

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 17 October 2022 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, S Ritson, C Robson, E Taylor & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr J Hailes, CBC Ward Councillor
Cllr G Minshaw, Shadow Cumberland Council
Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor - Egremont North/St Bees

Also present: 4 members of the public

156/22 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

157/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Gilmour and Monaghan.

158/22 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in matters on the agenda at this stage in the meeting.

159/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two matters were raised by members of the public – antisocial behaviour and the planning application for Grindal House. It was agreed to bring forward the discussion of the Grindal House application and to take the comments from members of the public during discussion of that item.

160/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2022

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 27 September be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

161/22 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

(Cllrs Ritson and Mellor both declared that they were Governors of the Village School)

Cllr Taylor reported that following the last meeting he had met Sgt MacDonald and members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team to discuss the concerns raised by members of the public. The discussions had been constructive and there had been increased patrols in the village. The police were confident that they had identified several of those involved in recent incidents and appropriate action would be taken. Two officers had held a drop in session at the Village Hall earlier in the day to meet local residents and they were planning to hold a further drop-in session shortly. It was vital that all incidents were reported to the police so that they were aware of the situation.

A member of the public reported that there had been some improvement in the situation but there continued to be issues with youngsters gathering on the Village School field outside school hours. The fact that the field was open to members of the public made it difficult for the police to intervene. The gazebo seemed to be the area where youngsters gathered. Cllrs Mellor and Ritson explained that CCTV coverage was being improved. The school was aware of the issues but fencing off the site would be prohibitively expensive. It was suggested that measures to lock off the area by the gazebo might be more practical. Cllrs Mellor & Ritson would raise the issues of the siting of the gazebo and the lack of security at the next meeting of the Governing Body.

162/22 PLANNING APPLICATION - GRINDAL HOUSE

(Cllr Minshaw withdrew during discussion of this item as a member of CBC Planning Panel)

A new planning application (ref 4/22/2389/0F1) had been received for the conversion of the building to an apart-hotel.

Cllr Taylor reported that the Planning Advisory Group had reviewed the plans and had not identified any reason to object to the plans. The previous application for conversion to a children's nursery had established access/egress arrangements which were acceptable to Cumbria Highways, CBC Planners and Conservation officer. Although this change of use would now not go ahead, this new application was based on access/egress arrangements already approved in principle. The building was deteriorating and this development would bring a prominent building back into use.

A member of the public raised concerns about the impact of the application on parking in the village. It was pointed out that the plans showed that 25 parking places would be provided within the curtilage so it was unlikely that there would be a significant impact on street parking. The Parish Council was making progress with its proposal to create an extension to Station car park which would create additional off-street parking for approximately 30 vehicles.

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

163/22 CCC & HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Cllr Whiteside reported on a number of matters:

- The heavy rain over the weekend had resulted in further flooding on the Outrigg- Egremont Rd. Further CCTV investigations would be carried out shortly. Water running off the fields had caused the drains along the B5345 past the Priory and level crossing to become blocked, with mud and debris left along the road. Work was being carried out to clear the carriageway and gully cleaning would be done shortly. Councillors reported that the problem was with the culvert connecting the gullies which over time had become blocked with road stone. Cllr Whiteside agreed to pass on this information to Highways officers.
- The request for a residents parking permit scheme for Firth Drive had been passed on to Highways officers. Consideration of the request would be included in the works programme but no timescale could be given.
- Patching work was due to take place in Station Rd, Beach Rd and Sea Mill Lane before the end of the financial year. Councillors asked whether patching was being undertaken because there was no funding for resurfacing and, if so, whether any guarantee could be given that the patching would be more durable than had been the case in the past. Cllr Whiteside would confirm the situation with Highways officers.
- Highways had agreed with the plan to create an opening in the wall alongside Beach Rd to increase safety for pedestrians using the public footpath and it was hoped that this would also be done in this financial year.
- An emergency road closure was in place for a section of road at Abbey Vale to allow work to take place on electrical cables.
- The Grants Panel had agreed to provide some funding for disabled access improvements and information boards at the Adams Recreation Ground, although some match funding might be required to meet the full cost.
- The proposal for rewilding of the verge alongside Beach Rd was being assessed by Cumbria Wildlife Trust for inclusion in the list of projects to be supported by the Environment Fund.
- The final consultation on changes to parking regulations on Main Street and at the Sea Mill Lane junction had now been completed.
- Highways officers were willing to speak to a Parish Council representative about improved signage at the top of Sea Mill Lane. Cllr Linton agreed to represent the Parish Council.
- Highways officers had explained that some additional road markings would be put in at the southern entrance to the village but this would not be the scheme originally planned, as quick sets would require a new surface. Councillors asked for more information on the costs involved.
- The LCWIP had been published and a briefing had been given to county councillors. Cllr Whiteside agreed to forward information from the briefing when received.
- The government decision on the new mine was expected on 8 November.

Councillors asked Cllr Whiteside to follow up the delay in completing the road markings at the High House Rd/Fleatham Farm junction.

It was noted that work was needed on road markings at the Beach car park. Cllrs Whiteside and Hailes would follow this up to determine which authority was responsible.

Cllr Hale raised the issue of flooding at Sandwith which fell within St Bees parish and agreed to forward details to Cllr Whiteside.

164/22 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Hailes reported on the following issues:

- He was continuing to work with the police to tackle the issues of antisocial behaviour.
- The nursery was now using facilities at the Adams Recreation Ground and he was working with the County Council and other partners to secure funding.

- The redundant light at 97 Main Street was due to be removed shortly.
- Residents had raised concerns about parking when the properties at Lonsdale Terrace were complete. It was noted that the approved plans included two parking spaces per property.

Cllr Hailes was asked to liaise with CBC's Tourism Officer to secure support for the project to extend Station car park, as this would offer potential to increase tourism to this area.

165/22 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Monthly Financial Report

A summary of the accounts at 30 September 2022 was received and noted. FRAG would be meeting shortly to look at the Qtr 2 variance figures. It was noted that the NatWest branch in Whitehaven would close in March 2023. It was hoped that internet banking would be in place by that date but paying in cash from the donation boxes would probably require a visit to the Workington branch.

Work would begin soon on preparing a draft budget for 2023/4 and the following two years. Councillors were asked to provide information as soon as possible on any projects they wished to put forward for inclusion in the budget.

(b) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002888 CALC – course fees (play area inspection) Total £180.00
- Chq 002889 CBC –play area Qtr 2 £347.85 + £69.57 VAT Total £417.42
- Chq 002890 A Kaldos – travelling expenses Total £45.00
- Chq 002891 Blomfields Ltd – filling of troughs (VIB) £238.00 + £47.60 VAT Total £285.60
- Chq 002892 & 002893 J Donaldson –salary £577.72, Webex costs £12.50 + £2.50 VAT, printer ink £8.32 + £1.67 VAT, stamps £5.44 Total £608.15
- Chq 002894 St Bees Priory PCC – room hire Total £16.00
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service (Oct) £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00

The payments made since last meeting were noted:

- Water Plus – water/wastewater toilets Total £135.81 (direct debit 2/10/22)
- Npower – toilet electricity £39.72 +£1.99 VAT Total £41.71 (direct debit 15/10/22)
- Answer 4-U– answering service £11.50+ £2.30 VAT Total £13.80 (direct debit 17/10/22)

166/22 NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Monitoring Officers of the County Council and the six District Councils had drawn up a new model Code of Conduct which parish councils were being encouraged to adopt to ensure that a common Code of Conduct was in place across all areas before the transition to two unitary authorities.

It was RESOLVED that the new model Code of Conduct be adopted (copy attached to the minutes).

167/22 WARM SPACES PROJECT

Following the discussion at the last meeting, Rev Gibbs had provided more information on the plan. The plan was to hold a session in New College Hall on Wednesdays when the Hall had been heated for the Playgroup session in the morning. The Parish Council's help was being sought in advertising the initiative and the need for volunteers. The Clerk would also provide Rev Gibbs with some suggestions for funding opportunities.

168/22 PROJECT REPORTS

(a)Community Events

(i) Remembrance Sunday – the wreaths had been ordered for the various village organisations and would be put on display in the window of 22 Main Street in the days before Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Bettinson would liaise with Dave Rothery who had agreed to organise the parade and wreath laying ceremony this year. Cllr Bettinson would lay the wreaths on behalf of the Parish Council.

(ii) Christmas event – the Christmas tree would be delivered on 17 November. Cllrs Kaldos and Ritson agreed to co-ordinate arrangements for the Santa Parade and putting up the tree. The Clerk would help with applications for a road closure and street collection licence once a date was decided.

(iii) Cllr Hale would lead the Places to Talk session on Thursday 20 October in the Village Hall which was designed to give residents the opportunity to talk about their experiences of the Covid pandemic.

(b) Beach & Play Area

Three companies had been approached for quotations for the preliminary groundworks required before the new Bounce Back surface was laid. Cllrs Kaldos and Ritson had recently attended a CALC course on play area inspections which they had found useful.

(c) Upgrading of Outrigg Play Area

It was noted that the Village School was consulting parents on the possibility of joining West Lakes Academy Trust. Cllr Whiteside agreed to make enquiries about how this might affect the Parish Council's project to upgrade the play equipment on the school field.

(d) Station car park extension/transport hub

Cllr Taylor reported that he had contacted Home Group about the possibility of a pedestrian link from Seacroft Drive to the proposed extension to Station car park. The planned meeting with representatives of Network Rail, CBC and Community Rail Partnership had been postponed as a key attendee was unable to attend due to a family bereavement.

(e) Valley Link Cycle Track

There was no progress to report until the decision on the new mine was announced.

(f) Priory Paddock

There was no news to report.

(g) Interpretation Boards

The newly installed boards at the beach were proving popular. Work was in hand on a new interpretation board for Priory Paddock and the next stage would be to design boards to be sited at the Priory and St Bees School. Abbey Corner and the Pinfold had been suggested as possible sites for the future.

(h) Speedwatch

Cllr Mellor reported that sessions would soon end for the winter. Volunteers had noticed a reduction in traffic travelling through the village and driver behaviour seemed to have improved, possibly due to changes in working arrangements since Covid. The frequency of sessions would be reviewed when the scheme restarted in the spring.

169/22 PLANNING

(a) New Applications

The Planning Advisory Group reported on two applications received for comment:

- 4/22/2377/0B1 Variation of condition 2 (to revise design of house type) of planning approval 4/21/2369/0R1
Plots 1 & 3 Land to the south of Southrigg, Nethertown Rd

It was noted that these applications involved significant changes to the design of the properties. The proposed designs incorporated more glass and there were concerns about the impact of this on properties on Egremont Rd which would overlook the development. The previously approved design also stipulated obscured glass but this was omitted from the new design. There was also a lack of detail of the exterior finish at the side and rear.

It was RESOLVED to object to these aspects of the application.

- 4/22/2378/0B1 Variation of condition 2 (to revise design of house type) of planning approval 4/21/2369/0R1
Plot 2 Land to the south of Southrigg, Nethertown Rd

It was noted that this application proposed a change of design for the frontage and incorporated more glass. There was no detail of the finish proposed for the side and rear elevations.

It was RESOLVED to object to the new design with its increase in the use of glass and the lack of information on the finishes to be used.

(b) Applications Approved by CBC

- 4/22/2312/0F1 Proposed single storey extension to side & rear– 24 The Crofts
- 4/22/2348/TPO Felling of castanea sativa in conservation area – Highfield House, High House Rd

170/22 FOOTPATHS

The report by Cllr Hale was received and noted. There had been no progress with the proposal to install a new kissing gate on the Wood Lane footpath as land ownership was still being confirmed.

171/22 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Taylor reported on a recent meeting of the Sellafield Parish Forum.

172/22 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report on ongoing matters was received and noted. There had been vandalism to the seat on the path from Blythe Place to the railway. The lengthsman believed that this could be repaired. The seat on Nethertown Road had been badly damaged, apparently by a hedge cutter, although no one had accepted responsibility. This was likely to require replacement and the Clerk would investigate whether a claim could be made under the council's insurance policy.

173/22 CORRESPONDENCE

(a)Correspondence had been received from the NSPCC which was seeking volunteers for various roles. Noted.

(b)Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership had forwarded a Local Authority Climate Update Noted

(c) National Highways had provided further information on planned improvements to the A595 north of Whitehaven. Noted.

(d)Cumbria Local Resilience Forum was organising a series of Flood Training Days to help communities plan for/respond to flood events, including an event in Workington on 2 November. Noted.

(e) Trudy Harrison had launched a photographic competition to find a picture for her official Christmas card with the theme of 'A Copeland Wintry Scene'. The closing date was 31 October. Noted.

(f)CALC had circulated its programme of training courses and was hoping to set up sessions on the use of social media. Noted.

(g)Details had been received of CALC training sessions on Community Engagement and Community Plans. Noted.

(h)Correspondence had been received from a local resident about damage to the fence on the grassed area at Sea View. The Clerk was checking ownership of the land and would respond.

(i) A letter had been received from CCC enclosing the proposed Order to change the age range of the Village School to 2-11 years. There would be a four week period during which the public could make representations before the Order was considered by the Cabinet in mid-December. Noted.

(j) Details had been received of ACT's AGM to be held virtually on 19 October. Noted

(k)CALC had arranged a training event in conjunction with CAfS on Carbon Literacy -cost £35 per person. It was RESOLVED to book places for Cllrs Linton and Ritson.

(l) Cumbria Wildlife Trust was organising a 'planning for nature' event in Lorton on 17 November. Cllr Ritson expressed an interest in attending.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

NALC Chief Executive's Weekly Bulletins

NALC Newsletter

Northern Gas Stakeholder Update

Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins

LGR Updates

Cumbria Police newsletter August/September

174/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION /FUTURE AGENDA

- (a) Cllr Minshaw reported that the new Shadow authority was developing plans for locality working and it was agreed that this would be included as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- (b) A Christmas tree festival would be taking place at the Priory again this year from 3 December. It was agreed that Cllr Robson would take the lead in organising an exhibit from the Parish Council.
- (c) The Arts Society would be hosting a lecture on Renaissance Art on 28 October at 7.30pm in New College Hall.
- (d) An art exhibition would be held at the railway museum from 26 - 30 October 10am – 4pm.
- (e) Robin Silk, Headmaster of St Bees School, had confirmed that he would attend the next meeting to explain his plans to develop new facilities such as a theatre and library which could be shared with the local community.

175/22 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on Monday 21 November at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....