

**Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 17 May 2021 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, C Hale, A Kaldos, A Linton, J Mellor, D Millington, H Monaghan, E Taylor & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor - Egremont North/St Bees
Cllr J Hailes, CBC Ward Councillor

80/21 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN

(a) Nominations were sought for the office of Chairman for the coming year.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Sim be elected as Chairman for the coming year (proposed by Cllr Argyle, seconded by Cllr Millington).

(b) Nominations were sought for the office of Vice Chairman for the coming year.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Gilmour be elected as Vice Chairman for the coming year (proposed by Cllr Bettinson, seconded by Cllr Monaghan).

81/21 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first time that the council had met in person since March 2020, and explained the social distancing and other precautions in place for the meeting.

82/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G Gilmour & C Robson

83/21 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

84/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No issues were raised.

85/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 2021

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

86/21 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Asset Register

The asset register at 31 March 2021 was received and noted.

(b) Annual Governance Statement

The assurances required in the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 were considered and it was agreed that affirmative answers could be given in all cases.

It was RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Chairman.

(c) Annual Accounting Statement

The Annual Accounting Statement for 2020/21 had been circulated with the agenda. A more detailed breakdown of income and expenditure for the year had also been circulated with a summary of funds carried over to 2021/22.

It was RESOLVED that the Annual Accounting Statement be approved and signed by the Chairman.

(d) Appointment of Internal Auditor

It was RESOLVED that Harry Strong be appointed as Internal Auditor for 2021/22.

(e) Insurance

The 3 year long term arrangement with Zurich would end on 31 May. A quotation had been received from Zurich for renewal of the policy and a quotation had also been received from BHIB.

1316

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation from BHIB for a 3 year long term arrangement with a premium of £1055.67 for 2021/22.

(f) Bank Mandate

It was RESOLVED that cheque signatories be Cllrs Sim, Argyle, Millington, Monaghan and Taylor.

(g) Financial Report for April 2021

A summary of the accounts at 30 April 2021 was received and noted. The precept had been received and almost all allotment rents had been paid.

It was RESOLVED to authorise the transfer of £35,000 to the reserve account.

(h) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002741 I McAndrew – web-site costs Total £132.52
- Chq 002742 CBC – annual charge for emptying bins Total £3151.20
- Chq 002743 Works 4 You Ltd – Grasscutting April £398.68 + £79.74 VAT Total £478.42
- Chq 002744 Harrisons Packaging -dog waste bags £175.00 + £35.00 Total £210.00
- Chq 002745 & 002746 J Donaldson – course booking, Webex costs, printer ink, sanitiser & salary May £662.03 + £9.90 VAT Total £671.93
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service May £583.33 + £116.67 Total £700.00

The following payments made since last meeting were noted:

Npower – electricity to beach toilets £22.71 +£1.14 VAT (paid by DD)

Chq 002740 K Nesbitt– reimbursement for VIB planters & paint £221.29 + £44.26 VAT Total £265.55

Answer 4-U – answering service (May) £11.31 + £2.26 VAT Total £13.57 (paid by DD)

87/21 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES/ADVISORY GROUPS & REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

It was RESOLVED that the membership of committees and advisory groups for the coming year would be as follows:

Beach Committee	D Sim, P Argyle, C Robson, A Linton, A Kaldos & community reps
Allotment Committee	A Linton, N Bettinson, P Argyle & allotment holders
Traffic Calming Committee	D Millington, D Sim, J Mellor, H Monaghan & community reps
Village in Bloom	G Gilmour & community members
Planning Advisory Group	G Gilmour, P Argyle, H Monaghan & E Taylor
FRAG	D Sim, C Hale, E Taylor, A Kaldos
Beach Toilets	C Robson, N Bettinson, P Argyle, H Monaghan
Cycle Track Project Group	D Sim, E Taylor + additional representatives yet to be appointed
Data Protection Working Group	G Gilmour, J Mellor, C Hale
Play Area Working Group	A Kaldos, G Gilmour, H Monaghan, A Linton, D Sim

It was further RESOLVED that the following representatives be appointed to outside bodies:

Adams Recreation Ground Committee	A Linton
Shepards & Whitehead Charity	N Bettinson, B Hewetson
Friends of the Priory	N Bettinson
West Copeland Partnership	G Gilmour
Village Hall Committee	J Mellor, C Hale
West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group	D Sim (deputy G Gilmour)

88/21 LEAD RESPONSIBILITIES

It was RESOLVED that lead responsibilities for 2021/22 would be as follows:

Nuclear Issues	G Gilmour
Commons	D Sim
Footpaths	C Hale
Web-site	D Sim
Priory Paddock	N Bettinson
Media relations	C Robson
Speedwatch co-ordinator	J Mellor
Play area inspection co-ordinator	S Burgess
Station car park extension/transport hub	E Taylor
Tree Planting	N Bettinson

89/21 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Whiteside reported on a number of issues:-

- The rates of Covid infections in Cumbria continued to be below the national average. The vaccination programme was going well with 175,000 people having received both doses of the vaccine.
- It was expected that the work to extend the pavement on Outrigg would take place later this year.
- The contractors had been asked to arrange to collect and re-fit the litter bin by Station car park.
- Patching work was scheduled to take place on Abbey Road, Linethwaite Road and the B5345 between Howman and Snellings.
- There was no progress yet with the signage & speed issues on Sea Mill Lane or the completion of the new road markings at the Fleatham Croft/High House Road junction.
- There was some concern among county councillors about the announcement that the County Council would now take a neutral stance on the application from West Cumbria Mining for a new deep mine when the matter was considered at the Inquiry. It was noted that the decision to change the County Council's position had not been taken by the full council.

Cllr Whiteside then left the meeting.

90/21 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Hailes reported on a number of on-going matters:

- CBC staff had carried out repairs to the seat inside beach shelter. Cllr Hailes agreed to check whether the wood had been treated or required painting.
- Pavement stencils to deter dog fouling were due to be repainted when the weather permitted. New signage had been installed on Sea Mill Lane and at the main beach.
- The additional bins had been put out at the beach to help alleviate the litter problems experienced at busy periods. Photographs had been taken to illustrate the co-operation between the Parish Council and CBC and Cllr Hailes agreed to pass these to the CBC Communications Team. CBC officers had been asked by the Mayor to look into the request for larger bins of a different design.
- Recycling collections had been delayed by vehicle problems and because the volume of recycling had increased significantly over the lock down period. CBC had sent two vehicles to deal with the backlog. It was noted that properties on lower Finkle Street were still awaiting collections as recent utilities work had prevented access.
- There had been few issues reported since the re-opening of hospitality venues, although there had been some instances of glasses being taken to the station. Cllr Hailes would be contacting landlords again about giving a 15 minute warning of the train departure time to allow drinks to be finished.

91/21 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

One expression of interest had been received in the vacancy created by the death of Gus Kennedy. It was RESOLVED that Mrs Debbie Bowler be co-opted as a Parish Councillor to serve until the next election in 2023.

92/21 ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The progress report from Cllr Linton was received and noted.

93/21 PROJECT REPORTS**(a) Beach & Play Areas**

Discussions had taken place with CBC about the time taken to complete repairs at the play areas. Cllr Linton had carried out an audit of signage at the main beach. It was apparent that there was scope to reduce the number of signs and make them more effective. Further discussions would take place with CBC officers.

(b) Beach Bowl

There had been no progress since the last meeting as a response was awaited from CBC. Cllr Hailes agreed to follow this up with CBC officers.

(c) New Base for Village in Bloom

The new shed had been delivered and erected.

(d) Station car park extension/transport hub

There was no progress to report.

(e) Footpaths

The report from Cllr Hale was received. This detailed progress on current work and also proposed some further new actions:-

- The Dandy Walk path was a public right of way from the B5345 to the gate on Abbey Rd but the path to Coach Rd was not currently a right of way. It was understood that the landowner (St Bees School) was prepared to dedicate the path as a right of way. It was RESOLVED to support the dedication of this section of the path and to offer the Parish Council's assistance in completing the formalities.
- It was hoped to develop a heritage path route from the beach to the Priory to encourage visitors to explore the village. It was hoped to erect a signage board to illustrate the route, possibly based on the village map at the Post Office and Station. It was RESOLVED to support the project.
- There was no right of way at present to link St Bees Common with Pitman's Trod, although it did appear on old maps and the route had been used over many years to provide a circular route. It appeared that there had been some discussions with CCC in 2004 about establishing this as a right of way but the matter had not been progressed. It was RESOLVED to look again at the possibility of establishing this route as a PROW.

Councillors noted the huge amount of work which had been undertaken by the Footpaths Group to update the walks leaflets and survey paths across the parish.

It was RESOLVED to send letters of thanks to Bob Mayow and Tony Pennick who had helped with the footpaths work and also to Ian McAndrew to recognise the work undertaken in recent months to update the village web-site.

(f) Other Projects

- Speedwatch sessions were back in operation with the current rota running until July.
- Work was in hand at Priory Paddock to repair the board walk.

94/21 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chairman gave a brief report on the work of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group.

95/21 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received and noted. It was noted that there were no arrangements in place for disposal of rubbish left in the stone square in Beck Edge Garden. A local resident had offered her help in emptying a bin if arrangements could be made for disposal.

It was RESOLVED to purchase a suitable liner for the bin and to make arrangements for disposal of rubbish as part of the fortnightly grasscutting schedule.

96/21 PLANNING**(a) New Applications**

The Planning Advisory Group reported on one new application received for comment:

- 4/21/2197/0F1 Removal of a dead tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order
Linethwaite Hall, Moor Row

It was RESOLVED that there was no objection to this application provided that a suitable tree was planted as a replacement.

(b) Applications approved/refused by CBC

There had been no decisions since the last meeting.

(c) Planning Appeal Decision – Ref 4/20/2357/PIP

It was noted that the Planning Inspectorate had upheld the appeal by the applicant into the refusal by CBC of the application for Permission in Principle for three new dwellings on land adjacent to the B5345 opposite Abbey Vale. The Parish Council had objected to the application on highways grounds. The Planning Inspector had recognised those concerns but noted that no concerns had been raised by Cumbria Highways.

It was agreed that discussions take place with Highways officers at an early stage if the Parish Council had highways concerns about any future applications.

97/21 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) NALC had published a new guide to cyber security. Noted.

(b) DCMS had launched a consultation on rural broadband. NALC would be responding to the consultation and would welcome comments from local councils. Noted.

(c) Details had been received of the next Three Tier Meeting to be held on Thursday 20 May at 7pm. Noted.

(d) The Open Spaces Society had launched a 'Grant a Green' campaign, encouraging local councils to consider voluntarily registering land they own as town/village greens. Noted.

(e) MHCLG had launched a consultation on Electronic Communications Infrastructure. NALC will be responding to the consultation and would welcome comments. Noted.

(f) CALC had provided a copy of its response to the government consultation on local government reorganisation in Cumbria. Noted.

(g) The Friends of the Lake District were organising a Great Cumbrian Litter Pick on 21/22 May and were encouraging local communities to take part. Noted

(h) Correspondence had been received from the Chinese Domain Name Registry about an application from a company based in China to register domain names including stbees.cn. Copies have been shared with St Bees School who were following this up with the Registry contact in China.

(i) A request had been received from HMP Haverigg seeking approval for a small group of residents to carry out litter picks across the area. The residents would be supervised by a member of staff at all times and they will provide their own equipment, risk assessments etc. After consultation with the Vice-Chairman, a response had been sent agreeing that the Parish Council would be happy for St Bees to be included in the programme.

(j) CALC had provided a copy of the High Court judgement on the challenge to the government's decision to end the power to hold virtual meetings from 7 May. The challenge failed and the court ruled that new primary legislation would be required if remote meetings were to continue. Noted.

(k) Notification had been received from the Land Registry about an application from a land owner to formalise the right of access to their land across the Lanning behind the former Station garage. It had always been understood that those with land in that area would have right of access and, after consultation with the Chairman, it had been decided that there was no reason to object.

1320

- (l)Details had been received of arrangements for this year’s Cumbria in Bloom competition. Noted.
- (m)CALC had provided details of a series of online events on Climate Change provided by Cumbria Action for Sustainability. Noted.
- (n)Notice had been received from Cumbria Highways of a planned road closure of part of Main Street for 3 days from 18 May for United Utilities work. Noted.
- (o)CBC had launched a period of public consultation as part of development of a shopfront design guide. Noted.
- (p)An email had been received from a volunteer from the charity Plover Rovers who was planning to walk the NW coast in June to raise awareness of marine conservation. He would be interested in meeting up with local conservationists. Details were available from the Clerk. Noted.
- (q)Cumbria Wildlife Trust was setting up a meeting with a small number of councils to look at new mapping and identify where best to concentrate efforts to restore/enhance natural habitats. Noted.
- (r) Another in the series of GDF webinars would be taking place on 27/29 May with a focus on geology. Noted

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- NALC Chief Executive’s Weekly Bulletins
- NW Coastal Access Update
- Cumbria Arts & Culture Network Newsletter
- Copeland Matters May 2021
- Cumbria Police -weekly Covid-19 updates
- Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
- Action for Health & Mental Health Provider Forum bulletin
- Copeland Tourism Update
- Police Update – Egremont & Rural
- CALC Newsletter April/May
- Northern Gas Networks Stakeholder Update

98/21 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION /FUTURE AGENDAS

No items were raised.

99/21 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The calendar of meetings for the coming year was received. The date of the meeting in April 2022 would be confirmed at a later date as the third Monday of the month would be a bank holiday. It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on Monday 21 June at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....