

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on  
Monday 17 January 2022 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), N Bettinson, D Bowler, G Gilmour, C Hale, A Kaldos,  
A Linton, J Mellor, H Monaghan, C Robson, E Taylor & the Clerk

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

**01/22 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed councillors to the meeting.

**02/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Argyle, Millington & Ritson.

**03/22 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**04/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no matters raised.

**05/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2021**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 20 December 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**06/22 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS**

Cllr Hailes reported on the following matters:

- Repairs were to be carried out on the lighting at the beach car park
- CBC was investigating the possibility of installing electric car charging points at the beach area.
- The Beach Bowl project had been discussed by CBC Executive who were supportive of the idea and there were possible funding opportunities. Cllr Kaldos agreed to forward the information about the project to the relevant CBC officers.
- The suggestion of beach volley ball had been mentioned at the Copeland Children and Young People's Panel and had been well received. Funding might be available through a grant to the Parish Council.
- The bin by the entrance to the caravan park had still not been replaced. Cllr Hailes would follow this up with CBC officers.
- CBC would be providing two additional picnic tables for the main beach area.

**07/22 CCC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

Cllr Whiteside reported on the following on-going matters:

- A meeting had taken place to discuss the next stage in the Local Cycling & Walking Improvement Plan (LCWIP). There had been approximately 320 responses to the consultation of which 120+ had been from St Bees. It was noted that this did not reflect the true level of interest in St Bees as the signatures obtained at the Big Bash were only counted as one response. The draft Plan would now go out to further consultation for 3 weeks in February and the plan for the St Bees -Whitehaven Valley Link was included in the Plan. Cllr Whiteside agreed to contact the relevant CCC officer to press for the promised meeting with the Parish Council's representatives to take place as soon as possible.
- CCC had now completed repairs to the two lights on the Fairladies path which were owned by the Parish Council.
- The extension to the pavement on Outrigg had been completed, although the double yellow lines were still to be repainted.
- A meeting was due to take place shortly with National Highways to discuss improvements to the A595.

- Although it had been hoped to put back the bin by Stonehouse Farm a few weeks ago, this had not been done. Cllr Whiteside and Hailes would contact officers to ensure the matter was finally resolved.

A question was asked about how the Contain Outbreak Management Fund had been used by CCC as it did not seem that parish councils had been asked for suggestions. Cllr Whiteside explained that the fund had been used to support a number of initiatives during the pandemic and he would provide further information. He also agreed to feed back the concerns about the lack of consultation.

Councillors noted that the work on the pavement on Egremont Rd had improved the situation but there were still problems with the road surface higher up the hill and a Cllr Whiteside was asked to follow this up.

It was reported that the road markings to the east side of the Fleatham Croft junction had still not been completed. Cllr Whiteside agreed to follow this up with Highways officers.

It was reported that Highways staff had responded very promptly when a corroded post on a sign in Main Street had been reported as posing a danger to pedestrians. Cllr Whiteside would pass on the positive feedback.

## **08/22 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **(a) Financial Report**

The summary of accounts at 31 December was received and noted. FRAG would be meeting shortly to review the Qtr 3 variance figures.

### **(b) Grass cutting Contract**

The current contract was due to end on 31 March 2022. Discussion took place on arrangements for the coming financial year. It was proposed that the current contract should be extended for a further year in view of the difficulties in putting the contract out to tender during the current Covid situation.

It was RESOLVED that the contract be extended for a further year to 31 March 2023.

### **(c) Payments**

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002811 JRB Enterprise Ltd-dispenser bags £167.80 + £33.56 VAT Total £201.36
- Chq 002812 P Braithwaite Agricultural Services gate & installation £397.36 + £79.47 VAT Total £476.83
- Chq 002813 Network Rail – car park rent £400.00 + £80.00VAT Total £480.00
- Chq 002814–reimbursement for Webex costs £12.50 + £2.50 VAT, printer ink charge £8.32+ £1.67 VAT, donation boxes £48.32 + £9.66 VAT, annual Broadband contribution £50.00 Total £132.97
- Chq 002815 J Donaldson – salary January Total £491.12
- Chq 002816 N Bettinson- reimbursement for plants £121.27 + £24.24 VAT Total £145.51
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service (Jan) £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00

### **The following payments made since the last meeting were noted:**

Answer4-U– answering service £ 10.50 + £2.10 VAT Total £12.60 (direct debit 17/01/22)

## **09/22 ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

The draft questionnaire had been circulated to councillors for comment and had been amended to allow respondents to rank suggestions in priority order.

It was RESOLVED to pilot the questionnaire with a small group initially.

## **10/22 PROJECT REPORTS**

### **(a) Beach & Play Areas**

(i)CBC had appointed a new Play Area Inspector who would be reviewing the position with ongoing repairs and provide a report shortly. One of the timber supports on the half log walk had rotted and the equipment had been taken out of service pending repairs.

(ii)The lengthsman would be carrying out repairs to the ground around the slide at the Outrigg play area.

(iii)Two donation boxes had been purchased for the toilets. Arrangements were being made to install them.

(iv)Cllr Linton had organised a successful beach clean at the weekend. At present these were being led by the Litter Champions but it was suggested that it would be more appropriate to organise future events as a Parish Council activity.

It was RESOLVED that beach cleans should be carried out under the auspices of the Parish Council and covered by the council's public liability insurance.

(v)The litter bins on the promenade had been removed over the winter and last year they were not put back in place until early May. The beach area was often busy from Easter onwards and it was important that there were sufficient bins to cope with the litter created.

It was RESOLVED to press CBC to ensure that the extra bins were put out before Easter.

(vi)It was reported that there had recently been an increase in dog fouling at the main beach including in the play area. A resident had suggested that fencing off the play area would help but this would be an expensive option and would not necessarily solve the problem. Cllr Hailes would speak to officers at CBC to ensure that the current restrictions were being rigorously enforced.

(vii)It was suggested that work could be carried out at the toilets to improve their appearance both internally and externally. It was agreed that the 'Privy Council' carry out an inspection and report back at the next meeting. The suggestion of a mural on the outside wall would need to be considered as a separate project and be evaluated by FRAG. It was agreed that Cllrs Bowler & Robson would collaborate to complete a project evaluation form.

#### **(b) Upgrading of Outrigg Play Area**

There was no progress to report. Cllr Whiteside agreed to have further discussions with CCC officers to explore any possible avenues to secure a lease or licence on the land. Without this it would be difficult for the Parish Council to obtain grant funding.

#### **(c) Beach Bowl**

The response from CBC Executive was encouraging and Cllr Kaldos would provide copies of the information which they had requested.

#### **(d)Station car park/transport hub**

A report on progress had been circulated. CBC Planning Officers had reviewed the preliminary plans and had suggested that an application could be submitted for full planning approval without the need to apply for outline permission. The next step would be to investigate types of surfacing and draw up detailed plans. At this stage it was also necessary to enter into formal discussions about a Community Asset Transfer of the land and to begin discussions with Network Rail about a longer lease on the existing car park.

It was RESOLVED to proceed with a full planning application and to enter into formal discussions with CBC and Network Rail.

#### **(e)Valley Link Cycle Track**

There was no further progress to report.

#### **(f) Community Events**

**Christmas** -The Christmas tree had been much appreciated this year and thanks were due to Cllr Kaldos and the volunteers who had helped with the tree and the Santa Parade. It was planned to leave the tree in place until the end of January. The resident who had provided the electricity for the lights did not wish to take any payment.

It was RESOLVED to give a donation of £30 to Hospice at Home in lieu of payment for the electricity.

**Platinum Jubilee** – No ideas or offers of help had been received from the posts on Facebook and in the parish magazine. It was hoped to join in the national initiative to light beacons across the country but the details were yet to be confirmed. Several parish councillors offered their support with planning for the Jubilee and it was agreed that the best way forward might be to bring together a small group of representatives of local organisations to co-ordinate plans. Regular updates would be posted on Facebook and in the parish magazine.

**(g) Priory Paddock**

It had proved difficult to find a supplier of native plants but a new supplier had been found and an order had been placed. A meeting had taken place with the lengthsmen about the work required at the Paddock which had been delayed by the Covid situation.

**11/22 PLANNING**

**(a) New Applications**

(i) The Planning Advisory Committee reported on the following applications received for comment:

Ref 4/21/2556/0F1 Installation of domestic heating oil tank, bike store & screen hedge & fence Moorleys, Egremont

Ref 4/22/2003/0L1 Listed Building application for above works Moorleys, Egremont

Ref 4/22/2005/0F1 Reinstatement of cottage & extension into attached barn to form new dwelling: creation of new access – resubmission of 4/21/2154/0F1 to include additional first floor rear window, lime render of rear wall & installation of oil-fired boiler Moorleys, Egremont

Ref 4/22/2006/0L1 Listed building application for above works Moorleys, Egremont

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to the above applications.

(ii) It was noted that the following responses had been submitted under delegated authority to meet the consultation deadlines:

- Ref 4/21/2497/0F1 Internal alterations to shop to form a self-contained one bedroomed flat St Bees Post Office.

No objections but pressures on parking on Main Street noted

- Ref 4/21/2509/TPO Reduce height of sycamores by 30% & remove overhanging branches of chestnut tree 2 Seacroft Drive.

No objections.

- Ref 4/21/2544/0F1 Increase height & install new roof on integrated garage and utility room; install pergola and decking at front door entrance Snaefell, Sea Mill Lane.

No objections.

(iii) Nethertown Road

A response had been sent to CBC in respect of the amended plans for the second outline application, based on concerns about highways, drainage and location outside the settlement boundary. There was no information on when this application would be considered by the Planning Panel. There had been no further correspondence from CBC on the position with the reserved matters application for the three properties originally approved in outline.

**(b) Applications approved by CBC**

It was noted that the following applications had been approved by CBC:

## 1358

- 4/21/2446/OL1 Listed building consent for various internal & external works – Orchard House, Main Street.
- 4/21/2241/OF1 Internal & external alterations as part of renovation/refurbishment of existing building 1 -11 Lonsdale Terrace.
- 4/21/2242/OL1 Listed building consent for above works – 1 – 11 Lonsdale Terrace.
- 4/21/2419/OF1 Change of use of utility room in detached garage to dog grooming studio – 2 Solway Rise.
- 4/21/2428/OF1 Single storey rear extension – 8 Solway Rise.
- 4/212324/OF1 Change of use from chapel to residential – Methodist Church, Main Street.

### **(c)Other Planning Matters**

#### **(i) Local Plan 2021- 2035**

CBC had launched a consultation on the Publication Draft of the Local Plan with a closing date of 21 February. It was noted that the two sites identified for housing development in St Bees (land behind Abbotts Court & land adjacent to the Fairladies estate) were still included in the Plan. The settlement boundary was also unchanged.

It was RESOLVED to respond to the consultation, reiterating the objections to the development of the land adjacent to Fairladies.

#### **(ii) Change of use of Grindal House to children's nursery**

The applicant had provided information on progress with this application. In view of concerns from the Conservation Officer about moving the wall at the front of the property, it was likely that the application would need to be amended to retain the existing vehicle access with only staff parking available on site. As the Parish Council make Station car park available to the public, it was agreed that there were no objections to parents using the car park to drop off/pick up children.

### **12/22 FOOTPATHS**

The report on footpaths matters was received and noted. A list of fingerposts which were in need of replacement was being compiled and would be passed on to CCC.

### **13/22 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

No meetings had taken place since the last meeting.

### **14/22 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report was received and noted. There had been one or two minor incidents of anti-social behaviour but this did not appear to be a matter for serious concern.

### **15/22 CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Details had been received of CALC's training and development programme for Jan -July 2022. Noted.

(b) NALC had provided a copy of the Civility & Respect Newsletter giving details of the project being undertaken by NALC. Noted.

(c) A lengthy email had been received from Radiation Free Lakeland expressing concern that a plan might be under consideration for intermediate level waste to be stored at the Low Level Waste Repository at Drigg. A copy had been forwarded to Cllr Gilmour as lead on nuclear matters.

(d) An email had been received from a resident enquiring about the missing bins at Stonehouse Farm and by the entrance to the Seacote caravan park. A reply had been sent by the Clerk.

(e) The LGR Programme Board had issued its first Parish Council Newsletter providing information on the progress towards creating the two unitary authorities. Noted.

(f) Water Resources West had launched a consultation on its outline plans for ensuring the sustainability of water resources including the transfer of water between areas. Noted.

**1359**

- (g) A local resident had provided a copy of her email to Cumbria police about parents parking on the new section of pavement on Outrigg. A further email was also received, addressed directly to the Parish Council, pointing out the ineffectiveness of visits by the Enforcement Team. Noted.
- (h) Messages of thanks had been received from the Village Hall Committee, Great North Air Ambulance, Calderwood House & Friends of the Priory for the recent donations. Noted.
- (i) Correspondence had been received from a resident about surface water drainage on Outrigg caused mainly by falling leaves etc blocking gullies. Noted.
- (j) Guidance had been received from CALC and NALC following the government’s announcement of changes to the Coronavirus restrictions. Noted
- (k) CALC had announced the appointment of Sonia Hutchinson as Chief Officer from Jan 2022.
- (l) An email had been received from CBC outlining plans for a ‘Copeland Out & About’ project which would provide guided walks in different parts of Copeland highlighting local history and heritage. CBC was seeking expressions of interest from parishes which were interested in hosting such walks. An expression of interest had been registered following consultation with the Chairman and Cllr Hale
- (m) An email had been received from CCC about a further delay in the introduction of the new bus service to Whitehaven. This was not now expected to begin until April 2022. Noted
- (n) The Police & Crime Commissioner had launched an online survey seeking the views of the people of Cumbria to help to maintain policing services including an increase in the policing part of the council tax precept. Noted.
- (o) Letter received from Cumbria Chamber of Commerce inviting the council to participate in a survey of future needs for skills training. Noted.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- NALC Chief Executive’s Weekly Bulletins
- NALC Newsletter
- Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
- Trudy Harrison MP – Newsletters
- CALC Newsletter Nov/Dec
- Zero Carbon Cumbria Newsletter
- Northern Gas Network Stakeholder Update
- Cumbria Police bulletin Egremont, Cleator Moor & Rural

**16/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA**

Cllr Bettinson asked that the planting of a community orchard be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

Signed.....

Date.....