arrived. Cllr Holmes will order the relevant canes and supplies and the Parish Council agreed to reimburse her once payment has been made for all items.

68/24 Fundraising & Events

- a) The fundraiser on 22nd March 2025 at the Parish Hall in Kendal was discussed and Cllr Holmes will be in touch with V Macconnell for more details.

69/24 Safeguarding

- a) Following the resignation of Cllr Macconnell, Cllr Tanham agreed to take on the role and no issues were reported.

70/24 VE Day 2025 – 80th Anniversary – Thursday 8th May

- a) Ideas to mark the celebration were discussed and residents will be encouraged to light lanterns and put up flags and bunting. The Parish Council will also look into costs of buying a flag to display.

71/24 Canal

- a) A report by Cllr B Holmes was provided. J Park will be asked to quote for maintenance work on the Canal, the flooding path, steep path, handrail and bench repairs.
- b) A letter which was received from Mr Simpson, who owns the land next the canal path, was discussed and the Clerk will write to him to thank him for all of his hard work repairing wall gaps.
- c) Cllr Holmes is in touch with Kent Estuary YFC who are due to come to do 2 more wall gaps as soon as possible.
- d) The "THRIVE" funding received by the Lancaster Towpath Trail from W&F Council and their plans to use it for improvement on the Stainton to Kendal section were discussed and Cllr Rathbone will let us know if he hears any more information. The Parish Council would be grateful if they were kept informed to help instil trust and Cllr Holmes will write to them for more information.

72/24 Website/social media

- a) Cllr B Holmes reported that the website is up to date and Facebook posts are being made.

73/24 Policies & Procedures

- a) The Clerk will check for an update on the current Data Protection policy for the next meeting.

74/24 Finance

- a) The bank balances were noted as of 30/09/2024 Current = £17926.87 & 20/08/2024 Reserve = £15384.58
- b) The following payments were approved:
Parish Clerk's Salary September/October = **£474.15**
Parish Clerk's Expenses September/October = **£62.30**
HMRC PAYE (Rachel Harrison) September/October = **£94.20**
Hedges Direct (Rachel Harrison) = **£377.99**
Continental Landscapes (July-October) = **£547.20**
Playdale (Site Visit) = **£180.00**
Cllr B Tanham (Fruit Trees) = **£138.00**
- c) The accounts agreed on 11th September 2024 were signed as cleared the bank account.
- d) The Parish Council reviewed the rise in the Clerks pay scale, in line with national guidelines, and the rise of £0.63 per hour was approved. This will be backdated to April 2024 and processed in the next pay run.
- e) The 2025/26 Budget was distributed and reviewed; Parish Councillors will consider whether a rise in the precept for 2024/2025 is necessary.
- f) The bi-annual bank reconciliation was presented to the Parish Council and reviewed. It was agreed by all that £7000.00 will be transferred from the current account to the reserve account and Cllr Holmes will update the Reserve Statement.

75/24 Newsletter

- a) Topics for the next newsletter are; NO DOGS on the Millennium Field, , details of the fundraising event, information on the W&F Council scheme regarding a handyman for eligible residents. The newsletter should be ordered around the 20th November.

76/24 Correspondence: All the documents have been received and circulated to the Councillors.

77/24 Open Action

- a) It was confirmed that there are now 2 vacancies for Parish Councillors. The elections team have been informed and the posts have been advertised.
- b) The dates were set for the 2025 meetings were confirmed and the Clerk will email the Village Hall committee to book the dates.
- c) The Parish precept will be decided and approved at the January meeting.
- d) The Proxy Vote proposal will be discussed at the January meeting.
- e) Parish Councillors were asked to think about the 20mph boundary review which will be discussed at the January meeting.

78/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will on **Wednesday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 8th January 2024