

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th June 2019 at 7:30pm Venue: Sedgwick Village Hall

Present: Cllr B Holmes (Chairperson), Cllr R Gill, Cllr D Willacy, Cllr R Smith, Cllr Stoker, Cllr J Oscroft, District Cllr R Bingham, District Cllr B Cooper and Mrs S Roberts (Parish Clerk). One member of the public attended

1/19 Election of Chairperson

The Clerk took the chair for this item. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that Cllr Holmes should be the Chairperson for 2019/20

2/19 Declaration of Acceptance

A Declaration of Acceptance form for 2019/20 was signed by Cllr Holmes and witnessed by the Clerk.

3/19 Election of Vice-Chairperson

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that Cllr Gill should be the Vice-Chairperson for 2019/20

4/19 Apologies:

It was resolved for apologies with reasons given, to be noted from PCSO Boaks and District Cllr T Harvey

5/19 Non-Attendance:

County Cllr B Gray

6/19 Minutes:

It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th April 2019 as a true record.

7/19 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests:

None

8/19 Public Participation:

- 1) A planning application has been submitted for a new dwelling at Sycamore View and a resident raised several objections to this application. The Parish Council have received notice that the application status is invalid so it is not currently being considered. The issue would be discussed this under the heading of planning later in the agenda.
- 2) Correspondence was received from a neighbour of the BT exchange building, requesting the over hanging branches to be removed. Clerk has reported this request to pfshelpdesk@bt.com and Cllr Stoker will inform the Council of its reply.
- 3) BT building previously reported – poor state of repair - ref MON0189470 – Cllr Stoker met with Callum Rose, who agreed to the following work being carried out; repair to the roof, painting the building at a lower level and removal of rubbish. Cllr Stoker report all this work had been carried out since Councils last meeting.

Police Report: 43 incidents have been reported in the wider area with 13 being submitted; the report will be displayed on the noticeboard and website.

District Cllr Bingham: Reported the Council's priorities are being discussed as follows: - the elderly, violent crime, anti-social behaviour, health and environmental issues. He said he was supportive of the Parish Council's comments regarding the towpath trail within Sedgwick. Cllr Smith gave an update of the NLHF meeting he and Cllr Stoker attended on the 24th April (minuted under the Canal(d)). Cllr Bingham was aware of and concerned about the number of trees locally with ash die back. He would be shortly attending training in Social Media and IT.

District Cllr Cooper: Reported he had attended the Stainton PCM where concern was raised about the volume of people who will use the proposed towpath trail through Stainton and the higher volume of litter and dog fouling that would result. They have been informed that litter bins could be installed. Next week he would be attending a Council meeting about Climate Change and another about poverty which he will report back on.

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

Village Hall Report: The Clerk reported that the Broadband contract was renewed with a saving of £1 per month. It was noted the broadband was not working, the Clerk would investigate this matter and report back.

9/19 Cold Calling: Correspondence about an incident in Levens which lead to the Cold Caller assaulting a resident was noted. A month earlier, two burglaries occurred which may be linked to a previous incident of cold calling. It was reported that Levens Parish Council are working with the police on these matters. Sedgwick Parish Council wish to remind residents to be vigilant and report any cold callers to the police on 101 immediately, giving registration numbers and descriptions where possible. This message will be reinforced in the next newsletter.

10/19 Planning: SL/2019/0337 24 Hill Close, Sedgwick – rear extension, SLDC agreed to receive PC comments by 14th June 2019, Clerk to reply that Council that the Parish Council have no objections.
SL/2019/0305 Sycamore View, New Build, SLDC application Status- Invalid. Objections from residents were noted: The preservation order on the Sycamore Tree which would be affected, access to the site is problematic and the proposed building is not in keeping with the area which is in the heart of the historical sector of the village.

11/19 Highways/Footpaths

1. Highways report discussed by Cllr Stoker. Previous reported faults were reviewed. New faults along Riverside would be reported by Cllr Holmes.
2. The Highways update system is removing repair details after 3 months, even if no action has been taken. County Cllr Gray had been asked to raise this on our behalf - she reported that the department was aware of the glitch and to report any removal of repairs to tracey.pegg@cumbria.gov.uk .
3. Cllr Stoker reported that he had fixed the replacement signposts.
4. Cllrs noted SLDC urgent road closure on C5071 Harry Brow, near Hincaster had been scheduled for 9th June 2019 but had overrun and would continue on 16th June.
5. Cllrs noted the M6/A65 Road closure on Saturday 15th June-Sunday 16th June.

12/19 Playground /Millennium Field

1. Cllr Stoker has carried out the monthly check on the Millennium Field and reported that there are no faults. Bins have been emptied.
2. Cllr Stoker reported he had painted the benches and tables but they are showing signs of wear and would need replacing possibly next year. Council would acquire quotes for new composite tables and source of funding to pay for them.
3. The poor state of fence on the southern border was discussed and Cllr Holmes agreed to establish the ownership of the fence before the next meeting
4. It was agreed for the Clerk to arrange the annual ROSPA report.

13/19 Canal

1. Cllrs had inspected the canal woodland, paths and bed.
 - There are 3 sections of stone wall on the south boundary that need remedial repairs. Cllr Willacy agreed to ask Mr Airey to repair all 3 areas. A quote would be required if the cost would be over £200.
 - Cllrs Gill & Stoker agreed to cut the branches which covered the pathway near the aqueduct.
 - The Clerk was requested to contact the contractors to ask for the annual cutting / strimming of the pathways and hedges along the canal path. It was noted that the two previous cuts had not been to the usual standard and no strimming had taken place, the Clerk agreed to raise these issues with the contractors.
 - Regeneration of the canal bed is excellent and irises are now flowering
 - Woodland Management: The annual inspection of the woodland has been carried out by councillors to supplement the monthly inspection by the Canal Officer and biennial inspection by our Arborocologist Alistair Hearn. There are no immediate causes for concern, but Council noted that the ash trees along the canal continue to be affected by ash die back which is now widespread in South Cumbria. Damage to leaves, twigs and branches is visible but there is little sign of lesions on trunks yet which indicate that the disease is still in its early stage. Advice received in November 2018 from Alistair Hearn, is still applicable and was discussed: it is not possible to prevent infection or treat infected trees and almost all will eventually die - larger trees may take many years to succumb. Trees should not be felled until they are dead unless they present a hazard. It was noted that there will be a huge cost implication in the medium term as we will need to fell the 50+ large ash trees along the canal and Easy Footpath and the smaller ash trees along the hedgerows. Funding will be required and sourced to cover this cost, which may exceed £25,000 and would probably be required within the next five years. It was agreed that Cllr Holmes would update Alistair Hearn about the current state of the ash and seek any intermediate advice prior to his next inspection which would be brought forward to June 2020, when the ash trees come into leaf next and damage can be assessed. Following this inspection, Council will be in a position to plan and cost required action and begin to seek grant funding. Monthly inspections will continue to closely monitor the progress of ash die back and any changes will be reported.
These points will be added to the Canal Management Plan and discussed at the next meeting.

2. Cllr Holmes had reported the incidents of antisocial behaviour of youths using the canal footpath as a cycle path to PC Boaks, but he had replied that from a policing point of view, he did not believe that the canal footpath constitutes a foot way that police could enforce upon. She had queried this response. 4 "No Cycling" signs have now been acquired and erected.
3. Dog fouling is still on the increase, caused by a minority of users' dogs. Cllr Holmes had investigated via SLDC whether the Parish Council can update the penalty warning signs to deter dog owners from letting this happening. We have been informed that the SLDC PSPO dog fouling regulations apply to all public spaces including Parish owned land. It was agreed to purchase 10 small signs to replace the existing ones that are out of date and in a poor state of repair.
4. NLHF Stainton Project Steering Group - 9 30am Wednesday 24th April Stricklandgate House in Kendal –Cllr Stoker and Cllr Smith attended as Sedgwick's representatives and reported that the focus of expenditure was at Stainton, repairing the aqueduct there and on public engagement to generate more support for the whole towpath project. They acknowledge that landowners between Natland and Hincaster are proving reluctant to hand over privately owned land to the scheme so the trail would use bridal ways and cycleways to bypass this stretch which includes Sedgwick. It was acknowledged by the meeting that the Sedgwick stretch was not wide enough to be a cycle path.
5. Lancaster Canal Bicentenary Celebration on Saturday 22nd June 2019, Cllrs noted this event.
6. Correspondence has been received about Lancaster Canal Photography Competition

14/19 Website:

Cllr Holmes reported the agendas, minutes and reports from April's Council meetings were added and the website is regularly visited.

15/19 Sedgwick Parish Council Accounts Archived:

The Clerk confirmed that accounts and files from 2000 - 2016 had been archived in the Archive Office in Kendal.

16/19 Finance

- a) Bank Balance as of 31 May 2019 Current a/c £13,381.39 & Reserve Account £10,016.80
- b) Received: Precept & Grant £ 10,399.63 and 2018/19 Vat return £ 383.14
- c) Payments Approved: Broadband Village Hall May £18.99, Microsoft annual fee £59.99, no cycle signs £15.96, Aztec – tree signs £ 43.20, Internal Audit & report £80.00
- d) The Accounts Report from meeting dated 10 April 2019, including transactions cleared was signed.
- e) Financial Report i) The Internal Audit Report was approved: there are no issues to be addressed.
 - ii) The Certificate of Exemption was approved and signed
 - iii) The notification of completed Audit was accepted and would be displayed in the cabinet and on the website.

17/19 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Councillors roles 2019 -2020
- Highways Report
- Canal Report and update on Ash die back
- ROSPA Annual Report for Millennium Field
- Millennium Field report/repairs/quotes
- PCSO Report

18/19 Correspondence:

- Town & Parish Councils – VE Day 75 years 8th May 2020, information received and an appeal for volunteers would be in the next newsletter
- Action for Health Network Events in Cumbria, received and noted
- Funding Event Thursday 13th June 2019 in Carlisle, received and noted
- Cumbria Action for Health News (8th May), received and noted
- CALC conference 22nd June 2019, 10 15 at Stoneybeck Inn Penrith, received and noted
- South Cumbria News- Cumbria Constabulary: received and noted
- News for ICO: received and noted
- Canal & River Trust – Training Opportunities: received and noted

19/19 Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **Wednesday 10th July 2019 at 7 30 pm** and will be held in the Sedgwick Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm

Signed: (Chairperson) Date: 10th July 2019