

## SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 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.

- 81/23 Apologies:** It was resolved for apologies with reasons given that were accepted by Sedgwick Parish Cllr W Burrow - Work Commitments.
- 82/23 Minutes:** It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 as a true record.
- 83/23 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.  
Cllr B Holmes declared that she is the owner of property adjoining Firbank which has applied for planning permission.
- 84/23 Public Participation:**
- a) It was reported that written confirmation has been received from the owner of the "Village Green" to enable the Parish Council to continue to do the grass cutting on this piece of land.
- 85/25 Co-Option Of Parish Councillor**
- a) Cllr J Hall has been Co-Opted as Parish Councillor and all relevant paperwork completed. The Clerk will submit to the elections team and make any necessary updates.
- 86/23 Reports**
- Police Report:** The Council are receiving a monthly community newsletter. The monthly drop-in service was discussed, and the Clerk will pass the information on to the Village Hall.
- Westmorland & Furness Council Cllr D Rathbone** reported about the following items.
- a) The damage to Hill Close by the bin lorry has been reported and if it happens again Cllr Rathbone should be contacted.
  - b) The speed of Highways resolving reported issues was discussed and Cllr Rathbone will chase up all reported issues.
  - c) The flooding on Natland Road was discussed and all concerned residents are advised to report the issue to Highways asking for a long-term solution.
  - d) Cllr Rathbone provided the following numbers for Safeguarding which will be available on our website; Adults; 03003733301 (out of hours-01228526690) Children; 03003732724 (emergency cases 999)
- Village Hall Report** –The parish council were informed that the next meeting of the village hall will be on 23/01/2024, as none of the Parish Councillors are available to attend the Clerk will inform the Village Hall committee and ask for any relevant information.
- 87/23 Planning Application submitted/received:**
- a) 2023/1103/FPA at Firbank – no comments or objections to the application.
  - b) High Riverside was discussed, and Cllr Tanham will make enquires.
- 88/23 Highways/Footpaths**
- a) Monthly highways report and update of any repairs received. Cllr B Holmes has also renewed all pothole reports along with details of blocked drains. The potholes near Raines Farm will be monitored.
  - b) The issue on Hill Close with the refuse truck was discussed (see above) and the recurring problems with other vehicles was noted. Cllr Rathbone will obtain direct contact details for a member of highways, within the next week, which can be passed on to the residents of Hill Close so they are able to get in touch with Highways directly themselves.
  - c) The 20mph application has now been submitted and acknowledged as received.
  - d) The 2024 quote from Continental for the grass cutting was approved.

### **89/23 Playground /Millennium Field**

- a) Cllr G Stoker gave his Safety Report, the bins have been emptied, and a new policy to only keep left property for 4 weeks before it is then disposed of was agreed by all.
- b) An update was given on repairs being made after the Rospa report was received. This included repairs to the slide, the oak tree over the slide has been cut back, bolt caps replaced, the owners of the Barn are replacing their boundary in the Spring/Summer and Cllr B Holmes will request a visit from Playdale for an inspection to take place in the Spring.
- c) The response from the Cubs re help on the field and installation of a bug hotel was greatly received and approved. The Work Party on the Millenium Field will be on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March where residents will be encouraged to help themselves to compost and help with maintenance, including weeding.

### **90/23 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.

### **91/23 Safeguarding**

- a) No Safeguarding issues to report.
- b) Cllr Rathbone issued the Safeguarding contact numbers (see above)

### **92/23 Training**

- a) CALC Training. The Clerk will attend the Clerks Forum on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 1.30 & the clerk attended the Finance Training on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30.
- b) The Clerk will pass on training information to Cllr Hall and be in touch with CALC about relevant training.

### **93/23 Canal**

- a) Monthly report by Cllr B Holmes can be seen in the noticeboard and on the website.
- b) The use of the Canal Path is reported to be very busy.
- c) CRT installation of the artwork- an update on installation was given.
- d) It was decided that now the Open Reach exposed cable has been reported (Ref TPO2212088406) no further action can be taken by us at this time.
- e) New Dog Poo signs have been received and installed and disappointingly one has already been stolen.

### **94/23 Website/social media**

- a) Cllr B Holmes reported that the website is up to date and Facebook posts are being made. A post will be uploaded regarding Parishioners to help themselves to compost.
- b) The quote from Treble 3 for web hosting was accepted.

### **95/23 Policies & Procedures**

- a) Code of Conduct received from CALC now updated on the website and the Clerk will look at any others that need to start being updated.

### **96/23 Finance**

- a) The bank balances were noted as of 30/11/2023 Current = £8505.36 & 20/11/2023 Reserve = £15218.12
- b) The following payments were approved:  
**CALC Training £5.00** B.Holmes Chairs Forum 4/12/23, **£20.00** R Harrison Finance Training 13/12/23,  
**Parish Clerks Salary** Nov/Dec £340.26/£241.43 = **£581.69**, **Parish Clerks Expenses** Dec **£26.00**, **HMRC PAYE** Nov/Dec £48.60/£23.80 = **£72.40**,  
**Playdale £6.88**,  
**Printing Plus £132.67**  
**Treble 3 £189.60**
- c) Westmorland and Furness Council has awarded £145.67 of Council Tax Support Grant to the Council for 2024/25 which is gratefully received and it was noted that this will be the last one.
- c) The accounts agreed on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were signed as cleared the bank account.

### **97/23 Precept**

- a) The Parish Precept was discussed for 2024/25 and it was agreed by all that increase of 4.9% will be submitted to W&F Council as this is in line with recommendations and covers the increase in costs such as Clerks Salary and the grass cutting prices.
- b) The budget will be prepared for the next meeting.

### **98/23 Winter Newsletter**

- a) Feedback from the Winter Newsletter was good.
- b) Items for the next Newsletter will include the introduction of the new Parish Councillor, a reminder of the work party on 3/3/24, compost, dog poo signs and invites to the APM on Wednesday 20/3/2024. It will be distributed at the end of February.

**99/23 Correspondence:** All the documents have been received and circulated to the Councillors.

**100/23 Open Action**

- a) Annual Parish Meeting, the Clerk will request reports from all relevant groups/individuals and a guest speaker will be sought.
- a) It was decided that Councillor Responsibilities for Highways & Gritting will be taken on by Cllr Tanham and the Village Hall Representative will be Cllr Macconnell. Cllr Hall will decide which responsibilities he would like to take on.
- b) It was reported that Parish Council Elections will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024.

**101/23 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30 pm in Sedgwick Village Hall. And the Annual Parish Meeting will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm**

*The meeting closed at 9:30 pm*

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024