

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 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.

24/24 Apologies: None

25/24 Minutes: It was resolved for the Chairperson to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2024 as a true record.

26/24 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.

27/24 Public Participation:

None

28/24 Reports

a) Police Report: The Council are receiving a monthly community newsletter.

b) Westmorland & Furness Council Cllr D Rathbone reported that;

- the 20mph zone project has been delayed due to the General Election.
- It was recommended that the Parish Council contact their new MP to introduce themselves.

29/24 Planning Application submitted/received:

a) 2024/0858/LBC Sedgwick House – resurfacing of tennis court and patio – no objections.

b) A meeting was attended by Cllr Holmes & Cllr Tanham with regards to the new Local Plan and a call for sites, details will be provided in the newsletter and on the website and there will be further update at the September meeting.

30/24 Highways/Footpaths

a) Cllr Tanham reported the following issues;

- There has been a knock-on effect in Sedgwick of an increase in traffic due to the Brigsteer & Underbarrow bridge closures.
 - The organisers of the upcoming bike race have been contacted to inform them that it will coincide with the County Show.
 - A 30mph sign near the Maize Maze has been turned around and needs to be corrected.
- b) The Parish Council were updated on the 20mph zone, with news that due to the General Election the planned initial consultation for June has been postponed by 6 weeks to early September 2024, more information on the scheme should be received by the 20th August 2024. Traffic survey devices have been installed in Sedgwick and the Parish Council commented on them being strangely situated in areas where speed is generally slower anyway. Cllr D Rathbone will raise this with W&F Council.
- c) There has been an increased volume of pedestrians on the road by the river due to the footbridge closure, therefore temporary pedestrian signs have been requested by the Clerk from the highways team.

31/24 Playground /Millennium Field

a) Cllr G Stoker gave his monthly Safety Report. The bins have been emptied, a goal post that had been broken has now been fixed, and a section of the activity trail that has been deemed as now unsafe has been cordoned off. Work will commence as soon as reasonable possible to remove this section. Seats will be repainted as soon as the weather improves, and it was reported that the ROSPA report will take place sometime from August.

b) The Parish Council were updated on the Orchard Grant Scheme, the forms have been completed and we are now waiting for the grant to be transferred. There is hardware to buy, and the Parish Council are aiming to start planting one weekend in October. A date will be arranged at the September meeting.

c) The clerk is looking into options for the Bug Hotel on the millennium field and Cllr D Rathbone will ask Kendal Town Council to respond to an email sent by the Clerk for information.

32/24 Fundraising & Events

a) Cllr Macconnell gave an update on the concert for next year. Levens are happy to do a joint fundraiser in March 2025, Cllr Macconnell will receive an update next week.

b) It was confirmed that the £50.00 float will be retained by Cllr V Macconnell for the deposit of the hall for the above fundraiser.

33/24 Safeguarding

a) Cllr Macconnell had no issues to report. It has been reported however that a member of the public was bitten by a dog on the Canal path and care should be taken by all.

34/24 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 however there are still cycles using the footpath and a considerable amount of Dog Poo.
- c) The annual inspection by Alistair Hearn has been booked for Thursday 5th September at 9.30am to survey the trees and the Parish Council will meet at 7.00pm on the canal path at the September meeting to discuss the report.
- d) The dry stone wall was discussed and the clerk has contacted the Young Farmers to see if small repairs is something they would be interested in. Cllr Holmes is waiting for a date to be arranged for a meeting with Ellie Nicholson from the Kent Estuary YFC to discuss voluntary work.
- e) The Parish Council are unhappy with the grass cutting that has been carried out on the canal path and Continental will be contacted by the Clerk to return and complete the uncut patches.
- f) The CRT have been informed that their installation can not be seen due to vegetation growth and Lucy Rodgers will try and schedule a maintenance plan.

35/24 Website/social media

- a) Cllr B Holmes reported that the website is up to date and Facebook posts are being made.
- b) The Clerk has uploaded the relevant Year End financial documents and there will be a section designated for the 20mph zone progress added.
- c) Details of the local plan and contact details for the new MP will be added.

36/24 Policies & Procedures

- a) The Finance regulations distributed to all Parish Councillors will be put for approval at the September meeting.
- b) The co-option policy will be updated by the next meeting along with any others that are due for update following CALC & NALC recommendation.

37/24 Finance

- a) The bank balances were noted as of 30/05/2024 Current = £16674.12 & 20/05/2024 Reserve = £15328.49
- b) The following payments were approved:
Parish Clerks Salary May/June = **£453.69**
Parish Clerks Expenses May/June = **£54.49**
HMRC PAYE May/June = **£89.40**
MICROSOFT 365 Renewal (Sylvia Roberts) = £59.99
Continental Landscapes £512.40. The Parish Council will retain this payment until all patches have been completed.
- c) The following receipts were acknowledged;
Reserve Account Interest = **£54.68**
SLDC Grant = **£145.67**
SLDC Precept = **£12326.97**
- d) The accounts agreed on 8th May 2024 were signed as cleared the bank account
- e) The Parish Council were informed that the rates for Payroll for 2024/25 have increased and it was agreed that they are acceptable for the quality of service.
- k) To inform the VAT reclaim submission has been done and we are awaiting payment.

38/24 Newsletter

- a) The next newsletter will go out by the end of August, depending on the requirements of the 20mph zone consultation phase and is to include details of the Vulnerable Household database, Book Exchange, Local Plan and contact details for the new MP.

39/24 Correspondence: All the documents have been received and circulated to the Councillors.

40/24 Open Action

- a) The Parish Council were informed that the vacancy of Parish Councillor has been advertised and a resident who may be interested will contact Cllr Holmes.

- b) The Clerk's Appraisal took place with Cllr B Holmes & Cllr Tanham and it was reported that the Parish Council are thrilled with the Clerks work. A report has been circulated to all Parish Councillors. The Clerk will take the laptop to be fixed ASAP.
- c) The acceptance of office forms were signed by all Parish Councillors.
- d) The Clerk reported that the cover from the Insurance has been reviewed and the level of cover has been confirmed as adequate for the items on the asset register and has therefore been renewed. The new Certificate has been displayed in the Village Hall.

41/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next Parish Meeting will on **Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7.30pm after an inspection on the canal at 7.00pm.**

Cllr Rathbone has already given his apologies. The Clerk will ask him for a report before the next meeting and will invite Cllr Brook to attend if he is available.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm

Signed:..... (Chairperson) Date: 11th September 2024