



SEDGWICK PARISH

PARISH NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter



Sedgwick
NO COLD CALLING ZONE

COLD CALLERS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SEDGWICK!

If they call on you, contact Cumbria Police on 101 immediately and if possible, report them to Cumbria Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Helpline on 03454 04 05 06

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 – the diversion is long



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

Our website

www.sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk

Our email sedgwick.parish@gmail.com

WELCOME

There is a great deal to report on what has been a busy Spring and early Summer for the Parish Council. Our Parish Clerk, Sylvia Roberts is retiring at the end of this year. Sylvia has been clerk since 2015 and has given outstanding support to the Council. We are busy recruiting her replacement - please read the letter opposite.

Our **Annual Parish Meeting** was well attended. The Parish Council, District and County Councillors and Village Organisations gave their annual reports and Cllr Jonatan Brook, Leader of SLDC and our new unitary authority gave a talk about the reorganisation of Local Government, which will see the biggest change to Cumbria's council structures since 1974. Two new **Unitary Authorities**, "Cumberland" and "Westmorland and Furness" will replace Cumbria County Council and all 6 district councils including SLDC. The elections in May have returned a Shadow Council to oversee the transition. We are now in the Kendal Ward. The switch over or vesting day will occur in just nine months on 1st April 2023 and will eventually see all services carried out by SLDC and CCC restructured and reorganised. The priority for the planning group is to ensure that the new councils are providing safe and legal services so they are prioritising the reorganisation in a structured way that will ensure continuity of service. The transition is highly complex and will take many years to complete; some services such as Social Care will be a service run jointly by both new authorities, some will be led by one but shared and others will be devolved to local level. For more information go to <https://newcouncilsforcumbria.info/FutureforCumbriancouncils.asp>

The 2022 Platinum Jubilee

celebrations were enjoyed by many. In addition to the Beacon on Kelly Hill, there were street parties in Sedgwick and many people decorated their houses and gardens and made Royal Scarecrows. The winners of our Parish Competition were: First prize for best decoration went to Sue Walsh at Stone Lea and the prize for most amusing scarecrow went to Mrs Ward on the corner of Castle View, where Her Majesty was seen enjoying their climbing wall. Many thanks to all who entered; (there is a selection of photographs of the scarecrows on the cover) and also to David Willacy, for judging the competition and presenting prizes.



The **Millennium Field** is busy despite the very variable weather. Our Parish Compost Scheme is up and running – residents are welcome to take garden compost from the grass cuttings area – please take the second well-rotted pile not the fresh cuttings. Thanks to Gerry Stoker for all his hard work to keep the Millennium Field in tip top condition.

Water Quality in the River Kent has recently come under increased scrutiny and concern has been raised about sewage spills and the levels of EColi and Enterococcus bacteria. The "Clean Up River Kent Campaign" was started at Staveley where a Freedom of Information request by local citizens showed that Staveley's current wastewater management system isn't working, and United Utilities are failing to invest to upgrade the infrastructure. An 'emergency' discharge of untreated effluent has occurred 1,000 times in the last 3-year period directly into the River Kent, an average of one per day. Their aim is to make the whole of the River Kent clean for water-based recreation and they are calling for volunteers to join them – contact senstaveley@gmail.com.

PARISH CLERK FOR SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Our Parish Clerk, Sylvia, is retiring at the end of the year and we are looking for a replacement.

The job is for 5 hours a week and is paid on the Local Government pay scale LC 18-23 from £13.21 per hour dependant on experience, plus a working at home allowance of £26 per month. Equipment such as a computer and other resources are provided. It would suit someone looking for job with highly flexible working arrangements, including working from home. There is full training and induction available, so previous experience of working for a Parish is not required, but we are looking for a versatile person with good people skills, good IT skills and enthusiasm about our village and its residents. We have about 10 meetings per year which are held in the evening. The Clerk is the only employee of our Council and is there to make sure that we comply with our legal obligations and that we are run properly. Our Clerk, reports to the Parish Council, manages our day-to-day business and implements our decisions on behalf of its residents. They also manage our finances, maintain our records, and administer our paperwork such as agendas, minutes and notices making sure they are advertised on our noticeboard and website. They get extensive support from Council members and our Local Association. We would like to find someone who will understand the issues facing Parish Councils and the environment in which we operate and will commit to an ethos of public service.

Sylvia says I have had the role for Parish Clerk for seven years but have reached an age where it's time to retire, which I do reluctantly, as working with a great team and knowing what we have accomplished for Sedgwick has been a wonderful experience. If you are interested in this role, I can assure you it's very rewarding, flexible, and you are working with a friendly helpful team. You will need to be a well organised person with excellent IT and communication skills and an interest in Sedgwick. If you wish to discuss post, please contact myself Sylvia Roberts tel 07923641910 or Boyan Holmes tel 015395 61644

Local Thefts There have been a worrying series of burglaries in the area– please make sure your home is secure as possible. The thieves are breaking windows and doors to enter the property and are after money, jewellery and keys to cars and campervans. They seem to be targeting empty properties, watching for when people are away. They disable security lighting and cameras and close curtains so please be extra vigilant if you know neighbours are away. If you see anyone acting suspiciously, please contact the police – 999 for emergencies and crimes in progress and 101 for non-emergencies.

The Canal Wildlife Area is looking at its best as the summer flora and fauna thrive. Unfortunately, the repeated vandalism of the No Cycling signage continues and recently a sign with a large concrete base was forcibly removed and discarded, leaving large hole, and creating a hazard. The towpath in Sedgwick along the Council-owned and privately-owned sections, is a designated public footpath for many reasons but mostly because the path is so narrow and there are so few passing places it would not be safe to permit cycles and horses along it. Replacing the signs so often (3-4 times in 18 months) is a drain on our resources and we would much rather be spending funds on more important things.

Levelling up is a moral, social and economic programme for government at all levels and aims to spread opportunity more equally across the UK. Parish Councils have been asked to contribute their views and while CALC (Cumbrian Association of Local Authorities) is representing, we would like to hear what residents would like prioritised. If you have any opinions that you would like us to take forward, please contact us.

Highways issues continue to keep us busy. The long road closures by the river caused much inconvenience but were unavoidable and due to emergency repairs. We have lobbied Northwest Water to only close the road in future for the minimum period required. Pavement repairs in the middle of the village have been promised in the next financial year. We first raised the condition of the footbridge over the River Kent in March 2021, and the National Trust have at last organised repairs. Unfortunately, this will mean a 5-week closure of the bridge from August 1st, 2022, during the busiest time of the year, but repairs are badly needed. There will inevitably be more pedestrians on local our lanes as they find alternate routes. Please take extra care during this time.



Our campaign for a 20mph speed limit in the village continues, but unfortunately, the data from the speed monitoring exercise carried out in November 2021 and January 2022, indicates that such a restriction is not required. We have challenged this outcome.

*We urge residents to report any repairs on the **Cumbria County Council** HIGHWAYS HOTLINE 0300 3032992 and any accidents or near misses to the police, ensuring there is a crime number allocated. It seems we can only make progress on highways issues if more people complain, as statistics seem to drive crucial safety decisions.*

Our next newsletter will be published at Christmas but if you need any help or support in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details below.

Boyan Holmes Sedgwick Parish Council

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk; Sylvia Roberts

The Nook, Levens LA8 8PN 07923641910

County Councillor; Brenda Gray,
Rose Cottage, Hincaster, Milnthorpe,
LA7 7ND Telephone : 61135

District Councillors:

Cllr Brian Cooper 015395 84991

b.cooper47@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr. Roger Bingham 015395 63694

roger.bingham@cumbria.gov.uk

Councillors:

Chair: Boyan Holmes;
The Oaks, 61644

Andrea Holmes

5, Wakefield Meadow, 61364

Gerry Stoker;

4, Wakefield Meadow, 60939

Bernie Tanham

The Wharf, 60179

Will Burrow

Railway Cottage, 07814575880

COUNCIL MEETINGS 2022

2nd Wednesday of every Month@ 7.30pm

Sedgwick Village Hall

14th September, 12th October, 9th November

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.



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Our Website www.sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk

Our Email sedgwick.parish@gmail.com

