

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at 7:30pm
at Sedgwick Village Hall.*

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

45/25 Apologies were received and accepted from both Cllr Hall and W&F Cllr J Brook.

46/25 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2025 as a true record.

47/25 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.

48/25 Public Participation: None

49/25 Reports

Westmorland & Furness Council Cllr D Rathbone reported the following;

20mph – Cllr Rathbone asked for feedback and the Parish Council expressed concerns that there is no buffer zone north of Sedgwick towards Natland and there is a lack of signage. Cllr Holmes will email W&F Council to ensure we have the signs that were set out in the original plans.

20mph Enforcement – The Police Fire & Crime Commissioner has been contacted, and they have a list of all new 20mph zones with the aim of ensuring they try to enforce the speed limit and potentially put up SID's. Cllr Holmes will also contact the Commissioner.

Planning – Regarding Story Homes there is nothing that can be done at the moment but everyone will be updated when the next stage arrives so they can mobilise action.

Land Allocation – is still scheduled for this Autumn.

Devolution – W&F Council are close to a decision required by the government but as yet have not received any governance or finance details. Benefits of agreeing at this stage include a 1 year period before implementation and more personalised input.

Waste – No decisions have yet been finalised however the 2 weekly programme looks set to remain and there will be no charge for the 1st green bin.

50/25 Planning Application submitted/received:

No new planning applications have been received. The developments on Natland Road were discussed and it was confirmed that Natland PC are happy to work together regarding the potential developments. Cllr Tanham will write to Story Homes to explain our concerns.

51/25 Highways/Footpaths

- a) The Highways report was presented and updated. Residents have expressed concerns that the grass verge has not been cut and W&F Council will be contacted again to ask them to cut the correct area.
- b) The Parish Council were updated on the 20mph zone, the signs have been installed, however residents have expressed concerns that there are not enough signs. Cllr Holmes will email W&F Council to ensure we receive all the signs that were marked on the official plans. Cllr Tanham will ask residents to participate in resident feedback/interviews with W&F Council.
- c) The Clerk will write to W&F Council to seek permission to cut the grass around the bus shelter area.
- d) The Clerk reported that a sign and timetable has been requested from W&F Council and the Clerk has already chased this up for progress. Cllr Rathbone will also see if he can do the same.
- e) Quotes for the noticeboard were received, and the Clerk will distribute them along with other alternatives.

52/25 Playground /Millennium Field

- a) Cllr G Stoker gave his monthly Safety Report and reported that some tidying jobs have been done. Some repairs may be needed to the fence posts.
- b) The ROSPA report has taken place and distributed. Cllr Holmes & Cllr Stoker will work through it to produce a job list of any remedial work.
- c) The trees overhanging the Millennium Field have been reported to the landowner, but the Parish Council have not had any response since.
- d) The new orchard sign has been installed. Pictures have been sent to W&F Council and the Parish Council have said they are happy for publicity.

53/25 Fundraising & Events

- a) Equipment Replacement – no updates.
- b) Easyfundraising was discussed. The link was shared in the newsletter, and all residents are encouraged to use the link to help raise funds for the village.
- c) Parish Cllrs are encouraged to attend the Kendal Town Hall Funding Fair, September 23rd, 2025, to investigate potential grants and how to apply for them.

54/25 Safeguarding Report

- a) Cllr Tanham will enrol on a free Safeguarding course at Kendal Library.

55/25 Canal

- a) A report by Cllr B Holmes will be provided as soon as A Hearn has been to provide his annual report next week.
- b) The Kent Estuary YFC & the adjacent landowner will be contacted regarding a new dry stone wall gap.

56/25 Website/social media

- a) Cllr B Holmes reported that the website is up to date and Facebook posts are being made.
- b) The Clerk now has a .org email address ready for the next audit.
- c) Following the CALC email regarding AGAR compliance the Clerk will seek further advice regarding a new website and further council email addresses for all Cllrs.

57/25 Finance

- a) Bank balances as of 30/07/2025 Current = £15851.38 and 20/05/2025 Reserve = £22574.25 were noted and the bank reconciliation including payments agreed on 9th July 2025 was signed.

- b) The below payments were approved:

Parish Clerks Salary July/August = £466.84

Parish Clerks Expenses July/August = £52.00

HMRC PAYE (Rachel Harrison) July/August = £141.57

D&C Atkinson (Grass Cutting) = Aug/Sept 2 x £91.00 = £182.00 + Canal £144.00 = £326.00

Treble 3 (setup of new email address) = £44.40

Cumbria Landscaping (orchard sign installation) = £288.00

PlaySafety (ROSPA Report) = £134.40

Printing Plus (Summer Newsletter) = £101.00

Sedgwick Village Hall (May/July) = £48.00

- c) The NALC pay increase for the Parish Clerk from £13.26 to £13.69 was approved and in line with other years this will be back dated from April 2025.

- d) The Grant Application from Sedgwick Cricket Club was approved by all and the Parish Council decided to donate £200.00 to their project. The Clerk will write to them to organise the cheque delivery and will ask for them to spread the work for the need of Parish Councillors.

58/25 Newsletter

- a) The summer newsletter has been distributed but there has sadly been no interest in the roles of Parish Councillors since.

59/25 Correspondence: All the documents have been received and circulated to the Councillors.

60/25 Open Action not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- a) It was confirmed that there are still 2 vacancies for Parish Councillors. The posts have been advertised, and anyone interested should contact the Clerk for more information.
- b) The Clerk's appraisal was held with Cllr Holmes & Cllr Tanham and a report has been circulated to all Cllrs. The Clerk noted that the laptop is running slow and will seek professional advice if this continues.

61/25 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7.30pm.**
The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 12th November 2025