

Photograph by
Steve Tanham

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 residents and 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 priorities for the future.

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 18th March 2026 at 7.30pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the 2025 Parish Meeting
4. Sedgwick Parish Council Annual Report including District Report
5. Reports from Village Organisations
6. Questions

Light refreshments will be served

Please submit questions in advance to the Parish Clerk before Friday 13th March to help us be able to provide a response on the evening.



Website www.sedgwickparishcouncil.gov.uk

Email clerk@sedgwickparishcouncil.gov.uk

OUR ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2025-6

We have had another busy and successful year, as we make progress with long term and short-term projects.

At our last meeting, Gerry Stoker retired from his role as councillor; we are indebted to him for his work over the past 9 years, especially in helping to maintain the Canal Wildlife Area and Millennium Field and we thank him profoundly on behalf of all residents. We have recruited three new Councillors; Adrian Heffernan, James Nunn and James Todhunter and we look forward to confirming their appointments and welcoming them onto the Council. We have also recruited a new Parish Clerk and will be formally appointing her at our March Meeting; we look forward to introducing her to the Parish at our Annual Parish Meeting.

Highways issues have been dominated by the successful installation of our 20mph limit which is helping to improve safety for all road users. We have also seen the resurfacing of the road from Natland and out along Back Lane, and just this month, along Coopers Hill and Riverside. We have reported the deteriorating carriageway from Castle View to Crosscrake and the pavement in the centre of the village and await action. **Please continue to report faults on the Westmorland and Furness Hotline to increase the pressure on the Highways Department to make these necessary repairs.** The bench at the bus stop was replaced last year and we have secured a bus timetable sign at last. We have also purchased a replacement Parish Noticeboard.

The **Millennium Field** has seen several changes and repairs. The boundary hedge and the Community Orchard are maturing well but the orchard is still some way off providing residents with a crop. The equipment on the Millennium Field continues to age and we are having to make further repairs. Several more components of the fitness trail have had to be removed and other sections repaired. Running repairs have been made to the swings and slide. We are indebted to the wonderful residents who have carried out these repairs on a voluntary basis – we could not continue to provide such a wide range of equipment if it wasn't for them. Our long-term aim to replace the Tree Slide, which is now 50 years old has taken a step forward as we have acquired a slide tower which we are now looking to install.

The **Canal Wildlife Area** continues to provide a peaceful place to walk and enjoy nature. Our woodland management consultant has continued to carry out our safety checks and the Ash Die Back and Dutch Elm Disease is being carefully monitored. Remedial work has been carried out. Further repairs have been made to the stone wall.

Our **Parish Website** has been completely overhauled so that it complies with statutory new accessibility standards and all councillors now have a .gov email; these changes are proving very costly – around 10% of our budget- but are compulsory. **Grass cutting** has been funded to keep the Millennium Field, Canal Wildlife Area, Village Green and Bus Stop Corner usable. Our 3 newsletters each year keep residents informed about local issues and the work of the Council.

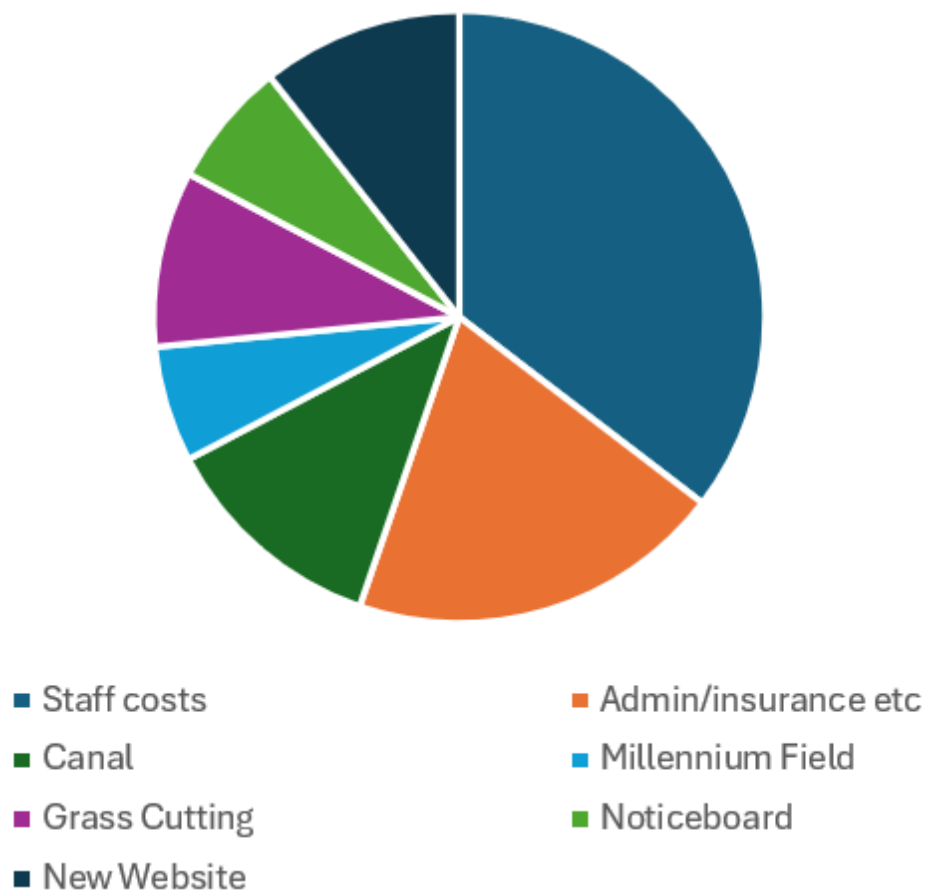
We continue to work to comply with all **Data Protection Regulations**, and financial requirements. We have attended a range of online training and consultation events and have represented residents at many external meetings. Finally, the Sedgwick **No Cold Calling Zone** which deters unwanted visitors and the **Community Emergency Plan** which would help the community respond to a local crisis, have both been updated.

The number of residents that contribute to the Parish Precept via the Council Tax, which provides our income, has reduced again and with the withdrawal of the Parish Grant, finances remain very tight. This year we have requested a 5% increase in the precept so that we can continue to meet our increasing running costs, maintain the Millennium Field and Canal Wildlife Area and meet the new accessibility standards.

The chart shows how we prioritised expenditure over the last year. Our reserve fund which safeguards the long-term future of the Millennium Field and Canal Wildlife Area remains intact. Our financial year does not end until the end of March but our draft accounts for the year are available if required.

I would like to thank all councillors for their hard work throughout the year and express our gratitude to the residents who have worked so tirelessly to help us maintain the Millennium Field, especially Gerry Stoker, as he retires from the Council. We are one of the smallest parishes in the county but the projects we undertake and the amenities we manage make a significant contribution to the community.

Boyan Holmes *Chairman of Sedgwick Parish Council*



Council Contacts

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Parish Councillors

Chair: Boyan Holmes

The Oaks. 61644

Vice Chair: Bernie Tanham

The Wharf, 07768 865964

Adrian Heffernan

5 Hill Close, 07834385583

John Hall

1 Wakefield Meadow 07974 416657

James Nunn

12 Wakefield Meadow, 07841758981

Sedgwick Village Hall

Joyce Benson Tel: 015395 60715 Email:

joycebenson2@gmail.com

Westmorland and Furness Councillors

www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Cllr Doug Rathbone

Tel: 07795 925328 doug.rathbone@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Cllr J Brook

Tel: 01768 810058 Jonathan.Brook@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk



Sedgwick Parish Council Meetings

@ 7.30pm **Sedgwick Village Hall September 9th November 11th**

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.

There is a
**BOOK
SHARING
SCHEME**

in the Old
Phone Box.
Please borrow
a book and
swap it with
one to share



**COLD CALLERS
ARE NOT
ALLOWED IN
SEDGWICK**

We are a NO
COLD
CALLING ZONE.
If they call,
contact
Cumbria Police
immediately
on 101 and
report them to
trading.standards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

**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



Our
defibrillator
is at the
Village Hall
LA80JU
What3
words
[///mutual.ambulance.bleaker](http://mutual.ambulance.bleaker)

**SEDGWICK
Community
Emergency
Plan**

Sedgwick
Parish Council
has a
Community
Emergency
Plan to help
minimise the
impact of a
major local
emergency on
residents.

Contact:
B Holmes 61644