

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th July 2022 at 7:30pm
Venue: Sedgwick Village Hall

Present: Cllr B Holmes (chairperson), Cllr B Tanham (Vice), Cllr G Stoker, Unitary Shadow Cllr D Rathbone, Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk) and no members of the public attended.

- 23/22 Apologies:** It was resolved for apologies with reasons given that were accepted by Sedgwick Parish Council, Cllr A Holmes – accident preventing her to attend but able to attend by a virtual meeting, Cllr W Burrow- work commitments and District Cllr R Bingham is attending a school governors' meeting.
- 24/22 Non-Attendance:** County Cllr B Gray
- 25/22 Minutes:** It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2022 as a true record.
- 26/22 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.
- 27/22 Public Participation:** correspondence received
Firework Displays will be held at the Villa on Sunday 10th & Friday 15th July at 9 30 am. The Council asked the Clerk to thank the Villa for notification of these events which are on display on the website, facebook and will be in the minutes on the noticeboard.
- 28/22 Reports**
Police Report: The Council are receiving Police Updates and a monthly community newsletter. It was noted that vandalism of other signs has been reported to the police
District Cllrs: Cllr R Bingham – emailed report to follow.
County Cllr B Gray: Shadow Unitary Cllr D Rathbone reported the county budget had been completed and business was on going as usual. The Shadow Unitary New Council has appointed three Officers who have progressed the blueprints of services required to the scrutiny committee. The priority is on safe & legal. This is a transformation journey for Cumbria services will be run by a single Council, dual Council or remain the same. There is a strong mandate for keeping services local to areas. Cllr Rathbone reported: come April 2023 the changes will happen, and residents will receive the service that they receive now but will come to understand the differences. At present there are so many unknowns so if SPC have any questions to refer them to Cllr Rathbone or Cllr Brook.
Village Hall Report – none received
- 29/22 Vacancy of a Parish Councillor:** The Parish Council have advertised the Casual Vacancy. A resident has applied for the position but is presently on holiday so the Council will discuss the application at the next meeting in September and the clerk was instructed to provide the necessary paperwork.
- 30/22 Planning Application submitted/received:** None received
- 31/22 Highways/Footpaths**
- a) Highways Report – It was noted that Sedgwick had road closures last month whilst the drain by the River Kent had been repaired. SPC complained to Untied Utilities who have since agreed where possible any work carried out in the area it will be undertaken in 1 day rather than the prolonged periods over the last few months. The most recent closure has been short. Cllr A Holmes has received notification that the pavement repair in the village first reported 2019 will be added to next year's work sheet.
 - b) New Highways Reporting System: Cllr A Holmes reported a new system was now used to feed back the highways repairs. Cllr D Rathbone said that Higher tier Councillors would be able to access this new system, but it would not be available at Parish Level. He agreed to investigate this matter and report back. The benefits of Parish Access was discussed.
 - c) On 12th May, Cllr B Holmes contacted Peter Hoskings who had confirmed that the bus route from Brettagh Holt round about to Sedgwick was priority 3 which is only gritted after all priority 1 and 2 routes are done (which council noted is effectively never) and that the Back Lane Bus route was not prioritised at all. She had requested how to appeal against this anomaly as Cooper Hill is so treacherous when icy. No response has been received. Cllr Rathbone will support this challenge along with Cllr J Brook. As

SPC has had no reply back Cllr D Rathbone agreed to investigate who the Parish could direct this issue to, so it could be resolved. He also requested the grit bins to be checked if they needed to be refilled, Cllr A Holmes would be asked to do this.

- d) Correspondence with Helen Karaaslan – The outcome of the speed monitoring exercise was challenged On the grounds of the inconsistencies in the interpretation of data, increased traffic volume, lack of pavements and lighting, added hazard due to agricultural vehicles and the volume of extra traffic due to tourists. Cllr D Rathbone & J Brook who fully support SPC. To date the Council has no reply. Cllr Rathbone will chase this up.
- e) Cllr R Bingham has been contacted regarding the lack of action over the replacement of the Back Lane sign – he reported that he has reported it several times and will now raise it as high as possible.
- f) Bus Shelter Installation. The County infrastructure officer has confirmed a 2m square heritage structure by Glasdon was suitable. It was agreed to have a left front side opening and the structure will be black with clear Perspex panels Cllr B Tanham will now relay this information to Linda Hardy, who will put the bid forward for funding to be approved, if the funding is successful and the transaction is via the council this will take the Parish Council in a higher financial tier, and it will be costly. The Clerk was instructed to ask CALC if a project that receives funding and spent in that financial year could claim an exemption otherwise SPC would try to seek help in this matter from SLDC.
- g) **Correspondence received from the National Trust: outlining repairs to footbridge over the River Kent – Closure from 1st August for a month**

32/22 Playground /Millennium Field

- a) Monthly Safety Report- by Cllr Stoker reported that he carried out the monthly inspection on Monday 4th July and there are no safety concerns. He raised the fact that there are lots of rabbits on the field at present and he regularly fills in the holes that they dig.
- b) Equipment replacement – The Clerk has emailed the Councillors an update of the Slide information, it was agreed for a third quote to be obtained, to meet SPC Standing Order requirements so that decision could be made at the September meeting about which slide to opt for. Cllr Stoker would liaise with Cllr W Burrow to get the third quote and existing quotes are being updated and playdale will be asked to quote with grass surfacing so their quote is comparable with others. It was agreed SPC would meet at 6 45 am on 14th September in the Millennium Field to discuss a suitable site and which was the preferred equipment. To be agreed at the September's meeting and an update of funding available.
- c) Sedgwick Parish Council Safeguarding Officer -It was agreed to defer to the September's meeting
- d) The annual ROSPA inspection is scheduled in August 2022

33/22 Canal Wildlife Area Report

- a) Monthly report by Cllr B Homes-This is available on the website and noticeboard, Councillors had carried out their annual inspection of the canal earlier in the evening. It was decided where to position the Queens Canopy sign and there will be an opening on 14th September at 7 am with the WI reps. A decision about the autumn inspection by treescape was deferred to September If an Autumn strim was required it would be organised at the September's meeting. The Clerk would contact James Park to organise winter goat willow clearance/ died trees for October. Notice Boards – Cllr B Holmes will replace the path information in the autumn.
- b) At present there is a high level of usage along the Wildlife Area footpath including cyclists who are using the path even though it is not permitted.
- c) All but one of the No Cycling signs have been torn down and stolen – this is the third time in two months. The most recent was embedded in a large block of concrete but was forcibly removed and left causing a hazard. It was too heavy to remove and left a hole. The clerk has notified the police who have recommended the installation of CCTV. Cllr B Tanham agreed to discuss whether anti-vandal signs are available when she meets PCSO Newman. The Council re-affirmed its decision to maintain the status of the path as a footpath and not a cyclepath on grounds of safety; the path is little more than a foot wide in places, without adequate space to pass. The resulting conflict of use would detract from the popularity of the path and have serious legal implications for the Council in the future. It was agreed to erect a new sign and the feasibility of installing CCTV cameras will be investigated.
- d) Update on PCSO Newman inspection of the Canal Path, Cllr B Tanham has emailed her on several occasions and has no response so will update SPC at the next meeting.
- e) Cllr B Holmes has received correspondence that the Council was unsuccessful in securing funding for the environmental project they were asked to bid for by SLDC, on the grounds that there no higher rights to access included in the scheme. The bid took considerable time and effort. The scheme will remain on a reserve list. Cllr D Rathbone agreed to find out why this bid did not apply to footpaths; the Clerk would email him the relevant correspondence.

- f) Cllr B Tanham reported The Canal and River Trust intend to remove the vegetation along/around the aqueduct in Autumn 2022 and will update the PC and said any volunteers would be welcome. The Trust have confirmed they will not be installing a handrail to the steps. It was agreed for Cllr B Tanham to contact Historic England, who show the steps as listed to establish the ownership of the steps to try to progress the installation of a handrail. CRT hope to install the artwork installations at the end of the year but is still awaiting planning approval. Ash Trees on the CRT owned land have ASD, Cllr B Tanham agreed to inform the Canal & River Trust.
The next LCRP meeting is 19th July ; there have been no minutes of partnership meetings published since November 2020, so it unlikely we will find out what is happening. It was agreed for Cllr B Tanham to raise this issue with them and try and get an update about the meeting with Adam Bunce last year.

34/22 Website/social media: Cllr B Holmes reported that the website has been updated and was well used. The Accounts 2021/22 have been added with the up-to-date information about The Villa Fireworks events on 10th & 15th July at 9 30am and the footbridge closure.

35/22 Finance

- a) The bank statements were received - Bank Balance as of 30th May Current £16,570.30 & Reserve £10,041.01
- b) Payments Approved: S Roberts /salary & expenses £1643.27, Shell Energy Broadband May/June £16.98, B Holmes/ Jubilee prizes& ink cartridge £.24.95 and Continental Landscapes Ltd -Grass cutting £570.00
- c) Accounts reported on 11th May & 6th July which cleared the bank account on 30th May was approved by Cllr G Stoker

36/22 The Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons- 2nd June 2022:

The events were well attended and enjoyed by all. David Willacy was thanked for judging and awarding the scarecrow competition for the best and most humorous display. The Parish Council wish to thank all who participated in the Jubilee event.

37/22 Summer Newsletter, items agreed: advert for Parish Clerk position, Explanation of The Unitarian Authority with what that meant to residents, Closure of the footbridge over the River Kent, Highways update, Jubilee Celebrations, continual vandalism along the Canal Path of the No Cycling signs. River Kent water quality, Cllr B Holmes will collate the information for the newsletter and then email the proof for agreement so it can be published shortly.

38/22 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Highways/Millennium Field/Website/Canal Report
- Local Government Reorganisation
- Appoint Sedgwick Parish Council Vacancy
- Millennium Field/ funding and replacement equipment
- Install Jubilee Plaque at the September Parish Council Meeting

39/22 Correspondence: All the documents have been circulated to the Councillors

40/22 Open Action

- Update on Cleaning up the River Kent Campaign -Summer programme; received and noted
- CALC 25-year Environmental Plan Newsletter; received and noted
- CALC Local Government Reorganisation Newsletter -10th 17th 23rd June: received and noted
- Tim Farron MP – Levelling Up Bill: received and noted
- NALC briefing on levelling up: received and noted
- SLDC – UK Shared Prosperity Fund; Received and noted
- ICO Newsletter – does the council still wish to receive newsletters!

41/22 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **14th September 2022 at 7 30 pm** at Sedgwick Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9: 40 pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 14th September 2022