

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 February 2015 in Sedgwick Village Hall at 7:30pm

Present : Cllrs B Holmes (Chairman), J Goodland, J Oscroft, D. Willacy, G Willacy, Mrs J Davidson (Clerk), Cllr L Sparling (Chairman of Natland Parish Council) and 2 members of the public who left after the Public Participation item.

115/14 Apologies

It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Bobbett.

116/14 Minutes

It was resolved for the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2015.

117/14 Declarations of Interest

None.

118/14 Requests for Dispensations

None.

119/14 Public Participation

Cllr Holmes welcomed Cllr Lois Sparling - Chairman of Natland Parish Council from May 2014 – who had attended this meeting to introduce herself.

District Cllr Eccles had conveyed her apologies due to being unable to attend this meeting.

A member of the public asked about the pre-planning consultation for a proposed crematorium at Sizergh which had been considered at the last meeting of the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that - during December - SLDC had written to both Helsington and Sedgwick Parish Councils asking for comments regarding this proposal. Both Parish Councils had considered material planning considerations and responded to SLDC with an objection. In the event of the developer submitting a full planning application to SLDC then – as part of the planning process – the full application would be included as an agenda item to be discussed at meetings of both of the Parish Councils. Also – as part of the planning process – members of the public would have the opportunity to comment at the meetings of the Parish Councils and also to send their individual comments directly to SLDC Planning.

PCSO J Park had conveyed her apologies due to being unable to attend this meeting and had submitted a written report. Since the last meeting there had been one report of criminal damage in a lay-by at Crooklands, and a man had been rescued from rocks at Force Bridge when police attended to aid the ambulance and fire services at the scene. Rural acquisitive crime continues to be a priority with opportunistic thieves targeting both secure and insecure out buildings, quad bikes, fuel oil, vehicles and power tools. There have also been several reports of doorstep sellers in the beat code area which covers Sedgwick over the last couple of weeks. Residents who encounter cold callers and feel there is anything suspicious about them should call '101' at the time with a vehicle registration number if possible. Vehicles can be traced quickly via the 'Police National Computer' and the owner can be identified and checked against the 'Sleuth System'. Police operations are currently underway where vans, scrap metal vehicles, and vehicles with farm equipment and livestock, are being checked on the County borders.

120/14 Planning

It was noted the following planning application has now been granted by SLDC since the last meeting :

SL/2014/0878 – Carex Farm, Sedgwick, Kendal
Erection of detached domestic garage

121/14 Highways/Footpaths

- a) The correspondence and reports regarding the South Westmorland Village Maintenance Association were received and noted.
- b) A letter from Stainton Parish Council - sent to Crosscrake School - for the attention of parents, staff and visitors regarding parking and traffic issues adjacent to the School was received and considered. The area of concern is actually in the Parish of Sedgwick and it was agreed that Sedgwick Parish Council did support the letter. Cllr Holmes agreed she would contact the Chairman of Stainton Parish Council to informally convey support/discuss and would present a report regarding the situation at the next meeting of the Parish Council.
- c) It was reported the fingerpost sign at the bottom of the path which leads from Sedgwick Village to the canal is leaning over. Cllr D Willacy advised the base has deteriorated and therefore needs a new piece of wood to be spliced on to the bottom so that it can be planted securely in the ground again. Appreciation was conveyed to Cllr D Willacy for kindly offering to carry out this work for the benefit of the Parish.
- d) It was reported the first new road surface placed on Hill Close had been defective and therefore had needed to be removed and re-done. The road surfacing and kerbing work has now been completed.
- e) Attention was brought to the number of potholes on Castle View which need to be reported to Highways (Ref : 62/WEB151315517).

122/14 Consultations

- a) The SLDC Clean Streets Survey 2015 was received and completed.
- b) A BT consultation regarding the removal of telephony service to allow BT's current programme of proposed public payphone adoptions was received and considered. BT is working with the Community Heartbeat Trust Charity (CHT) and the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust (NWAS), to adopt a number of telephone kiosks across Cumbria. The CHT is campaigning for underused telephone kiosks to be converted into vital medical centres for local communities and proposes to install defibrillators in kiosks in areas where ambulance response times can be slow or access difficult. The telephone box adjacent to the Telephone Exchange in Sedgwick is currently one which is under consideration and Sedgwick Parish Council has been asked to give reasons for either :
Agreeing to the removal of the payphone service to allow the installation of defibrillators to proceed; or :
Objecting to the removal of the service and not allowing adoptions to proceed.
The Parish Council felt that it was unable to give a response without having an understanding of how much the telephone box is currently used or the feelings of the local community. In the first instance the Clerk was actioned to contact BT in order to try and obtain the usage figures. It is understood a notice advising the public has been placed in the kiosk by BT.

123/14 Playground /Millennium Field

- a) Consideration was given to the purchase of two picnic benches to replace the ones which are starting to deteriorate in the playground. It was resolved for Cllr G Willacy to make the arrangements to purchase two Natural Pine 8 Seater Round Picnic Tables from Amazon at a cost of £149.95 each + delivery.
- b) It was noted that Cllr Oscroft is currently carrying out regular playground inspections and would present a report at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

124/14 Canal

- a) Further to the discussion at the last meeting regarding the updating of the Sedgwick Parish Council Management Plan for Sedgwick Canal/1994 – 2014. The Clerk had contacted Lancaster Canal Trust who had advised they would be pleased to attend a meeting/initial site visit to explore how they could help. It was agreed that Cllr Goodland would co-ordinate a meeting with Lancaster Canal Trust, Cllr D Willacy and Cllr G Willacy. Lancaster Canal Trust had asked whether the original document could be recreated as an electronic version to provide the basis for a new one that could be easily shared. The Clerk was actioned to recreate the document into a Word file.
- b) It was noted a direction sign to the Stoker Seat has now been placed on the canal path near the junction of the path leading from Sedgwick Village to the canal. The old Kendal/Tewitfield sign which had been rotting away has now been removed.

- c) The following Press Releases from Lancaster Canal Trust were received and noted :

Bob Pointing has been appointed to head Canal & River Trust North West Partnership and will be directing the future of the Lancaster Canal. Bob was head of the Barrow Regeneration & West Lakes Renaissance. The North West Partnership was formed to give local people a voice in development and management of local waterways. Chantelle Seaborn - NW Manager of Canal & River Trust (CRT) - said "We are delighted to have Bob join us and know he will make a great contribution to the future of the Lancaster and Leeds and Liverpool Canals".

Lancaster Canal is to host the IWA National Trailboat Festival with 'Westmorland on Water' on their Northern Reaches section on 30th / 31st May and 1st June alongside Countryfest, the Westmorland Agricultural Societies event that attracts around 30,000 people. Plans to dredge the canal are well under way and the Lancaster Canal Trust (LCT) and CRT are working together to make this a spectacular event to remember.

The Westmorland Gazette, 22nd January, carried a story about a sunken barge on the Lancaster canal at Field End Bridge (169) - winding hole (turning area) - now full of Horse Tail weed. There was a Diphtheria epidemic in 1920 and it is thought that it was a hospital ship transporting victims from outlying areas to Lancaster. Certainly, in the 1914-18 war, wounded soldiers were transported by canals as this was a safe and smooth way, rather than by rickety carriages, or farm carts over rough roads. This story has created considerable response from older people in the community and a story emerges that a little girl may have died on board and the barge was sunk by the owners as there was no means of fumigating against the deadly Diphtheria in those days. This story is on going and divers are preparing to investigate but perhaps other canal communities have similar stories and it would be interesting to hear them.

125/14 Sedgwick Village Hall

A discussion was introduced regarding the frequency of payment for the meeting room hire. It was resolved that a payment of £165 for 11 Parish Council meetings held during the financial year - from the beginning of April to the end of March – should be made annually in September.

126/14 Finance

- i) **Internal Audit** - it was noted Mr Paul Cheesbrough who had acted as the Parish Council Internal Auditor for a number of years had sadly passed away in January. The Clerk had conveyed condolences to the family of Mr Cheesbrough on behalf of the Parish Council.
- ii) **Risk Assessment** - the Financial Risk Assessment was received and it was resolved for it to be approved.
- iii) **Asset Register** - the Asset Register was received and it was resolved for it to be approved.
- iv) **Grass Cutting** – a quotation which had had been received from Mr A Pease for cutting the Village Green, Back Lane and Canal Edges during 2015 was received and noted. The Clerk reported she had contacted Continental Landscapes regarding the charges for 2015 and had been advised that quotations should be sent out by the end of this month. It was agreed that no decisions regarding grass cutting would be made until the Continental Landscape charges are known.
- v) **Payments** – it was resolved for the following payments to be approved :

Sedgwick Village Hall – Meeting Room Hire 2014/15	£165.00
Clerks' Salary & Administration Costs (December-March)	£928.64
Amazon – 2 Picnic Benches	£304.89

127/14 Correspondence

- Sedgwick House Management Company – Crematorium proposal at Sizergh
- CALC - Circular February 2015
- CALC - South Lakeland District Association meeting on Thursday 5 March 2015
- Any other correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting and not included on the agenda was noted.

128/14 Parish Meeting

There was a further discussion regarding the arrangements for the Parish Meeting to be held on Wednesday 11 March 2015. Reports would be invited from District Cllr Eccles, County Cllr Gray, Kendal Neighbourhood Policing Team, Lancaster Canal and Parish Groups. Cllr Holmes would make arrangements for refreshments to be provided. The Clerk would prepare flyers and co-ordinate their distribution with Cllr Goodland.

129/14 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Parish Meeting
- Traffic issues adjacent to Crosscrake School
- Road markings under aqueduct
- Fencing for the top of the new wall adjacent to the river between Cooper Hill/Force Bridge
- Village Hall access to the back door
- Playground Report
- Grass Cutting

130/14 Date of next meeting

It was confirmed the date of the next meeting will be 4 March 2015. The meeting will commence at 7.30pm and will be held in the Sedgwick Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
Date : 4 March 2015