

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7:30pm at The Village Hall.

The meeting started with a presentation from the Parish Clerk to the Parish Council of a new framed Portrait of King Charles that will be put up in 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.

1/24 Election of Chairperson The Clerk took the chair for this item. It was proposed by Cllr Macconnell, seconded by Cllr Tanham and unanimously resolved that Cllr B Holmes should be the Chairperson for 2024/25

2/24 Declaration of Acceptance The Chairperson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for 2024/25 this was signed by Cllr B Holmes and witnessed by the Clerk.

3/24 Election of Vice-Chairperson It was proposed by Cllr Macconnell, seconded by Cllr Holmes and unanimously resolved that Cllr Bernie Tanham should be the Vice-Chairperson for 2024/25.

4/24 Apologies: None

5/24 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2024 as a true record.

6/24 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.

7/24 Public Participation:
None

8/24 Reports
a) Police Report: The Council are receiving a monthly community newsletter.
b) Westmorland & Furness Council Cllr D Rathbone reported that apart from discussing the 20mph zone he had nothing further to add, except from requesting that along with his own contact details Cllr J Brooks are added to the noticeboard and newsletter.

9/24 Officers Roles and Responsibilities- roles confirmed for 2024/25 which will be displayed in the noticeboard.

10/24 Planning Application submitted/received:
a) 2024/0633/TPO FLAT 17, SEDGWICK HOUSE – New application. – no objections, Ash Die back trees to be felled.
b) 2023/1172/FPA Raines Farm – has been approved with conditions including a wild flower meadow.
c) Cllr Tanham informed the Parish Council that she had been to see the residents of Riverside House and they assured her that their builder & architect have confirmed it is a permitted development.

11/24 Highways/Footpaths
a) Cllr Tanham reported she had undertaken a full audit of potholes, signs & drains.
b) The Parish Council were delighted to see that the potholes in the village have now been repaired and would like to thank, Jude, Tim Farron, Cllr Rupert Audland & Cllr D Rathbone for all of their help with this. Any outstanding issues should still be reported on the W&F Council website.
c) Update on The National Trust footbridge repairs can be found at this website [Suspension bridge | Sizergh, Cumbria | National Trust](#)
d) Sedgwick has been successful in its application for a The 20 mph speed limit and is in the first cohort. The scheme is currently being designed and a consultation phase must now begin. It was confirmed that Cllr B Holmes can attend the Teams meeting with W&F Council to discuss the next steps in the process and the Clerk will be in touch with W&F Council regarding this. Cllr D Rathbone was thanked for all of his hard work helping us with this project. He will distribute flyers on the scheme to all residents in the coming weeks. More information is likely to follow in the next newsletter, on our website and at a Village Hall Presentation.
e) Cllr D Rathbone asked for an update on the status of Hill Close, after previous issues with the road there, and he was informed there was no progress on a resolution.

12/24 Playground /Millennium Field

- a) Cllr G Stoker gave his monthly Safety Report. The Cubs were praised for doing a fantastic job when they carried out some work on the field. Cllr B Holmes will make enquiries regarding the collection of the compost.
- b) The Baby Swing has been repaired along with the replacement of 2 new posts and other general maintenance issues. The large swing seats will be replaced next.
- c) The Parish Council have applied for the Orchard Grant and have been invited to add a request for further grant funding for a hedge to be planted in November along the boundary with the field.
- d) The Bug Hotel, proposed by the Cubs/Scouts was discussed and the Clerk will investigate prices for a frame along with other Bug Hotel building options.

13/24 Fundraising & Events

- a) Cllr Macconnell is hoping to organise a concert next year.

14/24 Safeguarding

- a) Cllr Macconnell had no issues to report.

15/24 CALC

- a) It was reported that no Parish Councillors were available to attend the Planning training.

16/24 Canal

- a) Monthly report by Cllr B Holmes can be seen in the noticeboard and on the website.
- b) The use of the Canal Path is reported to be very busy however there are still cycles using the footpath.
- c) CRT installation of the artwork- it was noted that the work has now been completed except from some missing Logos.
- d) The condition of the path was discussed after a member of the Parish reported that the path could do with repair. It was agreed that the condition of the footpath is much better now the weather is drier but will be continued to be monitored.
- e) A quote received from the contractor for the repair of the dry stone wall was approved and will hopefully be repaired asap.

17/24 Website/social media

- a) Cllr B Holmes reported that the website is up to date and Facebook posts are being made. The Clerk will upload the relevant Year End financial documents and there will be a section designated for the 20mph zone progress.

18/24 Policies & Procedures

- a) The Clerk reported that due to a busy month in March and the Year End she has been unable to update any policies for approval this meeting, however update of others will be made ready for the next meeting.

19/24 Finance

- a) The bank balances were noted as of 28/03/2024 Current = £6574.45 & 31/01/2024 Reserve = £15273.81 no April statement have been received yet.

- b) The following payments were approved:

Parish Clerks Salary March/April £254.03/£232.06 = **£486.09**

Parish Clerks Expenses March/April **£68.98**

HMRC PAYE March/April £11.20/£45.80 = **£57.00**

Mitchinsons Accountants (PAYE 23/24) £84.00

B Holmes (Playdale Swing) £101.57

Norton Renewal £64.99 (same)

BHIB Insurance Annual Renewal £436.22 (last Year £427.37)

Malcolm Richardson Annual Audit £111.70

CALC Membership Renewal £182.95.

Village Hall Retal 10/01/24, 13/03/24 & 20/03/24 £54.00

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

- d) The Financial Risk Assessment was approved.

- e) The Audit Report was presented to the Parish Council.

- f) Agar Section 1 was signed and approved

- g) Agar Section 2 was signed and approved

- h) Certificate of Exemption was approved and signed.

- i) Notification of Public Rights was approved and will be displayed as per the dates of the document.

- j) NALC New Financial Regulations were discussed, and the amended model will be proposed for approval at the next meeting.

- k) The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the VAT reclaim submission will be done by the next meeting.

I) The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the precept has not yet been received, the Clerk will contact W&F Council regarding when this can be expected.

20/24 Newsletter

- a) The next newsletter will go out in July or August depending on the requirements of the 20mph zone consultation phase and is to include details of the Vulnerable Household database, Book Exchange, 20mph Zone, along with an appeal for volunteer dry stone wallers.

21/24 Correspondence: All the documents have been received and circulated to the Councillors.

22/24 Open Action

- a) The Easter Sunday Muck Spreading was discussed and it was resolved that although they appreciate residents' concern, the Council can not intervene.
- b) The Vulnerable Household list request was discussed and information will be added to the Summer Newsletter.
- c) An update on the Parish Council Elections was sent to all Councillors by email and the appropriate documents have been in the noticeboard and on the website.
- a) The Parish Councillor vacancy will be re-advertised and the Clerk will contact the elections team for the appropriate document.
- b) The Parish Clerks Annual appraisal will be held after 16th June, before the next meeting with Cllr Tanham & Cllr Holmes, feedback will be given at the next meeting.

23/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will on **Wednesday 10th July 2024 at 7.30pm**.

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 10th July 2024