

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 16 April 2018 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, G Gilmour, J Haile, F Kennedy, J Lockie, D Millington, H Monaghan, M Riley, C Robson, N Smart & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr I Hill, CBC Ward Councillor
Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor Egremont North/St Bees

Also present: 1 member of the public

60/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs T Kelly and J Mellor.

61/18 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on matters on the agenda.

62/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident of the Abbey Farm development explained that there had been numerous occasions during the last year when recycling boxes had not been emptied. The matter had been reported to CBC but the only explanation received was that a car was often parked at the entrance to the courtyard obstructing access. However, the vehicles which empty the brown and black bins had been able to access the properties. Residents were concerned that with the new recycling scheme beginning this week it would be even more inconvenient to have to carry unemptied boxes back to their properties.

Cllr Hill asked that details be passed on to him so that he could take up the matter with CBC officers.

63/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2018

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 19 March 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

64/18 CCC & HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Cllr Whiteside reported on a number of current issues:-

- The proposals for changes to traffic arrangements in Beckermet had been the subject of further consultation and the Highways Working Group was recommending to the Local Committee that the scheme should not be implemented. However, Highways would continue to look at traffic calming measures in villages affected by Sellafield traffic.
- Outline plans had been received for the proposed junction improvements on the A595. However, it would take some time to complete the design process and implement the plans.
- The County Council had received some additional funding from central government for pot hole repairs but this would not be sufficient to deal with all the work required. Councillor asked whether some priority could be given to repairs to the B5345 near Abbey Corner where the pot holes were particularly bad and were causing a significant danger to cyclists and motorcyclists.

It was RESOLVED to write formally to Cllr Whiteside to request his help with this matter.

- Cllr Whiteside was still investigating the position with the outstanding work on the road markings at Outrigg which had been agreed some months ago with Kevin Cosgrove.

- Cllr Whiteside had discussed the concerns about pedestrian safety on Abbey Road with the Highways Network Manager. It was suggested that a site meeting be organised to be attended by Cllr Whiteside, Highways staff and representatives of the parish council and local residents. The Clerk would liaise with attendees to arrange a convenient date.

Councillors thanked Cllr Whiteside for his help with these matters.

It was noted that the gully cleaning team had recently been in the village and had made a good job of cleaning the gulleys.

Cllr Whiteside agreed to pass on the Parish Council's comments to those involved.

65/18 CBC ISSUES

It was RESOLVED to bring forward agenda items 12 & 16 for discussion at this point.

Cllr Hill reported that as a result of the new places for medical students being created at the University of Central Lancashire, fifteen students would be working in Cumbria. It was hoped that they would decide to remain in this area after qualification.

The new recycling system was beginning this week and most households in the borough had now received their boxes. Free lids had been distributed from various locations and continued to be available. It was reported that properties in Sea Mill Lane had not received new boxes and Cllr Hill undertook to follow this up with the appropriate officers.

66/18 COASTAL ACCESS/CLIFF PATH

Cllr Hill reported that he had been contacted by a number of residents concerned that the permissive path along the cliff was becoming unsafe due to further erosion and landslips. He had relayed the concerns to officers at CBC as an issue of public safety. It was reported that workmen (believed to be from CBC) had recently put up barbed wire at the Seacote end of the path.

The Chairman confirmed that St Bees School as landowners were aware of the issues and a meeting would be taking place on 26 April between Natural England, the Trustees of St Bees School and the Golf Club to continue discussions about an alternative route which would provide a safe path whilst avoiding the danger of walkers being hit by golf balls.

67/18 ST BEES SCHOOL

The Chairman reported that it had been hoped that the Bursar would be present but, unfortunately, she was not now able to attend. It was hoped to have a report at the next meeting on progress with plans for the reopening of the School in September.

68/18 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Financial Report

The summary of accounts at 31 March was received and noted. The total income for 2017/18 was £48604.63. Expenditure for the year was £42362.74 with an additional £2450 having been transferred to earmarked reserves, slightly below the budget.

The internal audit was now taking place and the accounts would be presented for approval at the next meeting.

(b) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002401 CALC – Annual subscription Total £297.00
- Chq 002402 Copeland Citizens Advice Bureau– donation (agreed at last meeting)
Total £200.00
- Chq 002403 J Donaldson – postage £6.96 & printer ink charge £9.99 + £2.00 VAT
Total £18.95

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- Chq 002404 J Donaldson – salary (net) April £637.08
- Chq 002405 D Sim – reimbursement of telephone calls £36.96
- Chq 002406 Ink Design Print Cumbria Ltd – display boards £150.00 + £30.00 VAT Total £180.00
- Chq 002407 Y Leach -reimbursement for key cutting £15.00
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service April £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

Payments since last meeting to report

- Chq 002396 Npower Ltd -toilet electricity £38.28 + £1.91 VAT Total £40.19
- Chq 002397 CBC – play area repairs £1234.42 + £246.88 VAT Total £1481.30
- Chq 002398 Whitehaven Garden Centre – plants (VIB) £108.34 + £21.66 VAT Total £130.00
- Chq 002399 D Robinson – wheelbarrow (VIB) £40.00 + £8.00 VAT Total £48.00
- Chq 002400 Petty Cash top-up Total £115.50
- Answer 4 You – answering service April £8.80 + £1.76 VAT Total £10.56 (due to be paid by DD on 19 April)

69/18 GDF CONSULTATIONS

A draft response to the consultation on Working with Communities had been prepared by the Working Group. The main issues identified were the complexity of the proposed arrangements and the need for local communities to have access to independent expert advice.

It was RESOLVED that the draft response be approved.

70/18 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

A meeting of the Working Group had been arranged for 18 April and a progress report would be available at the next meeting. It was noted that NALC was reconsidering its initial advice about the appointment of Data Protection Officers and in the meantime CALC was advising local councils to await further guidance before entering into any agreements.

71/18 PROJECT REPORTS

(a)Beach Regeneration

The donkey springy had been repaired and was back in place at the play area, although one of the zip wires was still out of action. The Clerk was contacting CBC to check when the repair would be completed. It was agreed to order some ‘no dogs’ signs to be put on the gate of the toddler area.

The new display boards showing pictures of the beach in earlier times were now complete and would be mounted on the wall of the shelter.

The Chairman confirmed that he had put up the sign as requested by the Samaritans.

The Clerk would be contacting Mr Milburn to discuss the plans to redecorate the toilets.

(b)Traffic Calming/Speedwatch.

Speedwatch sessions were continuing on a regular basis.

(c)Community Events

The gardening talk held last week at the Village Hall had been very successful.

(d) Tree Planting

With the final stage of the Nu-Gen Green Grant project at the Adams Ground having been completed, the focus now was on maintenance of the trees planted in various locations in the

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parish. New supports were required for some trees. It was noted that the lengthsman had helped to complete the pollarding of the trees in Priory Paddock. It was RESOLVED to order a supply of new tree stakes.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track

The planning application submitted by West Cumbria Mining had not yet been considered by Cumbria County Council so there had been no further progress with plans for the cycle track.

(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project

Work was continuing to eradicate invasive species from the pond area. A pond dipping event had taken place last week, organised by the Friends of the Priory, which had been well attended and had proved very popular with the children.

(g) Public Access Defibrillators

Discussions were taking place with the local resident had offered to allow the second defibrillator to be installed on the wall of his property where it would be convenient for locations towards the top of the village. Arrangements would be needed to connect a power supply to the cabinet. It was suggested that a solar panel might be a more convenient solution than installing a cable. Cllr Argyle volunteered to investigate whether this might be possible.

(h) Station Car Park Extension

An email had been received from the Property Dept of Network Rail asking for further information on the parish council's request for an agreement which would guarantee access to the adjoining land for at least 25 years. The Clerk would be responding to the email and suggesting further discussions with Network Rail about how this could best be achieved.

72/18 IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WEBSITE

It was noted that the website had been constructed some years ago and was not easy to view on mobile devices. Various options were being considered to update and improve the website. Unfortunately, the solution originally proposed was no longer possible as the software was being discontinued and other options would need to be explored.

73/18 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chairman was not able to attend the next meeting of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group. It was agreed that Cllr Gilmour would attend if available.

74/18 PLANNING

(a) New Planning Applications

The Planning Advisory Group reported on the following applications received for comment:

Ref 4/18/2122/0F1 Prior approval of proposed change of use of redundant former calving shed to form 2 bed single storey dwelling with associated parking & amenity space
Rottington Hall Estate, Rottington

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.

Ref 4/18/2128 /0F1 Single storey rear extension
4 Richmond Crescent, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.

Ref 4/18/2115/0F1 Amended plans for works

Arenisca, Fleatham Farm, High House Rd, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to the amended plans.

A further application had recently been received for tree works at Abbey Cottage but there had been insufficient time for the Planning Advisory Group to consider this before the meeting. Any comments would need to be submitted to CBC before the next meeting.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to submit comments on this application following consultation with the Planning Advisory Group.

(b) Applications approved:

The following application had been approved by CBC:

4/18/2087/TPO Tree Works – Fleatham House, St Bees

(c) Other Planning Matters

No further update had been received from CBC on the current situation with the unauthorised works to the rear of 4 Blythe Place. It was noted that no decision had yet been made on the application for other works at this property as CBC was still awaiting amended plans.

It was noted the CBC had now formally adopted the Conservation Area Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document.

75/18 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received and noted.

76/18 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

The report of logs during March was received. The only incident of note was a report of criminal damage at one of the licensed premises in the village. It was noted that when the new rail timetable was introduced the last train to Whitehaven would be later in the evening and this might have an effect on the number of people visiting licensed premises in the village.

77/18 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Formal notification had been received from CCC of proposed bridge work on Coach Rd, St Bees which would require access to parish council owned land at Beck Edge. The work was scheduled to take place between June & October. The Clerk was seeking further information from CCC so adequate warning could be given to the tenant.

(b) Details had been received from the Local Government Boundary Commission of their proposals for CBC ward boundaries which were subject to consultation until 11 June. Details had been circulated to councillors and a notice had been posted on the noticeboards.

(c) Notes had been received of the recent Colourful Coast meeting together with the draft Sense of Place document. Noted.

(d) CALC had forwarded details of a consultation by NALC on the review of Local Government Ethical Standards. Noted.

(e) A revised version of Governance & Accountability had been issued by NALC. It was noted that the changes relate mainly to the new audit system.

(f) An invitation had been received to an event being organised by ACT on 19 April at Thwaites Village Hall on 'Keeping your Community Safe in an Emergency'. Noted.

(g) A letter (signed only as 'on behalf of Village residents') had been received complaining that a car had been abandoned at the entrance to Outrigg Close. The writer asked that the matter be addressed by the Parish Council. However, it appeared that the vehicle was parked on private land and not on the public highway so any action would need to be taken by the landowner(s).

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(h)A further letter had been received from Mr D Brownrigg, expressing the view that the Parish Council was biased in favour of St Bees School and was withholding information contained in his earlier letters. It was RESOLVED to respond, refuting the suggestions of bias and withholding information and explaining that the invitation to meet the Parish Council remained open.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Countryside Voice Spring 2018
- West Cumbria Mining Update
- Copeland Matters – April
- NW Coastal Access Update March 2018
- FLAG Newsletter April 2018

78/18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- (a) It was reported that a car appeared to have been abandoned in the Station car park. The Clerk would investigate further.
- (b) It was reported that a car displaying a blue badge was parking for very long periods on Finkle Street and this was causing problems for vehicles, particularly lorries, using this narrow stretch of road.

79/18 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Meeting take place on MONDAY 21 MAY 2018 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall, followed immediately by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Signed.....

Date.....