

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 16 December 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllr D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, G Gilmour, C Hale, A Kaldos,
F Kennedy, J Mellor, D Millington, H Monaghan, C Robson, D Rothery, E Taylor & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr J Hailes (CBC Ward Councillor)

Also present : 11 members of the public

194/19 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman reported with sadness the death of Jamie Lockie who had served as a parish councillor from 2016 until ill-health had forced him to resign just a few months ago. Jamie had played an active role on the council, co-ordinating the beach play area inspections and carrying out the weekly checks on the defibrillators as well as acting as adviser on health & safety matters. His funeral would take place on Friday 20 December at Distington Crematorium.

The Chairman then asked those present to stand for a period of silence and reflection in memory of Jamie Lockie.

195/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr A Linton.

196/19 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

197/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public raised two items – (a) an application for outline planning permission to demolish the garages on Outrigg and replace with residential development and (b) problems with the state of the bridleway at Green Lonning.

(a) Planning Application – Outrigg Yard

Members of the public explained that some householders had received notification from CBC of a planning application for outline consent to demolish the garages at Outrigg Yard and replace with 4 houses. Those who rented the garages had not been told of the application by the current owner and were concerned about the impact of the loss of off-street parking, as lack of parking space was already a major issue in the village. It was also pointed out that the area around the school entrance on Outrigg was very congested at the beginning and end of the school day. Another concern expressed was that the sewers and drains in that area were not adequate to cope with further residential development.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had only received a copy of the application earlier in the day and the Clerk would be seeking an extension of the deadline for comments to allow the parish council time to give proper consideration to the application. He pointed out that this was an outline application and, even if approved, there would have to be further applications to approve the details of any properties to be built. He encouraged anyone with comments to make on the application to write individually to CBC. He noted that the access road to the properties at Outrigg Close was a private road and any impact on these properties would be a private matter between the developer of the site and the property owners. Councillors thanked members of the public for coming to the meeting to explain their concerns which would be taken into account when the Parish Council considered its own comments on the application.

(b) Bridleway at Green Lonning

A letter setting out concerns about the state of the bridleway at Green Lonning was presented to the parish council and members of the public spoke to explain their concerns. The bridleway also served as an access road to a residential property, agricultural land and St Bees Common. The track was being used by large agricultural vehicles and this was damaging the surface of the track to the point where it was thought no longer suitable for use by pedestrians or horse riders. Several parish councillors had visited the track and agreed that it had been made more difficult to walk up to the Common. Local residents had contacted the farmer whose contractors were using the track but had not been able to secure any undertaking that repairs would be carried out or that there would be any change in the way agricultural vehicles were driving along the track.

The Chairman explained that the County Council as Highways Authority had a duty to ensure that rights of way were maintained to a standard appropriate to their designation. As this was a bridleway, the route had to be suitable for use by pedestrians and those on horseback. He suggested that an appropriate way forward would be for the Parish Council to contact the Countryside Access Team at CCC to ask them to attend a site meeting at the bridleway with interested parties to look at what action was required.

198/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2019

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 18 November be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

199/19 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

In the absence of Cllr Whiteside no report was available on the various on-going issues. It was noted that the County Council had published its budget consultation and details were available on the CCC web-site.

It was RESOLVED to seek a progress report from Cllr Whiteside on current issues including Outrigg pavement extension, High House Rd/Fleatham Croft junction, possible time limited parking from Station Rd to the Priory, parking restrictions on the Main Street/Seacroft Drive junction and the Section 106 agreement with West Cumbria Mining.

200/19 CBC MATTERS

Cllr Hailes reported that he had asked for more dog fouling stencils to be painted in Main Street. The lights on Sea Mill Lane had now been repaired and funds had been allocated for repairs to the lifeboat ramp. There remained a problem with school transport for a small number of pupils at West Lakes Academy and Cllrs Hailes & Whiteside were working together to try and find a solution. CBC had launched its budget consultation and the consultation documents were available on the CBC web-site. Cllr Hailes was working with Cllr Whiteside and Trudy Harrison MP to look at how best they could help to move forward discussions with Network Rail on the extension of station car park.

It was noted that CBC had considered the request for a litter bin to be installed at the entrance to the cycle track at Linethwaite. Waste Management staff were not aware of significant problems in this area but would provide a bin if the Parish Council was prepared to pay for the bin and its on-going costs.

It was RESOLVED not to proceed at this stage but to continue to monitor the situation.

Councillors reported that cast iron guttering was hanging off the front of the Manor and presented a safety risk. Cllr Hailes was asked to seek advice from CBC's Building Control officers to ensure the issue was dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Bettinson left the meeting at this point.

201/19 POLICE REPORT

The Chairman welcomed Sgt Ashbridge of British Transport Police. Sgt Ashbridge explained that his officers would be patrolling the area near the station at weekends up to Christmas. Up to 50 people were leaving the pubs to catch the last train to Whitehaven on Friday evenings and, where behaviour was unacceptable, they were not being allowed to board the train. Northern Rail was also deploying its own security staff. Network Rail would be installing CCTV equipment and it was understood that Northern Rail would also be putting in their own CCTV, although the timescales were uncertain.

Sgt Ashbridge explained that he would continue to attend parish council meetings on a quarterly basis but would be interested to hear of issues of concern at any time.

The area updates from Cumbria Constabulary had been circulated but there were no specific issues affecting St Bees. Sgt MacDonald was continuing to follow up reports of delays in getting through to the 101 number and was asking for further details of dates and times.

202/19 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Finance Report

The summary of accounts at 30 November was received together with the notes of the FRAG meeting on 12 December.

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It was noted that the year end forecast was for a small underspend overall but the Fees & Subscriptions budget was likely to be overspent due to the legal costs incurred in preparing the new lease for the Village Hall which had included additional costs for resolving boundary issues.

It was RESOLVED to vire funds from the Projects budget to meet the overspend.

(b) Budget 2020/2023 & Precept for 2020/21

The draft three year budget prepared by FRAG was discussed. A number of projects had been put forward for inclusion in the budget for next year including the commitment to provide a contribution to the extension of the pavement on Outrigg if CCC decided to go ahead with the scheme. FRAG recommended that the additional expenditure should be funded in part by an increase in the precept and in part by releasing funds from the general reserve.

It was RESOLVED that the budget for 2020/2023 be approved and that the precept for 2020/21 be set at £44486 (an increase of approx £2.85 per year in the precept on a Band D property).

(c) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002595 Harrisons Packaging Ltd – poop scoop bags £171.99 + £34.40 VAT Total £206.39
- Chq 002596 Bleasdale & Co Solicitors Ltd – preparation of lease Total £1238.00
- Chq 002597CBC – annual maintenance charge for Rottington lights - £286.00 + £57.20 Total £343.20
- Chq 002598YNH Ltd – domain name renewal and hosting Total £105.95
- Chq 002599 J Donaldson -reimbursement for tree lights, anti-virus renewal, postage & printer ink £328.29 + £64.19 VAT Total £392.48
- Chq 002600 J Donaldson – salary Dec £565.42
- Chq 002601 HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE Qtr 3 £609.66
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service December £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

Payments since last meeting to report:

- Chq 002583 St Bees PCC – contribution to publication costs of parish magazine £720
- Chq 002584 Village Hall Committee – donation for use of hall & office £600
- Chq 002585 Royal British Legion -donation to Poppy Appeal £155
- Chq 002586 Youth Group – contribution to purchase of equipment/activities £100
- Chq 002587 Citizens Advice Copeland – contribution to costs of advice services £100
- Chq 002588 Great North Air Ambulance – contribution to costs of service £100
- Chq 002589 St Bees Over 60s – contribution to events/activities £100
- Chq 002590 C Lewis (RNLI Ladies Guild) – donation to refreshments at carol concert £100
- Chq 002591 Furness Line Action Group -donation/ membership subscription £50
- Chq 002592 Friends of the Priory -donation £50
- Chq 002593 Adams Recreation Ground Committee – contribution to purchase of new mower £100
- Chq 002594 Water Plus Ltd – water/wastewater to toilets Total £281.40

203/19 VILLAGE HALL LEASES

Cllr Sim declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of the Pagan Trust. Cllrs Kennedy & Mellor declared a non-pecuniary interest as members of the Village Hall Committee.

The Chairman reported on progress with the new lease for the Village Hall. The head lease between the Pagan Trust and the Village Hall Committee had been agreed. As the Parish Council was Custodian Trustee for the Village Hall Committee the lease would need to be signed by two parish councillors. As Cllr Sim was also a Trustee of the Pagan Trust it would not be appropriate for him to sign on behalf of the Parish Council. Once the signing of the head lease was complete, a sub-lease between the Village Hall and Freemasons would be drawn up.

It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Gilmour and Monaghan be authorised to sign the lease on behalf of the Parish Council.

204/19 COPELAND LOCAL PLAN

CBC had launched a consultation on the draft Options & Issues document which was part of the process of updating the Local Plan. The document would be discussed at the next Three Tier Meeting in early January and it was agreed that the Planning Advisory Group would then prepare a draft response to be agreed by the Parish Council at the meeting on 20 January. The Clerk would request a short request an extension of the deadline to enable comments to be submitted after the meeting.

205/19 RIGHTS OF WAY

Following the discussions under Public Participation earlier in the meeting it was agreed to contact CCC about the state of the bridleway at Green Lonning.

The Chairman explained that there were several volunteers in the parish who were willing to form a small working group to help with Rights of Way issues. The group would carry out inspections of footpaths, identify repairs required etc. It would operate as a working group so would not have any spending powers and would report to the Parish Council.

It was RESOLVED to establish a Rights of Way working group.

206/19 PROJECT REPORTS**(a) Beach Regeneration**

A reply was still awaited from CBC on whether the cycle stands would be provided as part of the Hidden Coast project.

It was reported that the bearings for the play area spinner had now arrived and the equipment was expected to be back in service shortly. A recent CBC inspection had found some problems with the operation of the self-closing mechanism on one of the gates. The Clerk would confirm with CBC that repairs were in hand. It was agreed that the inspection team would compile a list of the work required to deal with rust on some of the equipment so repairs could be organised. There were a number of areas where the ground surface was muddy and unsatisfactory. Estimates would be sought for work on the ground surfaces once the weather improved.

The Clerk had informed CBC that the Parish Council did not want to reinstate the undamaged springy and wanted to look at alternative types of equipment. CBC would supply some suggestions of equipment which was installed in other play areas in the district.

(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch

There was no progress report. The speed gun would be recalibrated after Christmas.

(c) Community Events**(i) Christmas Events**

Many local residents had commented favourably on the Christmas tree and new lights. The Santa Parade had gone well despite the wind and rain and thanks were due to everyone involved in the preparations and on the night itself. The road closure had worked well and the collection during the parade had raised £107 for RNLI funds. The carol concert later in the evening had been well attended despite the weather and had raised almost £500. Cllr Kaldos would create a spreadsheet of tasks, contacts etc to help with the organisation of next year's event and he requested feedback from councillors on what went well or could be improved in future years.

It was agreed that the tree lights would be switched off on 5 January and the tree would be taken down on Sat 11 January.

A suggestion had been made that a Christmas market would be a popular event in future years. It was agreed that if there was sufficient interest, a small group could look at the practicalities of organising something of this nature. It was suggested that it might be possible to link this into the other events being organised for the Priory's 900th anniversary celebrations.

(d) Tree Planting

There was no report available.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track

There was no progress to report.

(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project

There was no progress to report since the last meeting.

(g) Station Car Park Extension

The support promised by Cllrs Hailes & Whiteside in trying to progress discussions with Network Rail was welcomed.

(h) Village in Bloom – New Base

The next stage was submission of a planning application. Cllrs Gilmour and Sim agreed to complete the documentation required.

207/19 COUNCILLOR TRAINING

Feedback was received from councillors who had attended the training session on planning issues on 20 November in New College Hall.

208/19 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Gilmour reported on the recent meeting of West Copeland Partnership where there had been a discussion with Katie Read, CBC's Tourism Development Officer. She had explained her vision for increasing the tourism sector in the area and marketing Copeland as 'The Lake District Coast'. She was keen to be involved in the plans for the 900th anniversary of the Priory next year which could put St Bees on the tourist map.

The Chairman reported that he had been invited to attend an event at St Bees School to meet a delegation of Chinese officials from Shanghai. Cllr Hale had taken part in an activity at St Bees School as part of the Global Awareness Programme and had judged pupils' presentations. Councillors reported on the event organised by St Bees School for local residents. A number of residents had attended and asked questions but the time (4pm on Thursday) had not been convenient for some people.

209/19 PLANNING

(a) New Planning Applications

Two new applications had been received earlier in the day (4/19/2426/O01 Outline application for demolition of existing garages and residential development - Outrigg Yard & 4/19/2427/0F1 Double storey extension to front & raised terrace with balustrade - 9 The Crofts). As there had been insufficient time to review these for discussion at the meeting, it was agreed that the Clerk would request an extension of the deadline for comments to allow the applications to be considered at the January meeting.

(b) Applications approved by CBC

The following decisions had been made by CBC:

- 4/19/2356/0F1 & 2357/0L1 Construction of traditional glasshouse to rear -Howman APPROVED
- 4/19/2363/0L1 Replacement of 3 upper storey windows – Howman APPROVED
- 4/19/2368/TPO Various works to 5 trees protected by TPO – 2 Fleatham Gardens PART APPROVED/PART REFUSED

210/19 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received and noted. A letter had been sent to Sustrans requesting better signage on the cycle track at Linethwaite but no reply had yet been received.

211/19 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) An email had been received from St Bees School enclosing a Question & Answer sheet from the recent open meeting for residents. Noted.

(b) Details had been received from NALC of the spring conference to take place on 17 March in central London. The topic would be health & well-being. Noted.

(c) Updated advice had been received from NALC on disciplinary & grievance procedures. Noted.

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- (d) A letter had been received from West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group enclosing a copy of the terms of reference and confirming the Parish Council's membership of the group. Noted.
- (e) ACT had forwarded results of the 2019 survey of Third Sector Trends. Noted.
- (f) A letter had been received from Open Spaces Society seeking donations to fund legal work on rights of way/common land issues. Noted.
- (g) Emails/letters of thanks had been received from the following groups who were awarded donations at the last meeting: Over 60s, Friends of the Priory, Adams Recreation Ground, Citizens Advice Copeland, Great North Air Ambulance and Royal British Legion. Noted.
- (h) Guidance had been received from NALC on local council support for church premises. Noted
- (i) CALC had forwarded details of a community consultation on arts provision in Copeland/Allerdale. Circulated to councillors by email.

FOR INFORMATION

- FLAG Newsletter Dec 19
- Countryside Voices (CPRE) Winter 2019
- Cumbria Arts & Culture Network Newsletter
- West Cumbria Mining Project Update
- NALC Newsletter 4 December
- NALC Chief Executive's Bulletins 22/11, 29/11, 6/12 & 13/12
- Friends of the Lake District News & Events (Dec)
- Copeland Matters December
- St Bees School – The Hive Issues 5 & 6
- CALC Newsletter December
- Cumbria Constabulary update Egremont, Cleator Moor & Rural Sector

212/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Action with Communities in Cumbria was offering to attend a meeting to speak to the Parish Council about community-led housing projects. It was agreed that a representative from ACT be invited to speak at the February meeting.

213/19 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next Parish Council meeting take place on MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2020 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....