

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7:30pm at The Village Hall.

Present: Cllr B Holmes (Chair), Cllr B Tanham (Vice Chair), Cllr G Stoker, Cllr V Macconnell, Cllr J Hall, Mrs Rachel Harrison (Parish Clerk), Westmorland & Furness Cllr D Rathbone.

110/23 Apologies: It was resolved for apologies, with reasons given, to be accepted by Sedgwick Parish Council: Cllr W Burrow.

The Parish Council has received a letter of resignation from Cllr Burrow, which they sadly accepted. Gratitude was expressed for his help as a Parish Councillor and the Council are pleased to hear he will continue to help the Parish in any way he can. The Clerk will notify the elections team.

111/23 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January & 14th February as a true record.

112/23 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.

113/23 Public Participation:

None

114/23 Reports

a) Police Report: The Council are receiving a monthly community newsletter.

b) Westmorland & Furness Council Cllr D Rathbone reported about the following items. Cllr Rathbone & Cllr Brook will both attend the APM next week and the Parish Council asked if their report will include the change in the constituency boundaries.

The budget has been passed at full council and there will be a 4.99% increase in line with inflation of 5.6%.

All being well, W&F Council will receive £129 million of funds earmarked for transport, from the distribution of HS2 funding, although there is no further information on when this will be received. The Parish Council reported they are disappointed that repairs that have been reported to Highways on multiple occasions have not been carried out and have been removed from the highways map. Cllr Rupert Audland the Chair of the locality's board highways group will be contacted again for help with this.

c) Village Hall Report –The Council are hoping a report will be provided by the Village Hall Committee at next week's APM.

115/23 Planning Application submitted/received:

a) 2023/1103/FPA at Firbank, approved with conditions.

b) 2023/1172/FPA at Raines Hall. The Parish Council have no objections to this application.

c) Outbuilding at High Riverside was discussed after enquires from members of the parish and it was decided that Cllr Tanham will make enquires with the owners to see if it is a permitted development.

116/23 Highways/Footpaths

a) There are no updates on repairs. Cllr Tanham will assess all roads at the next available opportunity however it was noted again that the potholes, especially by the river, are bad and the SLOW signs need repainting. Some road signs are fading and speeding is still an issue.

b) Cllr Rathbone will make enquires to find out if there is an expected date for approval of the 20mph zone.

117/23 Playground /Millennium Field

a) Cllr G Stoker gave his monthly Safety Report and thanked everyone including the 3 residents who attended the work party. Jobs carried out included spreading 8 tons of bark at the base of the big slide and repairing the surround, painting of the gym equipment, re turfing under the small slide, washing the bus shelter and signs on the Millennium Field.

b) A list of tasks was drawn up to be given to the Cubs.

c) An advertisement for a handyperson is now on the website and the closing date for applications is 19.03.2024. A list of jobs for the appointed person has been drawn up including the upkeep of the fitness trail, the installation of the new swing seats when they arrive and fixing the basketball post.

d) The Orchard Grant Scheme was discussed, and Cllr Rathbone will make enquires on the closing date for applications. Cllr Holmes will make enquiries about acquiring trees for the perimeter of the field.

118/23 Fundraising & Events

- a) An update was provided by Cllr V Macconnell who is hoping to organise a concert later in the year. Volunteers for help would be greatly appreciated and locations including the Kirkland Parish Hall were discussed as the venue is larger than the Village Hall where attendance would be limited to 30 and reasonably priced.
- b) After the resignation of Cllr Burrow, it was noted that Cllr Macconnell will not take over any grant applications that Cllr Burrow may have been involved with. The Chair will contact Cllr Burrow regarding grant application information.

119/23 Safeguarding

- a) Cllr Macconnell confirmed that whilst any work is being undertaken on the Millenium Field the area should be closed off to the public for Safeguarding reasons.

120/23 Training

- a) All Councillors and the Clerk were asked to attend the Elections Teams meeting to be held this week.

121/23 Canal

- a) Monthly report by Cllr B Holmes can be seen in the noticeboard and on the website, it was noted how full the canal is following an unprecedentedly wet winter.
- b) The use of the Canal Path is reported to be very busy.
- c) CRT installation of the artwork- it was noted that the work has still not been completed and the CRT will be contacted for an immediate update on when the work will be completed and signed off. The muddiest section of the path at the aqueduct will also be mentioned.
- d) A member of the public has raised concerns about the path being muddy. It was suggested that the debris on the path is due to autumn leaf fall and may dry out when the weather improves. All Cllrs were asked to inspect the path before the next meeting in May.

122/23 Website/social media

- a) Cllr B Holmes reported that the website is up to date and Facebook posts are being made. An invitation to the APM will be added to the website and Facebook page.
- b) The Clerk has been informed of the Data Protection Renewal for this year.

123/23 Policies & Procedures

- a) The Updated Standing Orders were proposed by Cllr Macconnell, seconded by Cllr Tanham and unanimously agreed by all. These will be updated on the website by the Clerk.

124/23 Finance

- a) The bank balances were noted as of 29/02/2024 Current = £7466.12 & 31/01/2024 Reserve = £15273.81
- b) The following payments were approved:
Parish Clerks Salary Jan/Feb £261.69/£254.03 = **£515.72**,
Parish Clerks Expenses Jan/Feb **£66.49**
HMRC PAYE Jan/Feb £28.80/£11.20 = **£40.00**
Playdale £245.47
Printing Plus £132.67
Cllr Stoker Lakeland Pipes & B&Q £77.88/£23.91 = **£101.79**
Data Protection Fee £35.00
Max Trak Ltd (Wood Chippings) = **£480.00**
- c) The accounts agreed on 10th January 2024 were signed as cleared the bank account.
- d) The 2024/2025 budget was discussed.

125/23 Newsletter

- a) Feedback from the Spring Newsletter was good.
- b) The next newsletter will go out in August and is to include details of the Vulnerable Household database.

126/23 Correspondence: All the documents have been received and circulated to the Councillors.

127/23 Annual Parish Meeting

- a) Apologies were received from Cllr Tanham. Councillors who wish to speak and introduce themselves and the roles and responsibilities they undertake will be welcomed. The Councillor vacancy will be announced, and the parish will be asked for more help from volunteers. All roles for the evening were distributed.
- b) The Clerk confirmed who had already responded to their invites and/or provided reports.

128/23 Open Action

- a) The Vulnerable Household list request was discussed and passed on to Cllr Macconnell to take the lead on this. Information will be added to the Summer Newsletter.
- a) Councillors were asked to think about any responsibilities they wish to take on or swap and this will be discussed in May.
- b) It was reported that Parish Council Elections will be on Thursday 2nd May 2024. All Councillors have been sent a nomination pack and have been asked to complete and return the relevant paperwork and attend the elections meeting if they are available. The Chair will print off the nomination forms for collection and the clerk will collect any completed forms at the APM and take them to the Town Hall.

129/23 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be the APM on **Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.30pm** followed by the AGM on **Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7.30pm**.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 8th May 2024

DRAFT