

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022



Welcome to our Spring Newsletter and your invitation to attend our Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting gives the Parish Council the opportunity to explain what it has achieved over the last year and gives you, the electors, the chance to have your say or ask questions about local issues. We use the meeting to learn about what you think are the most important parish priorities and through this, the outcome of the meeting helps shape our agenda for the future.

Last year's meeting was held virtually, due to the COVID-19 pandemic so it is great to be meeting face-to-face again this year. Jonathan Brook, leader of SLDC will address the meeting to talk about Local Government Re-organisation.

NOTICE OF THE SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL'S **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

To be held in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972
Wednesday 16th March 2022 at 7.30pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the 2021 Parish Meeting
4. Councillors' Reports
5. Reports from Village Organisations
6. Jonathan Brook, leader of SLDC
7. Questions and Future Priorities including Jubilee Plans

It would be helpful if any questions were submitted in advance to the Parish Clerk by email (sedgwick.parish@gmail.com) before Friday 11th March.

OUR ANNUAL PARISH REVIEW 2021-2

Just like 2020, the past year has seen all our lives profoundly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but as I write, the Omicron wave is abating, and it seems all restrictions will be lifted, as we 'learn to live with the virus'. We all owe huge gratitude to our front-line health workers, especially those who helped to deliver the excellent vaccine programme in the area. **Our response to COVID-19** will continue and just as we have in the past year, we will pass on relevant information through our website and facebook page.

The Council have continued to work hard to represent residents and manage the amenities we are responsible for. Until June, we continued to meet remotely but then face-to-face meetings at the Village Hall on the second Wednesday each month, resumed. **Our Council Meeting Attendance rates** are still extremely high; and Cllrs Doug Rathbone and Roger Bingham have continued to attend to represent Cumbria County Council and SLDC.

In April, we welcomed Will Burrow to the Council and then in October, Bob Smith retired. We thank Bob for his wisdom and hard work during his time on the Council. We still have a **vacancy** on the Council and would welcome anybody interested to contact the clerk or look at our website to find out more about becoming a Councillor. We need to fill the post so we can continue our work.

We were able to re-open the **Millennium Field** last March, as soon as it was legal to do so and it has been used even more than ever, as more people are spending more time outside. A monkey puzzle tree was planted to commemorate David Willacy's contribution to the community following his retirement from the council. Unfortunately, the large "Tree Man" slide is now well over 30 years old and reaching the end of its life. We are beginning to investigate how we could source and fund a replacement in the long term. It is a significant undertaking; we will be applying for grants and launching a fundraising appeal soon.

The **Canal Wildlife Area** continues to be more popular than ever and remains a peaceful place to walk and enjoy nature. The wetland habitat continues to diversify and fared well during the exceptionally dry summer. Our woodland management consultant continues to inspect the woodland regularly and we have appointed James Park as our Woodland Contractor to keep a constant eye on the area and carry out any work as and when it is required. The path up near Sedgwick Hill Bridge has been repaired. Perhaps because of the good summer, the Ash Die Back disease which is prevalent in the ash stock did not progress last year, but it is likely that over 90% will eventually succumb. Storms Arwen and Franklin damaged several trees and they have been removed. The WI have been successful in their bid for 100 trees from the Woodland Trust, and they have kindly donated them to the Council to enable us to replace the casualties of Ash Die Back, in accordance with the Felling Licence. They will become part of the Queen's Green Canopy and a commemoration plaque will be installed later in the year.

The Lancaster Canal National Lottery Fund Project which funded the renovation of Stainton Aqueduct and improvements at Hincaster Tunnel, came to an end in December. The promised art installations have been delayed but are expected soon. The plans show that there will be a 2m steel art installation housed on the far side of the aqueduct (not visible from the road) together with a new information board on the towpath.

Highways issues take up a significant amount of our time. Repairs have been carried out by the river and several blocked drains cleared, but we are still waiting for promised work on pavements (which has been postponed until 2023/4), resurfacing at Raines Hall and safety improvements at the aqueduct and Carex Farm Crossroads. Our campaign for a 20mph speed limit in the village continues and a speed data monitoring exercise was carried out in November 2021 and repeated in January 2022. We are still waiting for the results.

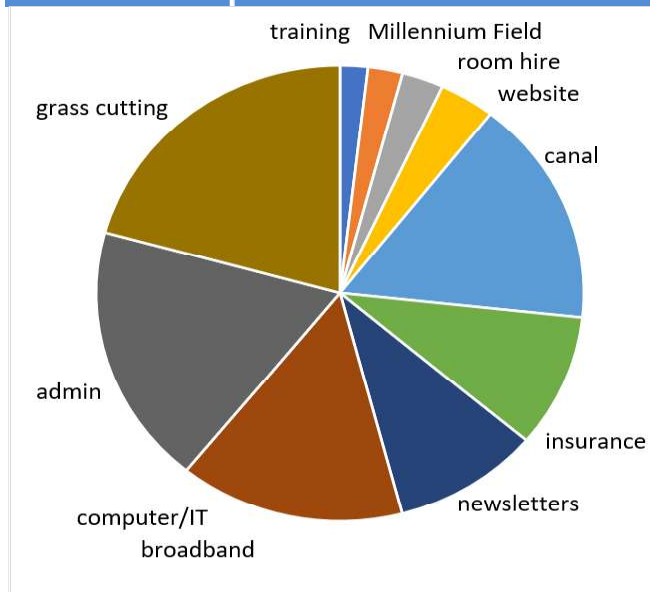
An issue which will have significant impact on all of us, is the imminent **reorganisation of local government**. Cumbria County Council and the Cumbrian District Councils will be replaced by two Unitary Authorities, "Westmorland and Furness" and "Cumberland". New Councillors will be elected in May 2022, with two joint committees established as "shadow authorities". They are working on organising the new councils prior to their official creation in April 2023. Jonathan Brook, Leader of SLDC, has been invited to speak about the changes and their implications to Parishes and residents at our Annual Parish Meeting.

We are all looking forward to **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee in June** and we are busily working with Stainton Parish to plan local commemorations.

We are asking residents to **"Decorate the villages for the Jubilee"** with fairy lights, flags, bunting and Royal Scarecrows, with a prize given to the best display. Youth groups are being asked to create displays on the theme of the **Platinum Jubilee and Royalty Through the Ages** which will be exhibited in the Church alongside an exhibition of **Residents' Memories and Photographs from the last 70 years**. Please contact us if you would like to contribute or help.

On the evening of Thursday 2nd June, food and drinks will be available at Church from 7pm and there will be a **Children's' Treasure Hunt**, before a **beacon** is lit on the hill nearby at 9:45pm. Both parishes are planning picnics over the weekend (we need volunteers to help organise our **picnic in the Millennium Field** please) and there will be a special **Church Service** on Sunday. As village organisations plan more events, we will post updates on the website, facebook group and on the Noticeboard so please keep an eye on them for news as our plans develop. If you are interested in helping out, or have more ideas, please contact The Clerk.

Financial Report 2020-21



Only 189 properties in Sedgwick contribute to our Parish income via the Parish Precept component of the SLDC Council Tax, so we have a relatively small income to cover our running costs and maintain our invaluable village amenities. We have again been able to make some savings because of the pandemic, but this has been offset by extra costs required to keep the Millennium Field open safely and enable us to hold virtual meetings. Dealing with storm damage and path repairs on the Canal has added to costs. The chart shows how we have prioritised our spending excluding the Clerk's salary. We expect to finish the financial year with a small carry forward and our reserve fund which safeguards the long-term future of the Millennium Field and Canal

Wildlife Area remains intact. Inflation is rising steeply but the Council has been able to keep the increase to the precept to 3% for next year because we appreciate that many households are facing increases in other costs, most notably fuel prices. We expect finances will remain extremely tight in the foreseeable future and additional pressure is expected as Local Government Reorganisation require Councils to do more for less in real terms. Draft accounts for the year will be available at the Parish Meeting.

We continue to work to comply with all **Data Protection Regulations, and financial requirements** and maintain our popular **website**. We have continued to be involved in the local **planning process** and have also attended a range of online **training and consultation events**, including those regarding the proposed changes to **Local Government Reorganisation**. Numerous training sessions have been attended by Councillors covering areas such as Induction training, highways reporting, neighbourhood planning, Nature Recovery and Councillors have also represented the Council and residents at many external meetings. Finally, we have continued to oversee the **Sedgwick No Cold Calling Zone** to deter unwanted visitors and have updated the **Community Emergency Plan** which would help the community respond to a local crisis.

None of the Council's achievements would be possible without the contribution made by our brilliant team of Councillors, who give their time and expertise so generously and work so hard for the Parish and I would like to thank them on your behalf.

Special thanks go to our dedicated and hard-working Parish Clerk.

We look forward to meeting you at the Annual Parish Meeting

Boyan Holmes

Chairman of Sedgwick Parish Council

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk; Sylvia Roberts

The Nook, Levens
LA8 8PN

Councillors:

Chair; Boyan Holmes;

The Oaks, 61644

Andrea Holmes;

5, Wakefield Meadow, 61364

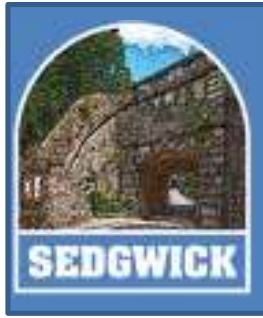
Gerry Stoker;

4, Wakefield Meadow, 60939

Bernie Tanham; The Wharf, 60179

Will Burrow; Railway Cottage,

07814575880



County Councillor Brenda Gray,
Rose Cottage,
Hincaster, Milnthorpe,
LA7 7ND Tel: 61135

District Councillors

Cllr. Tom Harvey 07769705307

tom@tom-harvey.co.uk

Cllr Brian Cooper 015395 84991

b.cooper47@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr. Roger Bingham 015395 63694

roger.bingham@cumbria.gov.uk

Cumbria County Council

HIGHWAYS HOTLINE 0300 3032992

COUNCIL MEETINGS

2nd Wednesday of every Month@ 7.30pm

**9th March, 13th April, 11th May, 8th June, 13th July, 14th September,
12th October and 9th November**

Each meeting includes a Public Forum as part of the agenda for residents to ask questions, raise items of concern or simply comment on issues

Submission of questions in advance of the meeting are welcomed, so that they can be answered more fully. Matters raised that are not included on this agenda will be considered for subsequent agendas

Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 16th March 2022



Our website

www.sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk

Our Email sedgwick.parish@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook

@ SedgwickParishCouncil



Sedgwick
NO COLD CALLING ZONE

**COLD CALLERS ARE NOT
ALLOWED IN SEDGWICK!**

If they call on you, contact
Cumbria Police on 101
immediately and if possible,
report them to Cumbria
Trading Standards via the
Citizens Advice Helpline on
03454 04 05 06

IMPORTANT EMERGENCY ADVICE

If you need to call the
Emergency Services,
remember to make
sure they know which
side of the aqueduct a
vehicle is needed,
because many modern
appliances cannot pass
under the aqueduct
and the detour
required is very long

SEDGWICK

Community Emergency Plan

**Sedgwick Parish Council has a
Community Emergency Plan to
help minimise the impact of a
major local emergency on
residents. In event of a major
emergency, contact our
Coordinator Gerry Stoker
Telephone 60939**

SEDGWICK VILLAGE HALL

Bookings: Joyce Benson **Tel:** 015395 60715 **Email:** joycebenson2@gmail.com