

## SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of Sedgwick Parish Council held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7:30pm

This meeting took place using the videoconferencing platform "Zoom".

Members of the public were given the opportunity to join the meeting online or by phone.

**Present:** Cllr B Holmes (Chairperson), Cllr R Gill, Cllr R Smith, Cllr Stoker, Cllr B Tanham, Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk) District Cllr R Bingham and A Holmes

**45/20 Apologies:** It was resolved for apologies with reasons given, to be noted from PCSO Boaks

**46/20 Non-Attendance:** County Cllr B Gray., District Cllr B Cooper and District Cllr T Harvey

**47/20 Minutes:** It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 as a true record.

**48/20 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests:**

Parish Clerk left the meeting at item 15 (f) Finance – National Pay Award for Parish Clerks

A Holmes left the meeting at item 6 Casual Vacancy

**49/20 Public Participation: None received**

**50/20 Reports**

**Police Report:** None Available due to Covid-19 lock down, but receive weekly updates on Covid\_19

**Cllr Gill:** report he had a burglary of a mobile phone from his vehicle parked on his drive in the early hours of Saturday 23 August which he reported to the police. Since this meeting it was reported on the same morning fishing tackle to the value of £1000.00 was stole from a vehicle parked on Hill Close.

**District Cllr Bingham:** Reported the Council are beginning to reopen public facilities, the bin recycling service is back to fortnightly, The Local Plan is up for renewal, the Covid-19 testing station is in Carlisle but is not sufficient for South Lakeland. The Cycling path from Kendal to Milnthorpe is under discussion with the Council. The Council has lost revenue because of measures during lock down, ie car parking fees and rates. Crime is thought to have been lower and the police have recruited 52 new officers. Consultation is taking place about the restructure of the Council due to changes to meet today's needs although, at present several ideas are being discussed and Cllr Bingham will update the Parish Council as it progresses as the Local Parishes are part of the reform.

**County Cllr B Gray:** Cllr Gray did not attend the meeting.

**Village Hall Report:** None received

**Cllr Stoker:** reported he had checked the emergency equipment in the Village Hall and all was safe and available if required.

**51/20 Casual Vacancy** the Council received an application from Andrea Holmes offering her services as a Parish Councillor. Having discussed her application, it was agreed by all Councillors to co-opt her to the position with immediate effect. The Clerk was instructed to email Cllr A Holmes the necessary paperwork for completion and return to SLDC in order to complete the process. Cllr A Holmes was welcomed to the Council.

**52/20 Training / Developing your Skills – CALC September to December 2020 & South Lakeland Area Support Training:**

Training was discussed and several courses were discussed it was agreed all training requirements to be emailed to the Parish Clerk so the courses can be facilitated. Funding has been budgeted for training requirements

**53/20 Policy Review.**

Draft NALC model Code of Conduct was discussed, and it was agreed until the model was available the present policy was to be extended approved by all Councillors.

**54/20 Community Plan/Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr B Holmes raised the fact that it may prove beneficial for the council to reconsider formulating a community or neighbourhood plan particularly as the Local Development Framework is reformed. She agreed to undergo training and asked other Councillors to join her.

**55/20 Planning:** Received Application SL/2020/0547 – 7 Castle View – Alterations ground floor front with first floor balcony over with glazed balustrade. Cllr Tanham reported she had visited the property and

discussed the application with the owners, which she discussed with the Parish Council. The Council asked the Clerk to inform the planning department they had no major concerns.

**56/20 Sedgwick Parish Council COVID 19 response** – Cllr B Holmes reported that SLDC has notified the Clerk that they have closed down the hub which advised the Neighbourhood Resilience Group, the reason given was due to the low Covid-19 spread in the area.

**Sedgwick Neighbours and Friends Resilience Group.** -nothing to report - it remains in place to respond to any future needs.

**Correspondence:** Community Hub Closure Update, SLDC News Release 27 August 2020, Cumbria Community Resilience Network Update. All received and noted

#### **57/20 Highways/Footpaths**

1. Highways report discussed by Cllr Stoker. All faults are logged. Further potholes are beginning to appear Castle View, Raines Farm and Back Lane
2. Road Closures A590 – M6 J36 – September to December 2020, Cllr B Holmes reported back to Highway Agency the leaflet received was difficult to understand, her request for a no access sign to be erected at Brettargh Holt round about leading to Sedgwick has resulted in a sign being placed to deter people detouring through the village. However, it is behind other signs making it difficult to see and other signs had fallen down because of winds. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact the agency requesting the no access sign to be in a more prominent location and make them aware of the signs falling down.

#### **58/20 Playground /Millennium Field**

1. Monthly Safety Report: Cllr Stoker reported the playground is well used, the hand sanitizers have been replaced, bin emptied, equipment checked over. It was agreed that the new goal post would not be in situ until next spring if that was possible due to Covid-19 restrictions
2. The Millennium Field Reopening Risk Assessment was reviewed. The two user adult gym equipment had been restricted to one users using tape, but this had been removed on various occasions, resulting in plastic littering- it was agreed to update the posters to include a warning to restrict use and also include updated advice. The Council agreed to the new measures that would be in place next week
3. Annual ROSPA Report- August 2020. No high-risk faults have been found and all action has been added to an action plan. The bins have been emptied and gaps between rubber mat and verge filled with sand. Various piece of equipment would be monitored, and David Willacy agreed to repair the rotten wood on the tree house slide.

#### **59/20 Canal**

- a) The monthly safety check by Cllr Gil who reported the sign steep path had been removed and returned, he and Cllr Stoker has erected it again in the correct place. The Canal would need a second cut and the Clerk agreed to contact the contractor to request this. Cllr Smith raised that the grass on Back Lane was being blown by the contractors into the drains and residents where worried this could cause the road to flood again. The Clerk agreed to raise this issue with the contractors and report back at the next meeting.
- b) Cyclists using the Canal Path – still occurring but is not increasing.
- c) Ash Dieback Disease Information: the inspection by A.Hearne is arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> September. Councillors are invited, Alistair will mark trees which require felling and will advise Council if they require a felling License , it was agreed if it was required Cllr B Holmes would instruct him to obtain it on the Council's behalf. Then the Council will be able to obtain three quotes to have the infected trees removed this autumn.
- d) Cllr B Holmes reported that the Canal Lottery Project Meeting had been held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 - see report and further minutes where received of the meeting and distributed to the Councillors
- e) Canal River Trust Volunteers Task Force – Aqueduct removal of weeds & trees – Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> September Cllr Stoker agreed to visit the site tomorrow.

#### **60/20 Website**

- A verbal report was given by Cllr B Holmes of how the website was being accessed more now visitors are returning to the area
- Cllr B Holmes reported that we had received information from SLDC in August 2020 advising Parish Councils of website disabled accessibility requirement. We received quotes of £4,000.00 to meet the requirements. After researching the issue, Cllr B Holmes advised that the Council can claim exemption on the grounds of disproportionate cost but that policy and a statement must be in place by September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Website documents will have be formatted to help disabled users from now and if they cannot access any information, we have added advice to the website, to contact the clerk who will assist with any difficulties with accessibility.

The Website Accessibility Audit, Statement of Exemption and Website Management Policy which were approved by all Councillors and will be implemented and reviewed annually.

#### **61/20 Finance**

- a) Bank Balance as of 28 August 2020 Current a/c £12,869.70 Reserve Account £10,038.66

- b) To receive VAT refund for 2019 £599.32 on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020
- c) Payments Approved: Broadband Village Hall August & September £17.99, £17.99, Printing Plus – newsletters £119.82, Continental Landscapes £570.00, ROSPA Report Play Safety £120.00
- d) The Accounts Report from meeting dated 8 April, 8 June 2020, 8<sup>th</sup> July including transactions cleared was signed. (Cheques awaiting signing and banking due to Covid-19)
- e) It was agreed to remove David Willacy as signature on the Parish Bank Accounts and add Cllr G Stoker as signature on the Parish Bank Accounts.
- f) National Pay Award- NALC briefing on salary award & Clerks Reported was deferred to October's meeting further information required.

**62/20 Summer Newsletter Review:**

- Information received of thanks by a parishioner and photos emailed to the Clerk of Sedgwick for future editions
- One person volunteered to assist with B4rn project - the clerk agreed to thank the volunteer and explain there had not been sufficient interest to progress the matter.
- Next newsletter for December 2020- it was agreed to use the card as previously done on the December newsletter.

**63/20 Arrangements to acknowledge David Willacy's Service to Sedgwick Village as Parish Councillor for 39 years:**

It was unanimously agreed to plant a tree in the Millennium Field to commemorate David's contribution to Sedgwick Village. This will happen in the autumn if the lockdown has eased further, together with a public function or meeting. Cllr B Tantam has sourced a monkey puzzle tree and it was agreed to purchase it. To be updated next month

**64/20 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Update on Covid-19
- Highways Report
- Canal Report including Ash Die Back Report
- Millennium Field Report
- Tree Planting date to confirm
- PCSO Report – if available
- October Bank reconciliation & 6-month budget plan discussed
- Update on Parish Council Training Programme
- Agreeing on 2021 Parish Meetings

**65/20 Correspondence:**

- **South Lakeland Local Plan Review;** received and noted
- **Assistance received for the B4rn Broadband Project:** until more than 1 resident was interested the Council advised it was not a viable project , it was agreed to keep this on record and if other resident wish to be involved at a later date then it would be raised again. Clerk to contact resident and inform him of Councils decision.
- **SPC Poster:** received and displayed
- **Local Government Reorganisation Cumbria:** received and noted
- **Corporate message – Country Cabinet approve proposal for Local Government Reform:** *Council await further discussions to understand how this will affect the Parish*
- **Darker Skies Presentation- Scheduled Wed 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020;** All noted and will appear on Octobers Agenda

It was agreed that during the summer recess all correspondence will be circulated by the Clerk, but only significant items will be listed at the next meeting.

**66/20 Date of next remote Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7 30 pm** If the Village Hall has re-opened it was agreed to convene a "hybrid" meeting there with an option to join remote as well as attend in person. If the hall is still shut, a remote meeting will be convened.

*The meeting closed at 9: 21 pm*

Signed: ..... (Chairperson) Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020