

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th November 2021 at 7:30pm Venue: Sedgwick Village Hall

Present: Cllr B Holmes (Chairperson), Cllr G Stoker, Cllr B Tanham, Cllr A Holmes, Cllr D Rathbone and Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk). Cllr Burrows attended by remote link. No members of the public attended.

- 84/21 Apologies:** It was resolved for apologies with reasons given that were accepted by Sedgwick Parish Council, to be noted from District Cllr R Bingham - work commitment.
- 85/21 Non-Attendance:** County Cllr B Gray
- 86/21 Hybrid Meeting Policy** – the policy was approved by all Councillors present and it was agreed that Cllr Burrow could join the meeting by a virtual link but he could not participate in any voting or discussion. It is hoped that legislation will be introduced soon to allow the introduction of hybrid meetings where remote attendees can participate.
- 87/21 Minutes:** It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2021 as a true record.
- 88/21 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests:** Cllr B Tanham declared that as she is the owner of a part of the canal towpath, she is able to take part in the discussion but cannot vote on any decisions.
- 89/21 Public Participation:** None received
- 90/21 Reports**
Police Report: The Council are receiving Covid Police Updates and a monthly community newsletter.
District Cllrs: Cllr R Bingham Local Government Reorganisation which will be implemented on Vesting Day 1st April 2023. Elections for the new authorities which will replace the County and six District Councils are set to take place in May 2022. Until April 2023, existing councillors will remain in place until 2023 while the newly elected councillors will become part of a Shadow Authority until that date. The proposed names of the TWO new authorities will be Westmorland and Furness for our area consisting of South Lakeland, Barrow and Eden and Cumberland formed out of Carlisle, Allerdale and Copeland. Thankfully these names dispose of the working and illogical and geographic names of West Cumbria for the northern part and East Cumbria for the southern part which included our village and, incredibly, Barrow which is almost as far west as Cumbria goes. The judicial review called by the Cumbria Councils Leader who wants a single authority for all of Cumbria is still going ahead. COVID remains a serious concern. For the week-ending 29 October there had been a decrease in infections by 15% from 2,707 cases to 2,307. Cases for school age children continue downward and the 40-59 age group accounted for the greatest number of new cases. Copeland, Allerdale and Barrow have the highest number of infections. But, compared to previous weeks hospital Covid admissions are down from 60-52. Vaccination coverage continues to grow, with 90% of people aged 18 plus now double vaccinated, 6% above the national average. Social care problems remain a worry as the number of staff vacancies has been estimated to be 700. To boost necessary assistance the County Council has directed a grant of £7m to support social care through the winter. I have been informed that County Highways have adequate quantities of winter grit and salt.
County Cllr B Gray: Cllr D Rathbone reported on the Local Government Changes; the structure of the Council had been announced; 65 members for Westmorland & Furness and 46 members Cumberland. The boundary for this area would be the same with 2 members serving the area which will be known as Kendal South, a reduction from 4 at present, increasing the workload of those elected.
Village Hall Report : none received
- 91/21 Vacancy of a Parish Councillor:** The Election office has received notification of the vacancy and has written to say the 14-day notice period ended on 9th November 2021. The Parish Council will now advertise to co-opt a Parish Councillor. Posters will be put in the Cabinet and on the website with deadline for submission being 7th January 2022.
- 92/21 Training Available for Sedgwick Parish Council;** Neighbourhood Planning Date 22nd November at 7pm for Cllr B Holmes. Further training was received from CALC for Councillors to consider.
- 93/21 Update of Sedgwick Parish Councils Policies:** Councillors all approved the update of the following policies: Code of Conduct, Complaints, Freedom of Information, Data Protection (including document

94/21 Planning Application submitted:

SL/2021/1037 & SL/2021/1036 - Signs along the Canal, two being by the aqueduct in Sedgwick.

The application was discussed and the following response agreed

The access to the installations at Sedgwick is via the aqueduct steps shown on the planning document. These steps have, for a long time, been a matter of concern to the Council and residents of Sedgwick, as they are, steep, skewed, difficult to navigate, uneven and for most of the year dangerous; we believe the steps represent a slip hazard when wet, icy or covered in leaves. It is unclear who own the steps, but they are an integral part of the aqueduct structure which is a listed monument. We believe that access safety and maintenance should be considered as part of the planning application with a recommendation to install a handrail and agree to a maintenance programme.

In addition, we have been unable to find details of the dimensions of the information board that will also be installed on the Aqueduct. How can the suitability of this installation be considered without detailed information about its size and appearance? Please can these be provided so we can comment.

We note that CCC Historic Environment Officer has commented that the installation in the middle of the aqueduct should be referred to Historic England as it lies within the legally protected scheduled monument. Does the second installation also fall into that category?

95/21 Sedgwick Parish Council COVID 19 – Cllr B Holmes reported that the website had been updated with winter advice. **Sedgwick Neighbours and Friends Resilience Group.** This group remains in operation and will continue to support residents.

Correspondence: SLDC News Release -Transformation work supports covid response 26thOctober, SLDC News Release- cases remain high as hospital admissions rise 21st October, News Release – Covid infections fell during half term up to 4th November

96/21 Highways/Footpaths

- To receive the monthly highways report - Cllr A Holmes reported that changes into CCC reporting system meant that it was no longer possible for The Clerk to update the Highways Report. The Council have asked Helen Karaaslan if she could look into this issue. Cllr Rathbone agreed to find out the proposed start date for Castle View pavements ref W4150
The Grit bin by the River Kent has been changed and is full ref EI4196
The no footpath signs Cllr B Holmes agreed to contact Helen and ask for an update.
- Correspondence with Helen Karaaslan - Speed Cameras have been installed and data will be reviewed in December. Aqueduct sign and village signs- again further delay on the site of the aqueduct signage, Helen will liaise with the landowner.
- Back Lane sign – SLDC update Cllr R Bingham has requested a replacement.
- Bus Shelter funding- it was agreed that Cllr B Holmes will contact Linda Hardy (Bus infrastructure Officer) to request a site visit to discuss the feasibility of building a bus shelter near the aqueduct and whether it would be eligible for grant support.
- “Ask Kevin” update - Cllr D Rathbone reported a new inbox would be available shortly.
- Cllr Stoker reported a water leak near the Aqueduct is in need of a repair which will necessitate a road closure. If a date is reported it will be shared to residents by facebook and poster on the noticeboard.

97/21 Canal Wildlife Area Report

- Monthly report with the monitor of usage- see website and cabinet
- The Canal Management Plan has been updated and accepted by all Councillors
- WI Offer to support Tree Planting; the WI have kindly applied to the Woodland Trust for a pack of 104 trees. This will allow us to restock the 72 trees felled last season. They will be planted by our woodland contractor- quote to yet to be received. Clerk to contact WI to ask for estimated delivery time as trees need to be planted before the end of March. If the application does not succeed, it was agreed to purchase the packs and protective sleeves at a cost of £200 during February to allow for planting.
- Repair of the towpath: Cllr Holmes to meet contractor to provide a quote for this and planting as above.
- The old aqueduct information sign will be repaired and installed on the footpath sign board with the old CRT logo covered up as no new logo has been supplied.
- LCRP issues.
 - i Towpath Trail Evening Crooklands Hotel 14th October – attended by Cllrs B Holmes & B Tanham.
 - ii Angela Parkinson Green has informed us that the repair to the towpath over the aqueduct and plans for longer term maintenance of the aqueduct has still not been discussed by CRT. Cllr Tanham will contact CRT for an update and report the recent bridge strike.
 - iii Towpath Trail Evaluation Interview – Cllr B Holmes conveyed our disappointment that so little had been achieved at Sedgwick with projects such as wild flower planting, installation of a handrail at the steps, repairs to the towpath, liaison with youth groups etc having been shelved.

iiii Steering Group Wind-uo Meeting Wednesday 27th October 10 11-30 Teams meeting, Cllrs B Tanham and B Holmes attended and reported that the installation of the interpretations was delayed.

98/21 Playground /Millennium Field

- a) Monthly Safety Report- by Cllr Stoker reported he had checked the field and all was satisfactory
- b) Cllr Stoker suggested that a wishing well be installed in the Millennium field to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The clerk will acquire a quote for construction and Cllr Stoker will investigate whether planning permission would be needed.

99/21 Website/social media: Cllr Holmes reported that the website has been updated and was well used and that regular posts are being added to the facebook page.

100/21 Finance

- a) The bank statements received Bank Balance as of 29th October £10,965.40
- b) Payments Approved: Shell Energy Broadband -November £16.98, S Roberts Salary/expenses £1578.12 and Continental Landscapes Grass Cutting £408.00
- c) Accounts reported on 10th November & 13th October which cleared the bank account was approved by Cllr A Holmes
- d) Consideration of Precept 2022-23, correspondence received from SLDC outlining the procedure and deadline date. Although costings for next financial year are extremely uncertain and we are expecting additional costs for the Jubilee, ash die back and to cover inflation it was agreed to increase the precept by 3% rather than a higher rate. This will be ratified in January when there may be more certainty.

101/21 Winter Newsletter – Councillors agreed and accepted the draft edition, The clerk instructed to arrange the printing requirements and distribution planned for December 2021

102/21 The Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons- 2nd June 2022: Cllr B Holmes reported that Stainton Parish Council welcome working with Sedgwick to plan the commemoration and that the newsletter would include a request for volunteers to help with the event.

103/21 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Update on Covid-19
- Highways/Millennium Field/Website/Canal Report
- Local Government reorganisation
- Precept

104/21 Correspondence: All the documents have been circulated to the Councillors.

- **Firework events at The Villa:** received and displayed on the website
- **Flood Advisory Service Update 26th October 2021:** Cllrs found this to be a great service and pleased to receive regular updates during the floods.
- **CALC Zero in Cumbria event 16th November 2021;** received and noted
- **Vandalism to Crosscrake Church wall:** received and actioned as requested
- **Focus on funding update 22nd October 2021;** received and noted
- **Local Government Reorganisation 20th October 2021;** received and noted
- **Correspondence opposing the two unitary authorities– east/west;** received and noted
- **Local Government Reorganisation- judicial review update 19/10/21;** received and noted
- **Clean up- River Kent Campaign;** received and response agreed to be emailed by the Parish Clerk
- **Orsted Community Benefits Fund- Autumn Newsletter:** received and saved for the future
- **Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure Plan with Public Consultation:** received and noted
- **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Newsletter 5th November;** received and noted
- **Brownfield Land Register 2021- Request for site suggestions;** received and noted - there are no known sites in the Parish

105/21 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7 30 pm**
This would take place in Sedgwick Village Hall unless there is a change in the Government's Covid Restrictions.

The meeting closed at 9: 25 pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 12th January 2022