

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Sedgwick Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th March 2021 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 Smith, Cllr Stoker, Cllr B Tanham, Cllr A Holmes, Cllr W Burrow, Cllr Rathbone, Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk) and three residents.

149/20 Apologies: It was resolved for apologies with reasons given, to be noted from District Cllr R Bingham

150/20 Non-Attendance: County Cllr B Gray

151/20 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2021 as a true record.

152/20 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests: Cllr B Tanham declared that as she is the owner of a part of the canal towpath which is the subject of the feasibility study to be discussed she is able to take part in the discussion but cannot vote on any decisions agreed by Council in this matter.

153/20 Public Participation:

A resident who attended the meeting expressed support for the multiuser path along the canal. He outlined his strong approval and arguments for the scheme 1) that it would be better for all residents 2) that as there are no pavements in the village it was safer to cycle along the canal to access local services eg in Kendal (especially for children) 3) As the path would be narrow, he thought it would only be used for ambling cyclists not racing / commuting cyclists. He believed there was support for the path amongst residents and opposition to the scheme was a consequence of the poor relationship between cyclists and residents in the village.

Additional feedback regarding the scheme from residents unable to attend the meeting was received. The Clerk has logged all feedback. There were 3 residents (including the above) and 1 visitor in support of the scheme and 25 against the shared use of the footpath with cyclists. Residents were thanked for their feedback.

154/20 Reports

Police Report: Council have been informed that they will no longer receive monthly reports or representation at meetings from Cumbria Police. Instead, a newsletter will be sent to Parishes. However, no newsletter has been received. Weekly updates on Covid_19 were noted.

PC Boak will be retiring this year, it was agreed for Cllr B Holmes to write to him to wish him good luck on his retirement and to thank him for his support in previous years,

District Cllrs: Cllr Bingham sent a report; ALL CHANGE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT as the National Government has decided to abolish Cumbria County Council and the six district councils of Allerdale, Barrow, Eden, Carlisle Copeland and South Lakeland. They will be replaced by UNITARY COUNCILS which combine District functions like waste collection and planning with County functions like Highways, Child Services and Social Services. SLDC has put forward a cross-county Morecambe Bay Authority proposal which combines Lancaster and Morecambe, Barrow and SLDC. The area would straddle the two counties and policing areas.

County Cllr B Gray: Cllr D Rathbone attended the meeting on County Cllr Gray's behalf and would answer questions in item 12 Highways.

Village Hall Report: None received. Information regarding elections received by the Clerk has been shared with the Village Hall Committee.

155/20 Parish Councillor Vacancy: The Council received an application from William Burrow. Having discussed his application, it was agreed by all Councillors, to co-opt him to the position with immediate effect. The Clerk was instructed to email Cllr Burrows the necessary paperwork for completion and return to SLDC in order to complete the process. Cllr Burrow was welcomed to the Council. Cllr Burrow agreed to look at the training available for new Councillors.

156/20 CALC Parish Council Training programme, bid writing 101 workshop CVS (meeting full, added to a waiting list), Zero Carbon Communities 26th March - join the conversation- Cllr Tanham

157/20 Parish Councillor Co-option: The policy was accepted and approved.

158/20 Parish Council Elections May 2021: The Parish Clerk attended a remote meeting with the Election Officer which outlined the procedure for the Parish Council Elections in May. We will receive an Election “bundle” which will include relevant documents to be displayed on the website, Councillors who wished to stand again are invited to inform the clerk and will need to complete paperwork so the process can begin.

159/20 Planning:

SL/2020/0874 16 Hill Close - Council had emailed B Fettis regarding anomalies in the amended plans but have received no response. Cllr Rathbone informed council it had been approved.

SL/2020/0973 Raines Hall Farm – laying of concrete - Granted

160/20 Sedgwick Parish Council COVID 19 – Cllr B Holmes reported the update of the website with lockdown information. **Sedgwick Neighbours and Friends Resilience Group.** This group remains in operation and will continue to support residents as the second wave continues in the area. **Correspondence:** SLDC 11th Feb Infections falling but we must stay the course says Director of Public Health. SLDC plan for recovery and renewal agreed, CALC- reopening road map announcement. 25th Feb More Covid Lateral Tests Centres open. SLAS Covid19 information, LRF- NHS Staff ask public to keep going in fight against Covid

161/20 Highways/Footpaths

1. The Highways report was presented by Cllr A Holmes. All faults are logged and can be found on the CCC highways website, but some which have been labelled as “completed” are clearly not. The Clerk had queried these and they are being investigated.
2. Open highways issues
 - a. Work due on Back Lane work to improve pedestrian safety– update from V Upton funding would be available in April
 - b. Work due on safety improvements at Carex Crossroads– awaiting update from V Upton
 - c. Work due on Aqueduct signage - update from V Upton funding would be available in April
 - d. Other unresolved open issues (pavements, potholes) - awaiting update from V Upton
 - e. Verges reported on Back Lane – awaiting update from V Upton
 - f. Request for 20 plenty Signage passed to V Upton - update from Cllr Rathbone, he would ask County Cllr Gray to officially write to highways requesting to have a speed test in the village, which the Parish Council all agreed to back.
 - g. Request for litter bin at Riverside - requested from SLDC. The new Grit bin needs reporting as it has not been installed correctly and the grit was unusable.

It was agreed to provide Cllr Rathbone with a summary of outstanding issues for the attention of Victoria Upton.

3. Safer Roads and Footpaths Initiative/funding – update from Cllr Rathbone saying he would look into this matter. The Clerk would re-send the email requesting our involvement in the scheme to create safer cycling and walking routes into Kendal.
4. Community Speed Watch Group update from Cllr B Tanham. PC Jackson will visit the village when restrictions are lifted to establish safe sites to use the speed gun. Six Volunteers are required and training will be given. The Council will advertise on the website/newsletter for volunteers when the scheme is given the go ahead.
5. The Ask Kevin – Encourage Highways Enquires Website and hotline 0300 303 2992 was noted.
6. Electric Vehicle Charge Point Scheme – not feasible as the village has no public car park.
7. A resident has requested that a pedestrian lane is created between Sedgwick and Crosscrake School and Church to encourage walking and reduce use by cars. This would be a cross Parish initiative and would be discussed at the next meeting but in the meantime the Clerk would contact the Headmistress at Crosscrake School regarding the issue. Cllr A Holmes will research other similar schemes.

162/20 Playground /Millennium Field

1. Monthly Safety Report: Cllr Stoker reported the playground hand sanitizers have been replaced, bin emptied, equipment checked over and all is ok. David Willacy has the wood to repair the tree house slide and a quotation for the work will be discussed under Item 165/20.
2. Update on COVID-19 lockdown – re-opening of adult gym equipment will be allowed on 29th March 2021
3. Grass Cuttings Compost – update Cllr Stoker has arranged for the cuttings to be removed and then he and Cllr Tanham will begin turning future grass cuttings into compost for use by residents.
4. Continental Grass Cutting Contract for 2021 - accepted and agreed at the same price as 2020.
5. Clerk to request an SLDC litter bin by the Millennium Field.

163/20 Canal Wildlife Area Report

- a) Monthly safety report is displayed on the website.
- b) Felling of ash trees has been completed by the contractor and invoice received. District Cllr Harvey has agreed to contribute £450 to this project from his Locality Budget. Cllr B Holmes agreed to write and thank him for this much need donation.

- c) Canal Wildlife Area Management Plan - updated to include current felling work and amend annual review date to September to coincide with the best time to assess Ash Die Back Disease.
- d) Cyclists using the Canal Path - Council has received a complaint from a resident living adjacent to the canal, that on multiple occasions, cyclists have used his garden and drive to access the road from the footpath along the canal. When stopped one cyclist was abusive towards the resident.
- e) LCRP issues - see canal report
 - i) Summary of LCRP interim canal user survey for the Stainton/Hincaster/Sedgwick NHLF project.
 - ii) First Furlong and Stainton-Hincaster Cycle Path update
 - iii) Repair to the Towpath over the aqueduct – Carrie House having difficulties in accessing the site
 - iv) Kendal to Lancaster Towpath Trail NLHF Project Steering Group - Wednesday 24th February 2021 report from Cllrs Holmes and Tanham. There has been no progress in repairs to the aqueduct path, installation of a safety handrail on the aqueduct or in the wild flower planting project. Details about the proposed signage at Hill Bridge and the Aqueduct were shared. (see report) C.House has asked for a volunteer to monitor the Aqueduct on behalf of the LCT - Cllr Tanham was appointed as the Council's representative. The clerk will notify NHLF.
- f) Kendal to Lancaster Canal Cycle Path; Feasibility Study– Council received a report regarding the consultation meeting with 2020 Consultancy and Richard Franks. Councillors attending had expressed disappointment that previous agreements to bypass the narrow section of towpath through Sedgwick by re-routing the cycle path along the existing cycle path by the river had not been adhered to. Resident concerns regarding the unsuitability of the section for shared use were explained together with their concerns over traffic and parking, loss of the verges when the path was widened and a potential conflict in use. As landowners, we also raised concerns over changes in liability and plans for maintenance. Information was shared by RF about cyclist calming measures such as chicanes and barriers which would hopefully deter commuter, fast cyclists and those wishing to use the path as a route from A to B. They believed cyclists would dismount at pinch points to give way to pedestrians. There were no details available regarding the planned design including width, surface or how the steep drop onto the half mile road diversion over the A590 would be made accessible. There is currently no funding and all 14 landowners along the section would have to give permission for the scheme to go ahead as there were no plans or funding to make compulsory purchases.
- g) Council acknowledged resident feedback received in response to information in the Spring Newsletter including those represented in item 153/20. Cllr Burrow expressed the hope that the feasibility study would accept the problems caused by narrow embankment and landscape leading to the bypass and find a compromise solution. The Clerk will continue to collate resident feedback responses and the matter will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting, but Council agreed that until detailed and funded proposals are in place and adjacent landowners have agreed, a more formal consultation with residents is not appropriate. Council will continue to share with resident's relevant information received and will continue to fully support the NHLF initiatives not relating to the creation of the cycle path. (Cllr Tanham did not vote - see item 152/20)
- h) Nature Recovery Event 25th February at 7 pm - report from Cllrs Holmes and Cllr Tanham- – presentation slides were received and shared. Council have expressed interest in registering the Canal Wildlife Area and Millennium Field in the strategic nature plan and will continue to support Darker Skies Cumbria.

Cllr Rathbone left the meeting and was thanked for his attendance.

164/20 Website

The website report was received. The website has been updated and Cllr B Holmes has begun to add information supplied by Janet Thompson, a previous Chairman, who has sadly left the village. Pages regarding the restoration of the canal by residents since 1980 has been added. Pages detailing the history of the village, gunpowder works and canal have also been added. The Co-option Policy and CMP will be added to the website now that they have been approved.

165/20 Finance

- a) No bank statement received Bank Balance as of 30 January 2021 Current a/c £9,657.18 & Reserve £10,039.15
- b) Payments received — SLDC T Harvey Funds £450 and VAT reclaim £258.40
- c) Payments Approved Clerk salary/expenses £1,576.61, Printing Plus Newsletters £119.82, Mr J Park Contractors £4,260.00, ICO DD £35. Aztec signs – tree plaque £26.40, D Willacy & sons -repair to tree slide £108.00 and Treescapes Consultancy Ltd- woodland report & Felling Licence £292.32
- d) Accounts reported on 13th January 2021, and cleared the bank account – No Bank Statement so this was deferred.
- e) It was agreed to appoint Mr Blenkarn, as auditor for the 2020-21 financial accounts.

166/20 Annual Parish Meeting: This will be a Virtual Meeting and the Clerk has invited the usual parties. It was agreed that Councillors would introduce themselves and explain their roles and duties carried out in the previous twelve months. The Clerk would present the draft financial report. The LCRP proposals for the cycle path and B4RN Broadband (mentioned in a request from a resident) will be discussed and future priorities outlined.

167/20 March Newsletter: Feedback – the newsletter was well received with 29 comments being received in response to our request for feedback regarding the cycle path. Councillors to pass on any news for the summer edition. It was agreed to print the next edition in the A4 format if the price was similar, as it made information easier to read.

168/20 SLDC Meeting 4th March 2021: attended by Cllr Tanham who reported about the Working Together initiative between highways and community/parish councils. A presentation was given about sustainable transport strategy mainly outlining funding for new cycle routes but not covering maintenance. Also SLDC are providing more bins in areas of tourism.

169/20 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Update on Covid-19
- Highways Report with progress of outstanding issues
- Canal Wildlife Area Report
- Millennium Field Report
- Update Emergency Plan
- Resumption of face-to-face meetings
- Elections
- PSPO 2021- Consultation Process
- Local Government reorganisation
- Annual Parish Meeting Review

170/20 Correspondence: All the documents have been circulated to the Councillors

- **Briefing confirms Bay bid backing:** received and noted.
- **NALC Policy – EPC2-21 – Model Design Code- NALC consultation briefing:** received and noted.
- **SLDC approved budget and sets Council Tax;** received and noted.
- **News Release- Government to consult on Bay Unitary Bid;** received and noted.
- **CALC Local Government reorganisation consultation 22/02/21;** received and noted.
- **Neighbourhood Alert Census Day 21st March 2021** received and noted
- **Greening Campaign South Lakeland – Meeting Summary:** received and noted
- **SLDC News Release: Morecombe Bay Leaders urge the Chancellor to back plans for Eden North**
- **CALC- Roots of Remembrance:** received and noted
- **NALC- Legal Update – February 2021:** received and noted
- **Carbon Calculator for Parishes;** received and noted

171/20 Cllr B Holmes thanked the Residents for attending this virtual meeting and hope they found it informative.

172/20 Date of next remote Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Remote Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 14th April 2021 7 30 pm**
The meeting closed at 9: 46 pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 14th April 2021