

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7:30pm at The Village Hall.

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

110/23 Apologies: It was resolved for apologies with reasons given that were accepted by Sedgwick Parish Cllr W Burrow.

The Parish Council have now received a letter of resignation from Cllr Burrow which they have sadly accepted and it was noted that they are very grateful for his help as a Parish Councillor and are please to hear he will continue to help the Parish in any way he can. The Clerk will notify the elections team.

111/23 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January & 14th February as a true record.

112/23 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.

113/23 Public Participation:

None

114/23 Reports

Police Report: The Council are receiving a monthly community newsletter.

Westmorland & Furness Council Cllr D Rathbone reported about the following items.

- a) Cllr Rathbone & Cllr Brook will both attend the APM next week and the Parish Council asked if their report will include the change in the constituency boundaries.
- b) The budget has been passed at full council and there will be a 4.9% increase in line with inflation of 5.6%.
- c) All being well W&F Council should receive £129million from the distribution of HS2 funding, although there is no further information on when this will be received.
- d) The Parish Council reported they are disappointed that repairs are not being made that have been reported to Highways on multiple occasions. Rupert Audland from the locality board highways team will be contacted again for help with this.

Village Hall Report –The parish council are ooping a report will be provided by the village hall committee at next week's APM.

115/23 Planning Application submitted/received:

- a) 2023/1103/FPA at Firbank, approved with conditions.
- b) 2023/1172/FPA at Raines Hall. The Parish Council have no objections to this application.
- b) High Riverside was discussed again after enquires from members of the parish and it was decided that Cllr Tanham will go and make enquires with the residents to see if it is indeed a permitted development.

116/23 Highways/Footpaths

- a) The highways report has received no updates on repairs. Cllr Tanham will assess all areas at the next available opportunity however it was noted again that the potholes, especially by the river, are bad and the SLOW signs need repainting. Some road signs are fading and speeding is still an issue.
- b) Cllr Rathbone will make enquires to find out if there is an expected date for approval of the 20mph zone.

117/23 Playground /Millennium Field

- a) Cllr G Stoker gave his Safety Report, and thanked everyone who attended the work party. Jobs carried out included spreading the bark at the base of the big slide and repairing the surround, painting of the gym equipment, re turfing under the small slide, washing the bus shelter and signs on the Millenium Field. It was noted that the Parish Council are disappointed on the lack of volunteers to attend.
- b) A list of tasks was drawn up to be given to the Cubs.
- c) An advertisement for a handyperson is now on the website and the closing date for applications is 19.03.2024. A list of jobs for the appointed person has been drawn up including the upkeep of the fitness trail, the installation of the new swing seat when they arrive and fixing the basketball post.

d) The Orchard Grant Scheme was discussed, and Cllr Rathbone will make enquires on the closing date for applications.

118/23 Fundraising & Events

- a) An update was provided by Cllr V Macconnell who is hoping to organise a concert later in the year. Volunteers for help would be greatly appreciated and locations including the Kendal Parish Hall were discussed as the venue is larger and reasonably priced.
- b) After the resignation of Cllr Burrow it was noted that Cllr Macconnell will not take over any grant applications that Cllr Burrow may have been involved with. The Chair will contact Cllr Burrow regarding grant applications.

119/23 Safeguarding

- a) Cllr Macconnell has requested that whilst any work is being undertaken on the Millenium Field the area should be closed off to the public for Safeguarding reasons.

120/23 Training

- a) All Councillors and the Clerk were asked to attend the Elections Teams meeting to be held this week.

121/23 Canal

- a) Monthly report by Cllr B Holmes can be seen in the noticeboard and on the website, it was especially noted how full the canal is.
- b) The use of the Canal Path is reported to be very busy.
- c) CRT installation of the artwork- it was noted that the work has still not been completed and the CRT will be contacted for an immediate update on when the work will be completed and signed off. The muddiest section of the path at the aqueduct will also be mentioned.
- d) All Cllrs were asked to inspect the whole path before the next meeting in May to check the condition of the path after a member of the public raised concerns on how muddy it had become. The Parish Council are hopeful it will dry out when the weather improves.

122/23 Website/social media

- a) Cllr B Holmes reported that the website is up to date and Facebook posts are being made. An invitation to the APM will be added.
- b) The Clerk has been informed of the Data Protection Renewal for this year.

123/23 Policies & Procedures

- a) The Standing Orders have been renewed, proposed by Cllr Macconnell, seconded by Cllr Tanham and unanimously agreed by all. These will be updated on the website by the Clerk.

124/23 Finance

- a) The bank balances were noted as of 29/02/2024 Current = £7466.12 & 31/01/2024 Reserve = £15273.81
- b) The following payments were approved:

Parish Clerks Salary Jan/Feb £261.69/£254.03 = **£515.72**,

Parish Clerks Expenses Jan/Feb **£66.49**

HMRC PAYE Jan/Feb £28.80/£11.20 = **£40.00**

Playdale £245.47

Printing Plus £132.67

Cllr Stoker Lakeland Pipes & B&Q £77.88/£23.91 = £101.79

Data Protection Fee £35.00

Max Trak Ltd (Wood Chippings) = £480.00

- c) The accounts agreed on 10th January 2024 were signed as cleared the bank account.

- d) The 2024/2025 budget was discussed.

125/23 Newsletter

- a) Feedback from the Spring Newsletter was good.
- b) The next newsletter will go out in August and is to include details of the Vulnerable Household database.

126/23 Correspondence: All the documents have been received and circulated to the Councillors.

127/23 Annual Parish Meeting

- a) Apologies were received from Cllr Tanham. Councillors who wish to speak and introduce themselves and the roles and responsibilities they undertake will be welcomed. The Councillor vacancy will be announced, and the parish will be asked for more help from volunteers. All roles for the evening were distributed.
- b) The Clerk confirmed who has already responded to their invites and/or provided reports.

128/23 Open Action

- a) The Vulnerable Household list was discussed and passed on to Cllr Macconnell to take the lead on this.
- a) Councillors were asked to think about any responsibilities they wish to take on or swap and this will be discussed in May.
- b) It was reported that Parish Council Elections will be on Thursday 2nd May 2024. All Councillors have now been sent a nomination pack and have been asked to complete and return the relevant paperwork and attend the elections meeting, if they are available.

129/23 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be the APM on **Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.30pm** followed by the AGM on **Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7.30pm**.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm

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