

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7:30pm at The Village Hall, following an inspection along the canal path.

Present: Cllr B Holmes (Chair), Cllr G Stoker, Cllr V Macconnell, Mrs Rachel Harrison (Parish Clerk), Westmorland & Furness Cllr J Brook.

42/24 Apologies: Received and accepted from Cllr Hall, Cllr B Tanham & W&F Cllr D Rathbone.

43/24 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2024 as a true record.

44/24 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests:

None

45/24 Public Participation:

None

46/24 Reports

- a) Police Report: The Council are receiving a monthly community newsletter and are now able to access the Crime Map online which can be seen by all at [Kendal, Burneside and Endmoor | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk)
- b) Westmorland & Furness Council Cllr J Brook reported;
- **The Boundary Commission** are undertaking a thorough job and a recording of the meeting being held on the 11th September will become available. Boundaries will be changed to ensure all wards have a more equal population. It was recommended that the Parish Council take a look at the suggestions and Cllr Brook will feed back any information that may affect Sedgwick.
- **The Design Code** update was discussed and the survey should be completed. Cllr Brook recommended any questions on this be directed to Cllr Rathbone.
- **The Local Plan & Call for Sites** is ongoing and a list of potential sites will be made public before Christmas however Cllr Brook will find out if there is a more specific date.
- **Funding for Village Halls** is available for capital funding and the clerk will pass the information on to the village hall committee.
- **20mph Zone** It was reported that it has been well advertised, paper copies have been distributed & the Parish Council have done everything to make it more accessible for all in the community. It was noted how helpful Steph Davis-Johnston at W&F Council has been with the process and residents are advised to attend the drop in at **Kendal Town Hall on Tuesday 8th October between 4-7pm**.
- **Bypass Bridge Closures** were discussed as the impact on Sedgwick with the increased volume of traffic is noticeable. Cllr Brook reported that the initial report is in the process of being reviewed and an update will be given within the next few weeks. Cllr Brook will ensure that, going forward, the Parish Council are involved in the Teams meetings that are being held regarding the situation.
- **Highways.** It was reported that numerous reports that have been made are not being resolved and the clerk will send a list of all outstanding faults reported to Cllr Brook, including temporary pedestrian signs requested along the river whilst the footbridge is closed.

47/24 Planning Application submitted/received:

- a) 2024/1201/FPA Firbank – conversion of existing garage and store/shed to habitable accommodation, including raising – noted.
- b) Local Plan and a call for sites, (details discussed above.)

48/24 Highways/Footpaths

- a) Highways report to be sent to Cllr Brook (see above)
- b) The Parish Council were updated on the 20mph zone, (see above) all members of the Parish are urged to complete the survey. All Parish Cllrs were asked if they could try and attend the meeting at the Town Hall (see above).

49/24 Playground /Millennium Field

- a) Cllr G Stoker gave his monthly Safety Report & the bins have been emptied. It was reported that members of the public are allowing dogs on the Millennium Field, which is completely inappropriate partly due to the risk posed to children from bacteria in faeces. Cllrs agreed to enforce the no dogs rule more strictly – a poster will be put up and large NO DOG signs will be purchased and installed.
- b) The Parish Council discussed the ROSPA report which has now been received. Already the wooden goal posts have been removed, basketball board has been cleaned, 2 x benches cleaned & painted & an exposed bolt covered on exercise bike. Cllr Stoker was thanked for his continuous hard work. A list of outstanding jobs has been created including replacing the 2 x swing seats. The clerk will ask the Cubs if they are able to help with more weeding in the bark area at the bottom of the slide. The metal post inside the large slide was highlighted in the report but since the swings attached to them have been removed, they are not load bearing and do not affect the safety of the slide.
- c) The Parish Council acknowledged receipt of the Orchard Grant and Cllr Holmes will arrange with James Park when he is able to plant the hedge and obtain a quote for planting the trees. All supplies needed will be ordered.

50/24 Fundraising & Events

- a) Cllr Macconnell gave an update on the concert for next year and final confirmation of an event with Levens on 22nd March 2025 will be hopefully provided soon. The retained £50.00 float was given to the Clerk for banking as is not currently needed.

51/24 Safeguarding

- a) Cllr Macconnell had no issues to report.

52/24 Canal

- a) A monthly report by Cllr B Holmes was provided and it was noted there has been a complaint from a member of the parish regarding the steep path as roots and stones are exposed. Cllr Holmes will request a quote from James Park regarding a repair. A further complaint of flooding on the path will also be investigated when it is next in flood to determine exact location and remedial work needed to resolve.
- b) Alistair Hearn's annual inspection was discussed and it was reported that most Ash have Ash Die Back but this year has been a good year for resilience therefore no action is required. Most Elm have Dutch Elm Disease but are not ready for felling yet therefore no action this year.
- c) Cllr Holmes has had a meeting with Kent Estuary YFC who have said they are happy to make us their Community Challenge Project. Three Stone wall repairs are now needed and they will be in contact with a date for repair after September, they will need some additional help at the time so a work party will need to be organised.
- d) No information has been given regarding scheduled maintenance by the CRT requested by the Parish Council however the vegetation does seem to have been cut back around the newly installed sign.

53/24 Website/social media

- a) Cllr B Holmes reported that the website is up to date and Facebook posts are being made. The 20mph zone info has been uploaded and minutes are up to date.

54/24 Policies & Procedures

- a) The Finance regulations distributed to all Parish Councillors were approved and signed.
- b) The Co-option policy distributed to all Parish Councillors were approved and signed.
- c) The Data Protection Policy distributed to all Parish Councillors were approved and signed.
- d) The Privacy Policy distributed to all Parish Councillors were approved and signed.
All of the above will be updated on the website by the Clerk. The Clerk was also asked to check for an update on the current Data Protection policy for the next meeting.

55/24 Finance

- a) The bank balances were noted as of 08/08/2024 Current = £18861.02 & 20/08/2024 Reserve = £15384.58
- b) The following payments were approved:
Parish Clerk's Salary July/August = £473.95
Parish Clerk's Expenses July/August = £52.00
HMRC PAYE (Rachel Harrison) July/August = £94.40
CNL Laptop Repairs (Rachel Harrison) = £90.00
Sedgwick Village Hall May & July = £36.00
ROSPA = £136.80
Printing Plus = £101.00
G Stoker Wickes receipt for playground repairs = £23.00

c) The following receipts were acknowledged.

HMRC VAT Refund = £1341.87

Shell Energy Refund = £15.00

W&F Council Orchard Grant = £2000.00

Interest May/June/July = £56.09

d) The accounts agreed on 10th July 2024 were signed as cleared the bank account.

e) The Parish Council agreed that the bench next to the bus stop needs replacement and three quotes will be obtained by the Clerk ready for approval and ordering at the next meeting.

56/24 Newsletter

- a) The summer newsletter has been distributed to all residents and the feedback was that some residents who wanted to complete the questionnaire regarding the 20mph zone were unable to, due to having no internet access and not able to travel to the library. The clerk has printed paper copies which have been distributed. Any residents requiring a printed copy should contact the Clerk ASAP. Everyone who helped to distribute the newsletter were thanked for their work.
- b) Topics for the next newsletter are; NO DOGS on the Millennium Field, pictures from the Orchard installation, details of the fundraising event

57/24 Correspondence: All the documents have been received and circulated to the Councillors.

58/24 Open Action

- a) The Parish Council were informed that the vacancy of Parish Councillor is still being advertised and an interested resident may come to the next meeting. Anyone interested in the role is advised to contact the Clerk.
- b) W&F Council Boundary Review – consultation. (see above)
- c) A budget will be prepared in readiness for presentation at the meeting.
- d) A bank reconciliation will be prepared ready for the next meeting.

59/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will on **Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7.30pm**.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 13th November 2024