

# SEDGWICK Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2017 at 7:30pm  
Venue: Sedgwick Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr B Holmes (Chairperson), Cllr R Gill, Cllr D Willacy, Cllr J Oscroft, Cllr G Stoker, Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk), District Cllr Eccles, County Cllr Gray and Mrs Shaw (Village Hall Rep)

## 75/17 Apologies

It was resolved for apologies, with reasons given, to be noted from PCSO Boaks and Mrs A Allwright

## 76/17 Declaration of Interest/ Dispensation Requests: None Raised

## 77/17 Minutes

It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2017 as a true record.

## 78/17 Casual Vacancy by Co-option of a New Councillor:

Mr Robert Smith has expressed interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. It was proposed by Cllr Willacy to accept his offer - seconded by Cllr Stoker; all Councillors agreed. Mr Smith will be invited to take up the post at the next meeting.

## 79/17 Public Participation: none

## 80/17 Reports

**Police Report:** PC Boak has received a complaint regarding the reporting of an incident in June 2017 (see item 83/17g) 46 incidents have been reported in the wider area with 1 relating to the parish and there has been a report of two vehicles possibly being abandoned. The report will be displayed on the Noticeboard and website.

**District Cllr S Eccles** – Cllr Eccles reported she had completed the paperwork for the £300 funding and it would be released shortly. At present SLDC is working on the budget.

**County Cllr B Gray** - Cllr Gray provided a contact name of Stephen Jefferies of CCC to contact regarding potholes.

**Village Hall Report** - Mrs Shaw reported that the Village Hall AGM had taken place and that minutes would follow. She had been nominated as the Parish Council Representative and would report to future monthly meetings as required. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 2018. Broadband Update: The clerk has experienced many problems in setting up the new contract with First Utility including ascertaining the exact address of the Village Hall but is now expected that the switch over will occur in the next fortnight.

**81/17 Website:** A report by the chairman regarding the website was received. A positive meeting had taken place between the outgoing website representative (John Goodland), Anne Allwright, the clerk and chair and AA is willing to continue to work on the community website. It was agreed that if funding could be secured, a more extensive and up to date website would be commissioned to enable us to comply with new transparency and data protection requirements. The Clerk reported the application for Transparency Funding had been submitted and that if successful, AA, BH and SR would meet the new site provider to progress the matter. Councillors will be updated as necessary.

**82/17 Planning:** Application CU/2017/0011- Raines Hall Farm, was noted (change of use from agriculture to play area) Council had no objection to this application. It was noted that the usual direct notification from SLDC had been not been received due to temporary technical difficulties at the Planning Department.

## 83/17 Highways/Footpaths

**Highways Report;** Cllr Stoker updated Council on the progress of all faults reported (see grid). Despite further repairs to Hill Close Pavements having been deferred to April 2018, work had re-started earlier in the week. Some repairs have been made at the School Junction, but deep potholes remain. The temporary repairs made to the potholes at Carex Farm and Wakefield Meadow, using excess pavement tarmac, are already wearing and breaking up. The verge collapse at the riverside has been patched, albeit minimally. Cllr Stoker suggested that given the number of verge and potholes that required attention, the best way forward was to request extensive resurfacing especially Carex Farm to Crosscrake Church. County Cllr Gray recommended that any issues regarding Highways should be also addressed to Victoria Upton. Cllr Holmes agreed to write to request resurfacing to Mr Jefferies and Ms Upton.

| LOCATION                    | Postcode | Fault                           | Reference  | Logged*    | Status 6/11/17   |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Riverside from Force Bridge | LA80JU   | Erosion of edge near bend       | W171439589 | 13/06/2017 | resolved         |
| Castle View Junction        | LA80JL   | Renew Road Markings             | W171439590 | 13/06/2017 | closed           |
| Wakefield Meadow Junction   | LA80JD   | Renew Road Markings             | W171439600 | 13/06/2017 | Fault assessment |
| Carex Farm to Shyreakes     | LA80JJ   | Potholes/edges/resurface 2miles | W171439594 | 13/06/2017 | Fault assessment |
| Castle View Pavements       | LA80JL   | Repair all pavements            | W171439597 | 13/06/2017 | Fault assessment |
| Hill Close Pavements        | LA80JR   | Repair all pavements            | W171439592 | 13/06/2017 | completion 4/18  |
| Crosscrake Rd T J by school | LA80JJ   | Various pot holes               | W171447978 | 21/09/2017 | Fault assessment |

- The formal complaint made by Council to Cumbria Highways on October 4<sup>th</sup> has still not been dealt with. County Cllr Gray recommended we contact the Chief Executive at Cumbria County Council; Chairperson agreed to do this.
- Caution Children Playing Signage: Cllr Willacy agreed to install the sign on Hill Close
- Sedgwick Aqueduct pathway improvements start date - still awaiting a response from Highways.
- Cllr Willacy had inspected the damaged seat to the south of the canal path and had made it safe on behalf of the landowner.
- Correspondence from Mr G Davies about the complaint he has made to Cumbria Police regarding their reporting systems was discussed. Mr Davis was the victim of a hit and run collision in June 2017 whilst walking through the village. Despite reporting this incident, it has not appeared in any subsequent Monthly Parish Police Reports and therefore has become "hidden in the system". Council agreed that reported collisions with pedestrians and near misses should be logged in the public domain and shared with the Parish Council in accordance with transparency via the monthly report. This would enable us to monitor pedestrian and vehicle safety and use the statistics to support the case for improvements as required. Mr Davies' request for Council to create its own independent reporting system was considered but it felt that the established and accountable 101 reporting system should be made fit for purpose and that the way forward was to campaign for this and challenge the way in which is currently being communicated. The Chair agreed to write to PC Boaks and Cumbria Police to express concern about the way in which Mr Davies' accident had not been communicated with us and to request that under freedom of information, all 101 incidents to be reported to us, and to update Mr Davies.

#### 84/17 Playground /Millennium Field

Cllr Stoker has carried out the monthly safety check on the Millennium Field and had nothing to report. Cllr Stoker had examined the Annual Safety Inspection Report. All findings fall in the low or very low risk category and there is no urgent action required. He has inspected all areas highlighted as requiring monitoring and noted that several minor repairs were made by Playdale at the time of the report. Cllr Stoker has since removed overhanging hedges and branches as recommended. Cllr Willacy agreed to replace the rotten stepping post. It was agreed to carry out a deep clean of the large slide to remove unsightly algae and to monitor its condition in Spring. Cllr Stoker will keep the 2017 report and Clerk will provide him with a copy of the 2016 report. It was agreed to use ROSPA to carry out the survey in 2018.

#### 85/17 Canal

Cllr Stoker had carried out the monthly inspection of the Canal Pathways and reported the paths were fit for purpose.

Cllr Willacy reported the Mr Simpson has installed a new boundary fence in the correct place, following the correction of an anomaly at the Land Registry. Cllr Holmes reported that the request to register the Council owned section of the canal has been made.

The Draft Strategy Document outlining the LCRP project to create a major tourist attraction in the form of a continuous foot and cycle path from Lancaster to Kendal was discussed. It represents a significant change to the status quo; previously, we have received reassurances that the section of towpath we own would not be part of the cycle path, but the new document specifies the Kendal-Sedgwick section as a first phase priority, followed by Sedgwick southwards. Sedgwick is also identified as a potential development area. Council note that neither notice of the publishing of the strategy nor this change in strategy have been communicated to us, fostering further lack of trust

and confidence in the project. It was agreed that the strategy does not show sensitivity to the fact that the canal bisects the village, placing Sedgwick in a unique and vulnerable position. Whilst Council acknowledge that the scheme may involve benefits to some, resident feedback to date (from the roadshow, focus group and council correspondence to LCRP) which is unanimously negative, has not been recorded or taken into consideration. Resident concerns about extra traffic, parking congestion and difficulties in the shared use of paths and roads with cyclists are not adequately addressed. Furthermore, there is no mention of how permissive rights over private land will be acquired or how narrow sections of towpath will be widened. It was also noted that key parts of the appendices are missing. It was agreed that Cllr Holmes would respond to Helen Moriaty, LCRP Project Manager and Nick Smith, Canal River Trust and the Strategy Authors to raise these concerns. In addition, Chairperson will contact Parish Councils in other regions where similar projects have been carried out. It was also agreed to contact Stainton Parish Council and the other landowners in Sedgwick Village to ensure they are aware of the proposed project across their land and to include the above information in the Christmas Newsletter. Cllr Stoker reported that the frame of the viewpoint collage located along the canal has been repaired at no cost to the Parish by Mr Sealby, a village resident. Cllr Holmes agreed to write to thank him.

#### **86 /17 Community Emergency Plan**

Correspondence from SLDC Community Resilience across South Lakeland has been added to our resource pack. It was agreed that the Emergency Plan will be renewed every January & July.

#### **87/17 Clerk Appraisal**

Chairperson thanked the Clerk for her continued work and commitment and acknowledged how the role had changed in the past twelve months. Data Protection and Transparency responsibilities will further increase the role in 2018. Consideration would be given to increase contracted hours by 1 hour per week from April 2018 and funding will be made available for website and Data Protection training, to ensure that these increased commitments can be met. The Clerk agreed to work on a review and update of the Clerk's contract and help the Chairman develop a job description.

#### **88/17 Finance**

- a) Current Account Bank Balance as of 30 October 2017 is £5,271.63
- b) A donation of £250 was received from Mr and Mrs Fishman, residents of the Village, who wished this money to be spent on a village project. The Council gratefully received this cheque and wished to thank them for their generosity. It was agreed that the money would be earmarked for a future special project. Cllr Holmes will write a letter of thanks.
- c) Payments received: - SLDC Funding Cllr Eccles BACS payment £300
- d) Payments: Clerk salary & expenses £1,323.14 & Continental Landscapes Ltd £1,416.00
- e) The Accounts Report from transactions agreed at the meeting Dated 11 October 2017 would be signed next meeting as cheques have not yet cleared the bank.
- f) The Half Yearly Budget Report was discussed; spending is as planned except the additional expense of the new slide. A "maintaining" draft budget for 2018-9 was circulated for discussion, amendment (with further projects) and approval in January to enable the precept to be set.
- g) Correspondence was received from SLDC regarding the Parish Council Precept for 2018/19, which will be finalised at the next meeting in January 2018.

#### **89/17 Newsletter Winter:**

Items were agreed and the completion of a newsletter was anticipated for the end of November 2017

#### **90/17 Correspondence:**

1. Wicksteed playground Information was received and noted
2. Invitation to CALC AGM Saturday 10 30 am 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017, information received and noted
3. NALC information for Data Protection Act and available training, (already applied for)
4. Cyber Proficiency Training Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November at Kendal Town Hall, was received and noted
5. Inspiring Rural Communities Together conference 6/12, venue London was received and noted
6. Correspondence – Zurich Local Community Advisory Service (LCAS) was received and noted.
7. Interim Polling District and Polling Place review consultation -closing date 15/11/17
8. Police and Crime Commissioner – Consultation on Council Tax Precept ends 8/12/17

#### **90/17 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Highways Communications incl response to complaints
- Canal Path Inspection/Canal Land Registry update/ Update on LCRP Draft Plan
- PCSO Report/Village Hall Report
- Draft Budget 2018/19
- Precept Setting
- Funding & Website

**91/17 Date of next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm and will be held in the Sedgwick Village Hall. The date of the Annual Parish Meeting was rescheduled for 21/3/18 to enable organisation at the monthly meeting on 14/3/18

*The meeting closed at 9 35 pm*

Signed: ..... (Chairperson)  
Date: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017