

SEDGWICK Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 7:30pm
Venue: Sedgwick Village Hall

Present: Cllr B Holmes (Chairperson), Cllr R Gill, Cllr D Willacy, Cllr J Oscroft, Cllr G Stoker, Cllr R Smith, Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk), District Cllr Eccles, County Cllr Gray, Mrs D Holmes (Village Hall Rep) and 7 Residents

92/17 Apologies:

It was resolved for apologies, with reasons given, to be noted from PCSO Boaks.

93/17 Declaration of Interest/ Dispensation Requests:

Cllr Willacy and Cllr Gill declared an interest in the planning application CU/2017/0011

94/17 Minutes:

It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2017 as a true record.

95/17 Casual Vacancy by Co-option of a New Councillor:

Mr Smith was invited to take up the post at this Meeting, forms were completed by Chairperson and Cllr R Smith, he then commenced his duties as Sedgwick Parish Councillor.

96/17 Public Participation:

Highways; Two members of the public raised concerns about the state of the highways in the Parish and that potholes were not being repaired. They felt that the Parish Council's actions were ineffective and more should be done. A suggestion was proposed that the Chair write a formal letter to Cllr Keith Little, Cumbria County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, asking him to use his influence to sort out our roads and inviting him to attend our Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Chairperson advised that Highways would be discussed under item 9 of the agenda and that points would be noted.

Village Hall Report: Mrs D Holmes reported the electrical installations and fire safety equipment was to be inspected shortly. During the half term period the floor would be re-varnished. Village Hall Users were delighted with the newly installed light and felt safer accessing the premises in the dark. The new broadband was installed and working, Diana had received confirmation that the Village Hall did not require a TV Licence, whilst the broadband was being used. Materials required for Defibrillator training are still available, if anyone wished to train. Cllr Smith thought it would be prudent for all volunteers to have annual training to refresh skills. This would be discussed and could be advertised in the March newsletter.

Cycle Path along the Canal Path: Two members of the public expressed support for the village to be linked to the LCRP Cycle path and explained benefits; it would encourage environmentally friendly transport and would provide a safe route for residents (especially children) who could cycle to school in Kendal. The background to the project was briefly explained with further discussion due in item 11 of the agenda.

Planning application SL/2017/1052: Two residents raised this issue; one was opposed and expressed reasons against and the other was in favour of the application. Their reasons were noted and were carried forward to item 8 of the agenda.

97/17 Reports:

Police Report: 42 incidents have been reported in the wider area with none relating to the Parish. The only incident connected to the Parish related to a domestic incident. The report will be displayed on the Noticeboard and Website.

District Cllr S Eccles – Cllr Eccles reported she was involved in the Licencing and Planning Departments which are very busy at present

County Cllr B Gray - Cllr Gray reported that financial restraints were limiting the ability of the County Council to repair all highways faults reported. The County Council should continue to report faults using the existing procedures so that the Highways Department are aware of them. They are then prioritised using set criteria. CCC and SLDC have supported walking /cycle paths around Kendal but again financial constraints limit the progress that can be made.

98/17 Website:

The Chairperson presented the monthly Website Report and reported that the bid for Transparency Funding had been successful; we have received £744.72. It was agreed to instruct Paul Calland at Treble3 to begin work on the new website. Subsequent training will be made available for Clerk, Chair and Ann Allwright. Meanwhile thanks to Ann for maintaining the existing website and the Clerk for obtaining the funding.

99/17 Planning:

Application CU/2017/0052- Builders' Yard Adjacent to Fox Hall; planning permission has been applied for to build two dwellings. The Chair reported that SLDC had agreed to defer their decision until SPC had a chance to discuss it and had confirmed notices issued had been correct. She explained the role of the Council who are statutory consultees in the planning process. Council noted receipt of a letter regarding this application and the objections given, together with views expressed during the Public Participation section, were discussed and a formal response on behalf of the Council was agreed; Council welcomed the improvement by local people, of what is a brownfield site in the historic centre of the village and noted the considerable amount of negotiation and consultation that has already occurred. They acknowledged concern amongst residents about the proposed external materials being pebble dash rather than limestone and slate, which is more prevalent in the village centre. The inclusion of a "privacy screen" between the parking area and 4, Orchard Close perhaps indicates the placement of the parking area could be improved. Recommendations in reports on contamination/junction safety/embankment etc were expected to be considered. It is understood that the developers will comply with recommendations about placing an electricity line underground if necessary. As with all developments in our Parish, a request would be made to restrict working hours to minimise disruption to residents living in the area during the development of the site.

100/17 Highways/Footpaths

Chairperson reported that a great deal of time and effort had been put into dealing with Highways issues and that it is frustrating that, so many issues remain unresolved. Cllr Gray and Tim Farron were thanked for their continued support. Following the unsatisfactory way in which our original requests and our first formal complaint had been dealt with by CCC, the chairperson had taken up the issues with the Chief Executive. Since then, we have finally received responses and have attended two site meetings with representatives of Highways to alert them to the problems we face and discuss in detail what can be achieved to find solutions.

- a) **Highways Report;** Cllr Stoker reported that he had met with Garry Manning (Transport & Fleet Environment and Community Services) on 12 December 2017, to raise resident concerns about the risk to pedestrians walking in the dark, especially those using the Village Hall. Mr Manning was aware of the minor accidents that have occurred. Our suggestion of low level solar powered lighting was ruled out, but he agreed to commission a solution which would increase safety. A streetlight was installed on 2/1/18 (two months earlier than expected) at the end of the Village Hall access road. It lights the pavement and aqueduct area. Cllr Holmes and Cllr Stoker also attended a meeting on Monday 8th January with Victoria Upton (Team Leader of Traffic Management, Highways Dept), Police Sgt Scott O'Neal and our new PCSO, to raise highway safety issues. The delayed aqueduct safety improvements were discussed and a review of the distance height resistance signage was added to the agreed scheme to help prevent HGVs getting stuck in the village. A target date of February half term was set so school busses are not affected by the necessary short road closure. A tour of the Parish "highway repair hotspots" followed, resulting in Ms Upton agreeing to arrange emergency repairs at Raines Hall and line painting replacement at Castle View, Wakefield Meadow and Carex Farm Junction. Faults along Natland Road, Carex Farm Junction, Cooper Hill and Riverside simply do not meet the criteria for an emergency repair but would be added to the list for long term assessment. Cllr Stoker updated Council on the progress of all faults reported (see grid). Repairs to Hill Close Pavements are expected to finish soon. The drains on Back Lane were being repaired again.

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

Cllr Holmes reported on other issues that had been discussed at the meeting with Ms Upton and the Police. The request for a 20mph zone was again dismissed; The CCC and Police view is that speed monitoring results and evidence from areas which have adopted a 20mph speed limit indicate that it does not modify driver behaviour

and the increased perception of safety on behalf of pedestrians can make it more dangerous. The aqueduct, parked cars and narrow roads are considered as natural traffic calming measures. Speed monitoring equipment

could be made available if required and it was agreed to follow this up. There was also a discussion about the recent hit and run incident in which a resident was struck by a car whilst walking near the aqueduct. Despite having been reported to the police, it has not been recorded in Crime Statistics because it does not fall into any incident category. We challenged this and explained that without this type of statistic, accident prevention and safety improvements are difficult to identify and even more difficult to achieve.

- b) Council noted the progress made since our last meeting and agreed to discuss referring our highways issues to Cllr Little, if the repairs to Raines Hall and line markings are not carried out before the February Meeting.

101/17 Playground /Millennium Field

- a) Cllr Stoker has carried out the monthly safety check on the Millennium Field and no faults were found.

102/17 Canal

- a) Cllr Stoker had carried out the monthly inspection of the Canal Pathways and reported the paths were fit for purpose. A replacement sign was required at the top of the steps indicating the steep gradient. Further along near Sedgwick Hill Bridge the stone wall needed repair, it was agreed for Cllr Willacy to ask Mr Airey to make good the wall and to meet with James Park, to discuss the rapid regrowth of Willow stems residual stumps.
- b) Land Registration Title of the property was still an ongoing.
- c) In December Cllrs Stoker, Gill and Holmes attended a meeting with Audrey Smith and Helen Moriarty (LCRP Chairman and Project Manager) to discuss concerns over the contents of the newly released Draft Access Strategy. Reassurances were given that the strategy is not LCRP Policy and that the suggestion to convert the footpath in the Parish into a wide, multi-user cycleway and include Sedgwick as a development hub, is not regarded as a serious proposal. A plan which would see Sedgwick and Larkrigg Wood linked to the Kendal-Natland cycleway using existing paths (which already have the correct permissive access), is regarded as a much more viable and affordable option. It would offer residents access to a cycle route from Sedgwick to Kendal without impacting on the centre of the village and will have the added advantage of linking the network to Levens Hall, Sizergh Castle and the Gunpowder tourist attractions on the west bank of the River Kent. The LCRP clearly understood our concerns and agreed to keep in contact with us

103/17 Finance

- a) The Bank Balance as of 30 December 2017 was - Current a/c £2,835.23 and Reserve £10,000.70
- b) Payments received: - Transparency Funding £744.72, awarded for new website
- c) Payments: BT Broadband £20.49, Playdale, Play Area Annual Report £234.00, Printing Plus, Newsletters £133.83 and First Utilities Broadband Village Hall DD £20.26
- d) The Accounts Report for 11 October 2017 and 8 November 2017 were signed and accepted.
- e) A VAT claim amounting to £1,125.95 has been made; a new system will come into effect soon.
- f) The Parish Council Precept for 2018/19 was discussed. Next year, there will be an increase in administrative costs because of significant changes in Data Protection legislation and audit procedures. These changes and increased responsibility for transparency will further increase the workload on the clerk; as discussed previously, a minimum of one hour a week, increase in hours will be required. It was agreed to raise the precept by 3% to raise £300 – the anticipated data protection costs. The budget will be finalised next month.
- g) The changes to the Audit regime (as yet not finalised) and offer of training was noted.

104/17 Newsletter Winter:

The Christmas card edition of the newsletter was printed on heavier grade paper and positive feedback has been received – it was agreed to repeat this at Xmas only. It was agreed to publish a Spring newsletter to be distributed in early March to circulate details of the APM. Further items to be discussed at February's meeting.

105/17 Correspondence:

1. Digital maps of the boundaries, was received and noted
2. New Public Space Protection Order, information received and to be discussed next meeting. In the meantime, Cllr Stoker agreed to check on the condition of existing signage.
3. PCC Offer of more Officers on the beat in Cumbria, information received and noted.
4. Royal British Legion Survey, was received and noted
5. Department for Transport Public consultation on the future funding of SRN was received and noted
6. Cumbria Children's Dyslexia Project funding request, was discussed and refused.
7. Buckingham Palace Garden Party, it was agreed to nominate Cllr Holmes

8. Data Protection Regulations, information received and noted. There is still no sector specific advice for Parish Councils despite the imminent deadline for compliance. It has been agreed that Chairperson and Clerk will attend training when it becomes available.
9. The Adventures of David and Hazel with a sandhopper, received and noted
10. Clean Streets, it was agreed to put a poster up to ask if any volunteers wish to take part in this initiative and report back at the next meeting.

106/17 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Highways
- Canal Management Plan Annual Review/ Inspection/repairs/Registry
- B4RN
- Arrangements for March Annual Parish Meeting
- New Website
- Newsletter
- Lighting of the Beacons 11 November 2018 celebrations

107/17 Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on Wednesday 14th February 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 40 pm

Signed: (Chairperson)

Date: 14th February 2018