

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH NEWSLETTER

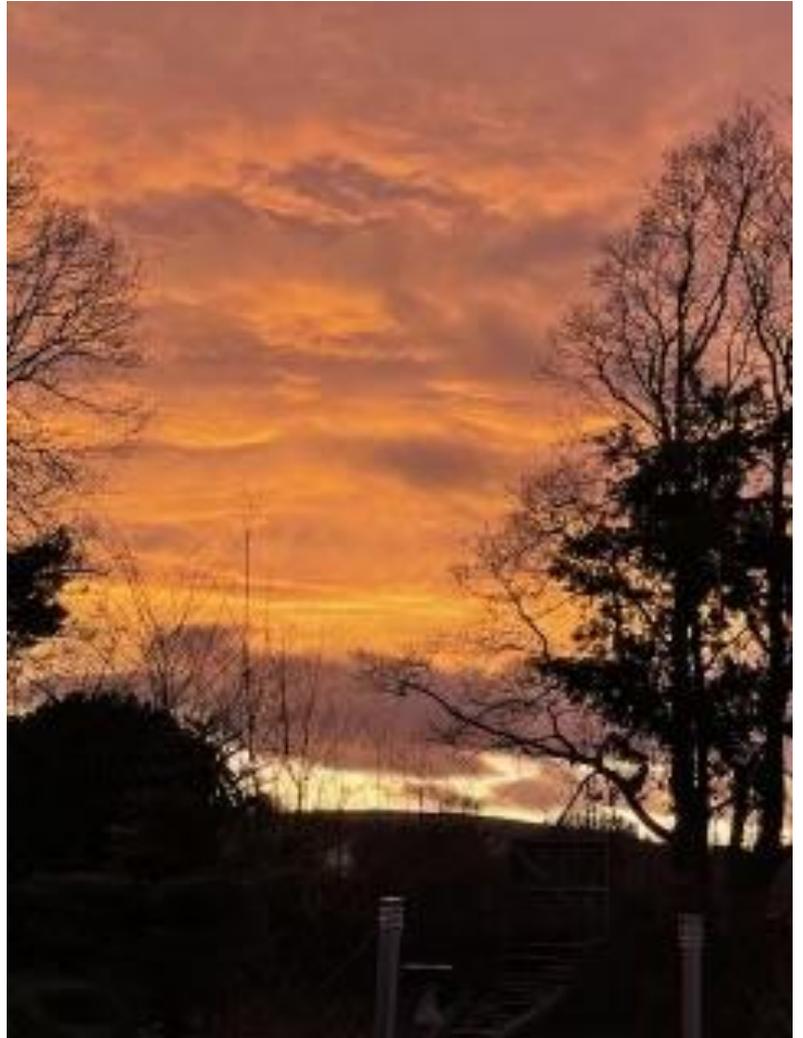
SPRING 2024

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter and your invitation to attend our Annual Parish Meeting

Our Annual Parish Meeting gives the Parish Council the opportunity to explain what it has achieved over the last year and gives you, the electors, the chance to have your say or ask questions about local issues. We also invite local organisations to present reports. We use the meeting to learn about what you think are the most important parish priorities and through this, the outcome of the meeting helps shape our agenda for the future.

This year, we will open the evening with two presentations about important local issues; the future plans at Crosscrake Church and our application to create a 20mph speed limit in Sedgwick.

Photograph by Steve Tanham



NOTICE OF THE SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL'S **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

To be held in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972
Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.30pm

A G E N D A

Local Issues: Marlene Little – Crosscrake Church and Sedgwick Parish Council - 20mph Limit

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Local Issues Presentations
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of the 2023 Parish Meeting
5. Councillors' Reports
6. Reports from Village Organisations
7. Questions

Light refreshments will be served

Please submit questions in advance to the Parish Clerk before Friday 11th March to help us be able to provide a response on the evening.

OUR ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2023-4

In July, our long serving Clerk, Sylvia Roberts retired. We were extremely fortunate to recruit **Rachel Harrison** to fill the role, and she has proved an excellent addition to the team. In January, we welcomed **John Hall** to the Council to fill the casual vacancy left when Cllr **Andrea Holmes** retired from the Council. We thank Andrea for her hard work while serving on the Council and welcome John.

On April 1st 2023, Cumbria County Council and SLDC were replaced by our new unitary authority, **Westmorland and Furness Council**. Changes continue to be rolled out as adjustments to how their services are delivered are made. Our W&F Councillor Doug Rathbone attends our Council meetings and we very much appreciate his support.

We were thrilled that our application to Cumbria County Council to fund a **bus shelter** in the village was successful and in May, our new shelter was installed at the end of Back Lane. It has proved very popular amongst both service and school bus users.

The **Millennium Field** has been busier than ever and Cllr Stoker continues to work very hard to make sure the equipment and grounds are safe and tidy. As our equipment ages, we are having to make more and more repairs to equipment. Many components in the fitness trail are reaching the end of their life span so we are having to take remedial action and we are replacing the swing seats. Please note that the Field will be closed while work is being carried out. Our long-term fundraising project to replace the Tree Slide which is over 40 years old and coming to end of its lifespan, has raised just over £1000, but getting enough volunteers from the community to organise fundraisers has proved challenging. We are planning to hold further events this year. **We are planning a work party for March 3rd to address the list of smaller tasks to make the playground ready for the coming season. Please see the notice on the opposite page and support us by coming along to offer a couple of hour's help. No unaccompanied children please.**

The **Canal Wildlife Area** continues to provide a peaceful place to walk and enjoy nature. Our woodland management consultant inspects the woodland regularly and James Park our Woodland Contractor has carried out a range of ongoing maintenance throughout the year. Ash Die Back is carefully monitored; our ash stock fared well in 2023 but every year is different; we hope that the trees continue to show resilience and can be kept a little longer. In July, the plaque designating the trees donated by the WI as part of the Queen's canopy was unveiled.

The Canal and River Trust became responsible for the completion of the Art Installation Project started in 2019 by the National Lottery Heritage Fund Group. At the time of writing, this is still work in progress but we are hoping they will complete the installation of the waymarker at Hill Bridge and installation and information board at the Aqueduct soon. We continue to press for maintenance of the aqueduct but it does not feature on the CRT maintenance schedule so progress is slow. The Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership whose aim is to create a multi-user trail from Kendal to Lancaster has attracted significant funding and will focus their efforts upgrading the path from Stainton south to a wider, surfaced multi-user path. Current short-term plans do not affect the Sedgwick Section, but in the longer term, as the project gathers momentum, the Kendal to Stainton leg will come under the spotlight again.

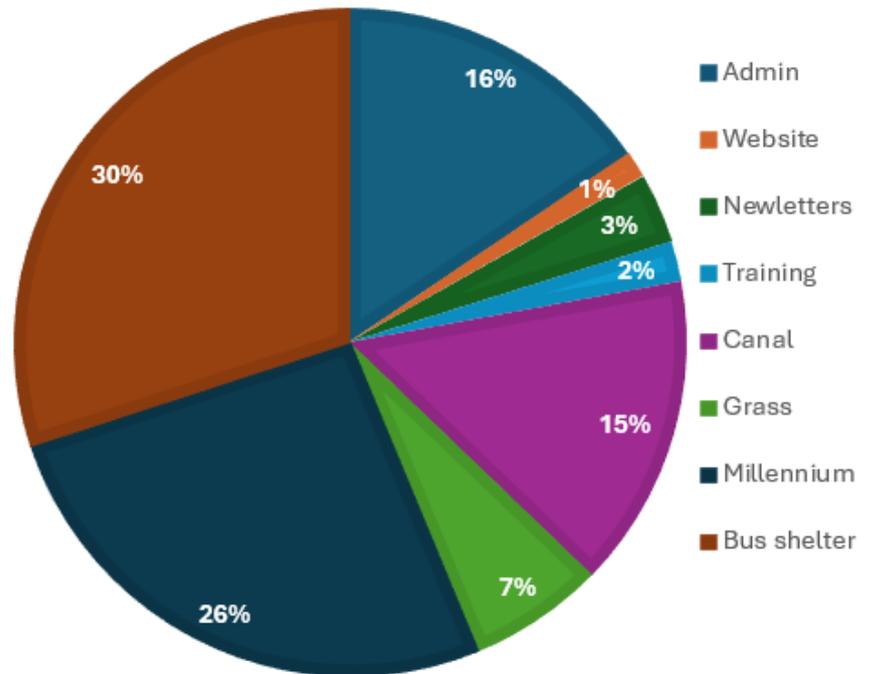
Unfortunately, **vandalism** has increased significantly, especially along the canal path. We have had to replace the Stoker Seat after it was damaged beyond repair over the summer holidays. This was made possible by a generous donation from a resident. We have also had to mend the canal wall after it was vandalised and several stones removed. The continued theft and damage to signs along the canal, has made it difficult to display important information.

Highways issues take up a significant amount of our time. In December, our formal application for Sedgwick to have a **20mph speed limit**, has been submitted and will be discussed at the start of the annual Parish meeting. We believe we have an extremely strong case and await news. Some emergency road repairs have been carried out but there is a significant backlog, especially along the river. We continue to log all faults and campaign to get repairs carried out. We have had a site visit from Local Councillor Rupert Audland who is supporting our call for repairs. We have also called for a long-term solution to flooding between Sedgwick and Natland to be found. **Please report faults on the Westmorland and Furness Hotline to increase the pressure on the Highways Department to make these necessary repairs.**

Despite very high increases in costs, the council continue to fund **grass cutting**, not just on the Millennium Field but also along Back Lane and on the Green. Our 3 newsletters each year keep residents informed about local issues and the work of the Council. We continue to work to comply with all **Data Protection Regulations, and financial** requirements and maintain our popular **website**. We have attended a range of online **training and consultation events** and have represented residents at many external meetings. Finally, the **Sedgwick No Cold Calling Zone** which deters unwanted visitors and the **Community Emergency Plan** which would help the community respond to a local crisis, have both been updated.

With less than 200 properties in Sedgwick that pay Parish Precept via the Council Tax, which provides our income, we continue to face financial challenges to maintain our village amenities. Despite costs increasing in line with up to 10% inflation, we increased the April 2023 precept by only 6% and this has enabled us to complete our annual parish projects, make repairs at Millennium Field Fund and remain within budget. The chart shows how we prioritised expenditure. Our reserve fund which safeguards the long-term future of the Millennium Field and Canal Wildlife Area remains intact. Draft accounts for the year will be available on the website prior to the Parish Meeting.

Looking to the future, costs continue to rise, we are increasing the precept in line with the W&F Council Tax by 4.9% this year.



I would like to thank all councillors for their hard work throughout the year. We are one of the smallest parishes in the county but with the Millennium Field and Canal Wildlife Area, make a significant contribution to the community.

Boyan Holmes Chairman of Sedgwick Parish Council

Notices



On Sunday March 3rd 10am-3pm we are holding a work party on the Millennium Field and are asking residents to give a couple of hours of time to help us get the playing field ready for the spring and summer – there are weeding, pruning, cleaning and small maintenance tasks

SEDGWICK
YOUR PARISH NEEDS



required. No unaccompanied children please. Many hands will hopefully make light work.

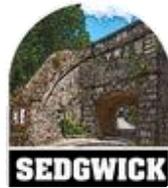
Please come along and help!

On the Millennium Field, we have a large **Community Compost heap** – it is nearly full – it contains some very well-rotted composted that is ideal for gardens especially at this time of year! Please help us by coming and helping yourself to a barrow or bucket load so we have enough space for the coming year's grass cuttings.

Parish Council elections will take place on Thursday May 2nd. Updates will appear on the notice board and news section of the website.

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Parish Clerk; Rachel Harrison
14 Helmside Gardens,
Oxenholme
LA9 7HN Tel: 07717357176



Councillors:
Chair: Boyan Holmes
The Oaks, 61644
Vice Chair: Bernie Tanham
The Wharf, 60179
Will Burrow
Railway Cottage, 07814575880
John Hall
1 Wakefield Meadow, 07974416657
Val Macconnell
4 Orchard View, 07779912017
Gerry Stoker;
4 Wakefield Meadow, 60939

Westmorland and Furness Council

www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

South Kendal

Cllr Doug Rathbone

M: 07795925328

doug.rathbone@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk



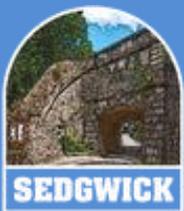
SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

March 13th, May 8th, July 10th September 11th November 13th
@Sedgwick Village Hall 7:30

Residents are always welcome at meetings. Each meeting includes a Public Forum as part of the agenda for residents to ask questions, raise items of concern or simply comment on issues.

Submission of questions in advance of the meeting is welcomed, so that they can be answered more fully.

Matters raised that are not included on that agenda will be considered for subsequent agendas.



Our Website www.sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk
Our Email sedgwick.parish@gmail.com



Sedgwick
NO COLD CALLING ZONE

COLD CALLERS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SEDGWICK!
If they call on you, contact Cumbria Police on 101 **immediately** and report them to **01539713583**
trading_standards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk



Our nearest defibrillator is located at the entrance to the Village Hall **LA8 0JU**



SEDGWICK
Community Emergency Plan

Sedgwick Parish Council has a **Community Emergency Plan** to help **minimise the impact of a major local emergency on residents.** In event of a major emergency, contact our **Coordinator Gerry Stoker -Tel 60939**

IMPORTANT EMERGENCY ADVICE

Remember if you have to call the Emergency Services, to make sure they know which side of the aqueduct a vehicle is needed, because many modern appliances cannot pass under the aqueduct and the diversion is long.

SEDGWICK VILLAGE HALL

Bookings: Joyce Benson **Tel:** 015395 60715 **Email:**