

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 16 November 2020 at 6.30pm via Cisco Webex**

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

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

Also present: 5 members of the public

131/20 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the protocol for speaking and voting during the meeting.

132/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Sgt Ashbridge of British Transport Police had sent his apologies as he was dealing with an incident and was unable to join the meeting.

133/20 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that Cllr Argyle had declared a pecuniary interest in item 10 Outrigg Yard as a tenant of a garage. She would not be present during discussion of that item later in the meeting.

134/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public present indicated that they were interested in Agenda Item 9 – Draft Local Plan. It was agreed that their comments would be taken during the discussion of that item.

135/20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2020

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

136/20 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Whiteside provided a report on the following issues:

- It was expected that work on the new junction markings at the Fleatham Croft/High House Rd junction would take place shortly.
- It was hoped that the enhanced gateway features would be installed shortly on the B5345 at the northern entrance to the village.
- The Highways Manager was arranging a meeting with Parish Council representatives to discuss the possible extension of the pavement on Outrigg.
- Highways staff were considering the most effective signage for Sea Mill Lane to warn drivers of the narrow road and low bridge.
- The extension of the double yellow lines around the Seacroft Drive/Main Street junction had now been completed.
- Cllr Whiteside was continuing to follow up the issue of repairs to the uneven pavement between the Queens Hotel and Station car park which had been reported almost a year ago.

It was noted that the resurfacing work on the B5345 between the level crossing and the Priory had not been done over the October half term as had been anticipated. Cllr Whiteside agreed to follow this up with Highways officers.

Work to repair the footbridge over Pow Beck was due to begin on 17 November and details of traffic management arrangements had been circulated to councillors.

137/20 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Hailes provided a report on the following issues:

- Unfortunately, CBC was unable to offer any further discount on the charges for emptying litter bins.
- The removal of the old heras fencing at the north end of the promenade was in hand.
- A new contractor had been to inspect the lights on the beach car park and it was likely that they would be repaired.
- The recycling collection in St Bees had been delayed as a number of staff were self-isolating but the collection would take place as soon as it was possible.
- CBC staff had looked at the issue of parked vehicles obstructing access to the lifeboat station but felt that there was nothing more that could be done. It was pointed out that markings on the hatched area were very worn and needed to be repainted. Cllr Hailes agreed to follow this up.

138/20 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Financial Report & Risk Review

The account summary at 31 October was received and noted.

Preparation of the budget for 2021/22 would begin shortly. Several projects for possible inclusion in the budget had been submitted and any further suggestions would need to be received in the next few days. Finance & Risk Advisory Group would be meeting shortly to prepare a draft budget for consideration at the December meeting.

It was noted that a Covid 19 risk assessment had been carried out for the Remembrance Sunday event. No other risk management matters were reported.

(b) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002693 R Mayow- annual payment for hosting of defibrillator Total £100.00
- Chq 002694 Works 4 You Ltd – grasscutting Oct £390.86 + £78.17 VAT Total £469.03
- Chq 002695 CALC – course fee Total £30.00
- Chq 002696 Furness Line Action Group – annual membership Total £10.00
- Chq 002697 + 002698 J Donaldson – reimbursement for purchase of Silent Soldier silhouettes, key cutting, postage and admin expenses £293.80 + £51.84 VAT Total £345.64 & salary Nov £549.52 Total £895.16
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd -toilet service £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

The following payments made since last meeting were noted:

Answer 4-U – answering service (Nov) £9.99+ £2.00 VAT Total £11.99 (paid by DD)

Chq 002691 AST Signs – ‘no overnight parking’ signs £136.31 + £27.27 VAT Total £163.59

Chq 002692 Northern Garden Sheds Ltd – deposit on order for VIB shed £182.00

139/20 LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

The Chairman opened the discussion by explaining the background to this latest consultation and drawing attention to a number of supporting documents available on the CBC web-site. Covid 19 restrictions this year had prevented public meetings or roadshows taking place but the Parish Council had publicised the consultation as widely as possible and encouraged local residents to be involved. This was an important stage in the preparation of the Local Plan as it gave the opportunity for residents of Copeland to comment before the final plan was agreed by Copeland Borough Council and submitted to the Secretary of State. CBC had now extended the deadline for comments until 30 November.

The Parish Council’s Planning Advisory Group had held a virtual meeting with CBC officers to learn more about the background to the policies and proposals in the Draft Plan but the Council’s response would be agreed at the meeting tonight. The Draft Plan had significant implications for St Bees as it proposed changes to the settlement boundary to include two large sites which were proposed as suitable for residential development, one to the rear of Abbotts Court and a second adjoining Scalebarrow, as well as minor changes to the settlement boundary to the north alongside the B5345.

Several local residents had provided the Parish Council with copies of the responses they had submitted to CBC and the Chairman invited members of the public present to put forward their comments.

Members of the public expressed serious concerns about the possibility of 97 new dwellings on the two sites. They believed that the infrastructure in the village was not able to cope with additional development and the roads in the village were totally unsuitable for additional traffic. As there was only one shop in St Bees and no public transport other than the train, it was inevitable that new development would mean more cars. There were no safe routes for pedestrians or cyclists and it was felt that the historic character of the village would be damaged by further development and this would affect its attraction as a tourism destination and as a place to live.

Parish councillors shared the view that the infrastructure in the village (drains, sewers, utilities and roads) was totally inadequate to cope with further development and noted that there was nothing in the Plan which offered any guarantee of infrastructure improvements. There were major highways issues associated with both the sites proposed for development. Roads in the village were not designed for the current levels of car ownership and there was a lack of off-street parking. The village was often gridlocked in the morning and late afternoon as commuter traffic tried to negotiate the Main Street. Even if suitable vehicle access could be constructed to link the two sites to the public highway, there was no way of improving the 'pinch points' at Abbey Corner and other parts of the village because of the proximity of buildings. Concerns were also raised about the impact on the Heritage Coast and the 'Green Wedge' in the centre of the valley which is the designated amenity area in the plan, the increased light pollution from new developments and the effect on the Village School.

Cllr Whiteside stated that CCC was a statutory consultee and was still considering its response to the highways issues resulting from the Plan. It was important that the Plan should be realistic and CBC & CCC should work together to ensure that proposed development sites could be served by appropriate road networks. Cllr Whiteside explained that the new planning framework being considered by central government proposed that in future land should be classified under three headings -suitable for growth, suitable for limited development or protected from development – and it would be useful for this to be taken into account in the CBC Plan.

The Chairman pointed out that there was nothing in the Copeland Plan about the Parish Council's plans to create an off-road cycle track between St Bees and Whitehaven nor the plan to extend the parking available at the Station car park. These were relevant to the policies on tourism and connectivity and should be included.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would object to the changes to the settlement boundary to include the two sites for development behind Abbey Road and would press for the cycle track and Station car park projects to be included and supported in the Plan.

140/20 OUTRIGG YARD

It was noted that further correspondence had been received from the agent for the owners of the site.

It was RESOLVED that this matter be discussed at the end of the meeting with members of the press and public excluded in view of the commercially sensitive nature of the information.

141/20 PARKING ISSUES

The Working Group had met on 5 November and had provided a further report which was received and noted. This would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

142/20 PROJECT REPORTS

(a)Beach Regeneration & Play Area

A proposal was considered for the purchase of a '2 minute beach clean station' for the main beach. The intention was to provide equipment to encourage those walking on the beach to collect a small amount of rubbish as they walked along and deposit it in a litter bin before leaving. The unit would be located at the beach toilets and would be looked after by the Litter Champions who had also offered to raise some funds to contribute to the costs.

It was RESOLVED to purchase a station with hand sanitiser at a cost of £425.

It was noted that a progress report had been received from Cllr Gilmour on work taking place to improve the play area inspection and maintenance regime.

(b) Community Events

- **Christmas** – the Christmas tree had been delivered and it was planned to put it up over the weekend of 28/29 November. Covid 19 restrictions were likely to prevent the Santa Parade taking place in the usual way this year. However, councillors were working with other groups in the village to try to organise some event for the benefit of the local children.
- **Remembrance Sunday** – the wreath laying ceremony had gone ahead, although there had been no service at the Priory this year. Councillors thanked Neil Bettinson for organising the event.

(c) Other Projects

Progress reports from Lead Councillors were received and noted.

143/20 PLANNING**(a) New Planning Applications**

The Planning Advisory Group reported on recent planning applications on which comments had been submitted by the Clerk under delegated authority to meet the consultation deadline:

- 4/20/2409/0F1 Single storey extension to replace conservatory
63 Fairladies,
No objections had been raised to this application.
- 4/20/2412/0F1 Single storey extension to front, double storey extension to side and raised deck with balustrade
9 The Crofts, St Bees
It had been noted that the plans had been amended from the earlier application but it was considered that it would still dominate neighbouring properties and was not in keeping with the rest of the estate.
- 4/20/2428/0F1 Two storey extension to form playroom and bedroom
17 The Crofts, St Bees
No objections had been raised to this application.

One new application had also been received:

- 4/20/2435/011 Insulation of external exposed walls; repoint stonework with traditional lime method in place of cement render and dash. Internal walls (current plaster sand and cement) to be insulated plasterboard & vented. In roof, solar pv system to rear of property, replace door and windows; ecoslide sliding sash single vertical astragal glazing bar run through sash horns
Ghyll farm, Egremont

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

(b) Decisions by CBC

The following decision by CBC were noted:

4/20/2332/0F1 Extension of garage & formation of new parking space- 14 Firth Drive APPROVED
4/20/2356/TPO Crown reduction of a sycamore & felling of a beech tree - 115 Main St APPROVED
4/20/2357/PIP Application in principle for three dwellings adj to School House & B5345 REFUSED

144/20 CLERK'S REPORT

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

145/20 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) The Committee on Standards in Public Life had launched a consultation as part of its review of institutions, processes and structures in place to support high standards of Conduct. NALC was

inviting comments to guide its response – deadline 4 December. The link to the consultation document was available from the Clerk. Noted.

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(b) CALC had organised a virtual training session on the Code of Conduct on 25 Nov at 6.30pm. Noted.

(c) CALC had provided an update on local government reform in Cumbria. Noted.

(d) CALC had provided an update on discussions about a possible site for a Geological Disposal Facility following a meeting with the NDA and RWM. Any party had been able to suggest a possible site for evaluation and four had been put forward in Cumbria. Sites within the National Park had been ruled out but under sea sites remained a possibility. A working party was being set up (including a CALC rep) with an independent Chair. Noted.

(e) A press release had been received from CBC announcing the appointment of Mark Cullinan as independent chair of the GDF working party. Noted.

(f) An invitation had been received to Healthwatch Cumbria's 'What matters to you' discussion on 5 November. Noted.

(g) ACT had provided an information pack for community leaders. Noted.

(h) An email had been received from a grassroots organisation about their Better Future for Cumbria campaign inviting participation in an online survey. The group supports the idea of two unitary authorities in Cumbria. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

NALC Chief Executive's Weekly Bulletins

NALC Coronavirus Updates

ACT Gazette Autumn/Winter

ACT Annual Review 2019/20

Copeland Matters

Cumbria Arts & Culture Network Newsletter

Cumbria Police -weekly Covid-19 updates

Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins

Cumbria Tourism Update

Northern Gas Networks Update

Open Spaces Society Member Update

Cumbria Police Newsletter – Egremont & Rural

146/20 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION /FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no matters raised.

147/20 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next Parish Council meeting would take place on MONDAY 21 DECEMBER 2020 at 6.30pm via Cisco Webex.

At this point the Chairman closed the public meeting and the Parish Council reconvened with members of the press and public excluded.

148/20 OUTRIGG YARD

(Cllr Argyle was not present for this item having declared a pecuniary interest)

Following the last meeting further correspondence had been received from the agent for the site owners putting forward a new proposal. Councillors gave careful consideration to all the relevant issues including the future liabilities which would be incurred by any owner of the site.

It was RESOLVED not to take the matter further.

Signed.....

Date.....