

## SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7:30pm at The Village Hall after a Canal Inspection Before the Meeting.

**Present:** Cllr B Holmes (Chair), Cllr G Stoker, Cllr V Macconnell, Mrs Rachel Harrison (Parish Clerk), Westmorland & Furness Cllr J Brook; one member of the public attended.

**42/23** The meeting started at 7pm on The Canal to inspect the recommendations made by Alistair Hearn, Cllr B Holmes (Chair), Cllr G Stoker, Cllr V Macconnell present.

**43/23 Apologies:** It was resolved for apologies with reasons given that were accepted by Sedgwick Parish Council, Cllr B Tanham –Prior Engagement, Cllr W Burrow -Work commitments, Cllr A Holmes –Unwell, W&F Councillor D Rathbone – Prior Engagement.

**44/23 Minutes:** It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 as a true record.

**45/23 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests:** None

**46/23 Public Participation:**

a) Reports of cold calling in the village were discussed and everyone is advised not to engage with them, to call the police and report cases to Trading Standards on 01539713583

[trading.standards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)

New signs for each house have been ordered by the Clerk.

b) The 20mph Zone was discussed.

The member of the public who attended raised several concerns about speeding vehicles including the danger to children and families walking in the village at rush hour, cyclists speeding, increased traffic around Raines Farm, along with past incidents of crashes and near misses. A letter will now be sent to Highways through Cllr J Brook formally requesting we are considered for the 20mph zone. The motion was proposed by Cllr B Holmes, seconded by Cllr G Stoker & unanimously agreed upon. See attached wording.

c) The Attempted Burglary's at Cooper Hill were discussed. A report from the police has been requested with any information there may be. Residents are advised to be extra vigilant.

**47/23 Reports**

**Police Report:** The Council are receiving a monthly community newsletter and a report has been requested from them.

**Westmorland & Furness Council Cllr J Brook** reported about the following items;

- Speed Indicator Devices; Cllr J Brook will look into the cost and upkeep for us and report back.
- W&F Council is now 6 months old, they have decided to structure as "locality boards" of which Sedgwick will be in the South Lakeland Board, and they will be our point of contact.
- Cllr J Brook asked if the Parish Council have any feedback to give and it was reported that we feel the communication levels are much better, we feel listened to & understood.
- It was noted that the missed green bin collection had been communicated well and had not generated any complaints.

**Village Hall Report** –The broadband contract is now cancelled, and final payment has been made. Replacement Defib Pads which were ordered have been received and installed. The Village Hall will provide a report for our next meeting.

**48/23 Planning Application submitted/received:**

a) A certificate of exemption for the Bus Shelter has been received.

**49/23 Highways/Footpaths**

a) Cllr A Holmes was not present to make her usually Highways report, however it was noted that repairs needed near the river have been marked out.

b) It was reported that the renewal of Red Path under the aqueduct bridge, does not yet meet the criteria.

c) Hill Close Road surface repairs were discussed, and the quality of the repairs are deemed satisfactory.

### **50/23 Playground /Millennium Field**

- a) Monthly Safety Report- by Cllr Stoker reported that he carried out the monthly inspection early in the week and said the field has been extremely well used. The rubbish bins emptied, and equipment checked over. Repairs to a stepping stand have been made and there is also a bench which needs painting in the future.
- b) New goal posts have been received and installed and the old ones removed.
- c) Grass Cutting Schedule, it was resolved to continue with cuts every 4 weeks, this will be monitored.
- d) The Clerk reported that the Annual ROSPA report which had been scheduled for August will now be completed by the end of October.

### **51/23 Fundraising & Events**

- a) An update was provided by Cllr V Macconnell and it was confirmed that the Fun Run scheduled for October has been postponed. There are plans for events in December (a concert) and January (a coffee morning). There have been more offers of volunteers since the Summer Newsletter which is greatly appreciated and Cllr V Macconnell was thanked for her hard work. A prize which has been donated to the Council for future events was gratefully received and was given to the Clerk.
- b) Cllr J Brook will contact the locality team for help and advise on funding options which may be available for the new equipment.
- c) Cllr V Macconnell confirmed that the float can be banked by the Clerk along with the other fun day takings.

### **52/23 Canal**

- a) Monthly report by Cllr B Holmes. A full report available on the website and in the cabinet.
- b) Monitoring the use of the Canal Path – busy especially at weekends and it was noted cyclists are still seen on the path.
- c) A new Stoker Seat has been received and installed. All involved in this were thanked for all their help and contribution.
- d) A discussion about the LCRP Canal Feasibility Study took place after the report that was received from them in July. All concerns and feedback have been put in a letter and all present were happy with the response that has been drafted to them.
- e) CRT installation of the artwork – Email discussed relating to way markers and feature signs, it was reported that we have no knowledge of any permission that they think has been granted, a letter has been sent to them for confirmation of details and we are waiting for a response from them.
- f) Annual Inspection by Alistair Hearn discussed. The report will be on the website and noticeboard once received. There are no immediate safety issues. The long term implications will be discussed at the November meeting.
- g) The Stone wall repair has been completed. Sadly, there are new areas of fallen wall; one adjacent to the previous collapse and 3 along the retaining wall at the easy path. It was decided that the contractor will be asked to do the smaller section and we will contact the Dry-Stone Wall Association for long term advice and help with the larger area.
- h) Hedgehog Highway information that was sent to us was discussed and Cllr B Tanham has offered to investigate this further.
- i) Dog Fouling on the Canal has been reported to the Parish Council and the Clerk has contacted W&F Council for some new signs.
- j) The OpenReach Exposed Cable has been reported but as no repairs have been made the Clerk will follow up for an update.

### **53/23 Website/social media**

- a) Cllr B Holmes reported that the website has been updated with meeting minutes and agenda and has 10 visits per day.
- b) Facebook posts have been made including information about planned firework displays and the cold callers in the village.

### **54/23 Finance**

- a) Bank balances noted as of 30/08/23 Current £11,840.58 & 18.08.2023 Reserve £15,163.26.
- b) Payments Approved for: Broadband Village Hall £4.49 Final Payment, Printing Plus Newsletters £132.67, Fun Day Supplies M Clay £8.55, Repair Material for Millenium Field Cllr G Stoker £6.40, Glasdon (Stoker Seat) £929.74 inc VAT, a donation was made by Cllr G Stoker towards the seat and greatly received with many thanks.
- c) Accounts agreed on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and cleared the bank account.
- d) Payroll options for the Clerk discussed. Three quotes provided and it has been decided that payroll will now be submitted to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party for processing. The Clerk will instruct the accountants decided upon.

- e) Cumbria CVS – South Lakes Funding Fair which took place on 13<sup>th</sup> September was not attended but we will wait for information about the event to hopefully be sent by email.

**55/23 Summer Newsletter**

- a) Newsletter was well received.
- b) The next newsletter will be in early December and will include details of the 20mph zone, cold calling, news on the canal, D-Day celebrations, and future events.

**56/23 D-Day Event Planning**

- a) It was decided that we will contact Stainton to discuss a joint event.

**57/23 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- a) Update of Policies and Procedures discussed and will be started ASAP
- b) CALC Training discussed and Cllr B Holmes informed the council she has booked on to the Chair Forum.

**58/23 Correspondence:** All the documents have been received and circulated to the Councillors.

**59/23 Open Action: all received and noted**

- a) CALC Pot Hole Emergency Meeting – Cllr Holmes attended and was good and very informative.
- b) Coronation Living Heritage Fund from DEFRA, was deemed not relevant to us.
- c) The partially fallen tree that has been twice reported to the Parish Council has been reported to Natland Parish Council as it is in their Parish.

**60/23 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will be on **8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30 pm in Sedgwick Village Hall.**

*The meeting closed at 9: 30 pm*

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Wording of request for 20mph Speed Limit**

Following over a decade of resident concern over pedestrian safety in our village, Sedgwick Parish Council would like to formally request that a 20mph speed limit be introduced in the Village. Residents need to access local services such as the school, Church, buses, the playground, Canal Wildlife Area and the Raines Hall Egg Shop. We have almost no pavements or street lighting, many roadside residential frontages, resident parking is on the roadside make it difficult for pedestrians to cross the roads, traffic levels are disproportionately high, as we are used as a rat run between Brettargh Holt and the A65 (and this will worsen as new housing developments are built), there are many agricultural vehicles that need to use the village centre and there are countless near misses under the narrow aqueduct and on blind junctions. The designated National Cycle Network Route 70 runs right through the village and Route 6 along the Parish Boundary – we are a frequently used route for all local cycle clubs. We believe a 20mph speed limit would radically improve pedestrian safety for our residents and improve pollution and noise levels, encouraging more people to walk and cycle.