

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 18 October 2021 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, G Gilmour, C Hale, A Kaldos, A Linton, D Millington, S Ritson, C Robson, E Taylor & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr J Hailes, CBC Ward Councillor
Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor St Bees/Egremont North (part of the meeting)

Also present: 4 members of the public

163/21 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

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

164/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs J Mellor, D Bowler and H Monaghan. It was noted that Cllr C Whiteside was attending another meeting and would join the meeting as soon as he could.

165/21 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

166/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Several members of the public present indicated that they were interested in the planning applications for 2 Solway Rise. It was agreed to bring forward discussion of the new planning applications on the agenda.

167/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2021

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

168/21 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(i) Ref 4/21/2419/0F1 Change of use of utility room in existing detached garage to dog grooming studio - 2 Solway Rise

The Chairman invited the applicants to explain the background to the change of use application. The applicants explained that pre-application advice had been sought from CBC and they were aware of the need to comply with any Environmental Health requirements. Neighbours had also been consulted. It was the intention to deal with one dog at a time with many clients coming from within St Bees to minimise the number of vehicles visiting the premises.

The Planning Advisory Group had considered the application and could see no reason to object.

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

(ii) Ref 4/21/2428/0F1 Single storey rear extension – 8 Solway Rise

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

(iii) Ref 4/21/2446/0L1 Listed building consent for various drainage and internal repair works
Orchard House, Main Street

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

169/21 PARKING ISSUES - SEACROFT DRIVE

Local residents had raised concerns about indiscriminate parking on the roads around Seacroft Drive which had led to refuse lorries and delivery vehicles being unable to reach properties. The problem was worse at school start/finish times but vehicles parked there all day. Yellow lines around the junction within the estate and time limited parking had been suggested by residents as possible solutions.

It was noted that parking was a problem throughout the centre of the village. Highways had previously indicated that they did not support yellow lines within residential estates.

If the Parish Council's project to create additional off-street parking on land adjacent to the existing station car park was successful, this would make a significant difference to the parking problems. In the short term it was agreed to contact CBC to about the difficulties faced by their refuse team and to use the parish magazine to ask drivers to park more considerately to ensure that large vehicles were not obstructed.

170/21 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Hailes reported on the following issues:

- St Bees Triers had asked the Parish Council to press for the lighting at the beach car park to be repaired. It was noted that there was a view among some residents that lighting would increase anti-social behaviour. However, it was pointed out by councillors that one light was continually flashing which was a nuisance to nearby residents. The damaged lighting column in the car park had still not been repaired and potholes in the tarmac were difficult to see in the dark. It was suggested that lighting limited to the area of the toilets might meet the concerns of both the Triers and local residents. Cllr Hailes agreed to follow this up with officers at CBC.
- Cllr Hailes had contacted fellow councillors and had obtained written expressions of support for the Valley Link cycle track from 24 CBC councillors, the local MP and Elected Mayor.
- Cllr Hailes had met residents concerned about the Nethertown Road development and was pressing for the Planning Panel to make a site visit.
- There had been a recent incident of horses being exercised along the beach coming into close contact with families using the beach. This matter was being followed up.
- A new cycle shop was to open shortly in Whitehaven. Cllr Hailes would make contact with the owners to inform them of the Valley Link project.
- Recycling had now been collected from The Crofts after the scheduled collection was missed but properties in Main Street were still waiting for a collection. Cllr Hailes reported that the problems were linked to vehicles and staff sickness. It was suggested by councillors that better communication with residents would help considerably. The Parish Council would use its Facebook page to publicise information, if CBC was able to provide timely updates on the situation if collections were missed.

There had been no further response from CBC to the request for two additional bird proof bins to be provided at the beach. The matter had now been ongoing since April. The Parish Council had provided examples of suitable models but there had still been no progress. It was clear that under the Environmental Protection Act CBC had a duty to take all reasonable steps to keep its property clear of litter. The reluctance to deal with the problem of seagulls scattering rubbish from open bins could be viewed as a breach of that duty.

It was RESOLVED to write to CBC with a formal complaint that the matter had still not been dealt with.

Councillors raised further concerns about the refusal of CBC to provide any financial contribution to the costs of maintaining the beach play area and toilets despite receiving significant income from the car park. The costs of maintaining the play area were increasing as the equipment was becoming older. The costs were being borne entirely by the residents of St Bees through the parish precept despite the fact that the facilities were used predominantly by visitors from other parts of Copeland or further afield. St Bees was a major tourist attraction in Copeland and probably the most popular coastal beach resort in the county. The beach facilities were an important attraction but, if some financial contribution was not received from CBC, it was likely that equipment would have to be taken out of service, making the beach less attractive to tourists.

It was RESOLVED to write to CBC (with a copy to CCC and Trudy Harrison MP) seeking financial support to ensure that St Bees residents were not footing the entire costs of maintaining facilities for tourists and visitors.

171/21 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**(a) Financial Report**

The summary of accounts at 30 Sept was received and noted. The Finance & Risk Advisory Group would be meeting shortly to review the position at the end of Qtr 2. No new risk items were identified but FRAG would review the risk rating for the play areas at their next meeting, as repairs were occurring more frequently.

(b) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002780 Works 4 You Ltd – grasscutting Sept & wood stain £463.68 + £92.74 VAT Total £556.42
- Chq 002781 CALC– course fees Total £40.00
- Chq 002782 JRB Enterprise Ltd – dispenser bags £122.00 + £24.40 VAT Total £146.40
- Chq 002783 Real Christmas Trees Ltd – Christmas tree £375.00 +£75.00 VAT Total £450.00
- Chq 002784 Northern Garden Sheds Ltd– VIB shed (reissue of uncashed cheques) Total £1820.00
- Chq 002785 CBC -play area inspections Qtr 3 £341.04 + £68.21 VAT Total £409.25
- Chq 002786 J Donaldson – reimb for Webex costs, printer ink, lap top case £42.48 + £8.50 VAT Total £50.98
- Chq 002787 J Donaldson – salary Oct £491.12
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service Oct £583.33 + £116.67 Total £700.00 (paid by standing order)

The following payments made since last meeting were noted:

- Answer 4 U -answering service Oct £9.99 + £2.00 VAT Total £11.99 (DD)

172/21 PLANNING

(Cllr Whiteside joined the meeting at this point)

(a) Nethertown Road Development

Amended and additional details had been received for the outline planning application for two further properties in addition to the three properties already given outline approval. The Parish Council had been given a further 21 days to comment on the amended plans.

It was noted that the amended outline application did not change the concerns expressed at the last meeting. The amended plans also indicated changes to the detailed application which had been submitted for the three properties previously approved and further details were awaited.

The main concern was the apparent inconsistency of decisions made by the principal authorities and uncertainty about the position in the period until the new Local Plan was adopted.

Cllr Whiteside had contacted Cumbria Highways but officers did not believe that a site visit was necessary. However, it was suggested that Highways could be contacted about possible mitigation measures, which could form the basis of conditions or a Section 106 agreement in light of concerns about drainage and the safety of cyclists and pedestrians on this very narrow road. These concerns had been reinforced by a recent incident when a vehicle had collided with a cyclist. It was noted that the road was already showing signs of further subsidence and major repairs would be required if the road was further damaged by heavy construction traffic.

It was RESOLVED to seek an independent opinion on the current application and on the wider issue of the position while the old Local Plan was out of date and the new Local Plan was still in draft form within a maximum budget of £1000.

It was further RESOLVED to contact Cumbria Highways about possible mitigation measures.

(b) Local Plan 2021-38 Focussed Consultation

It was noted that the Parish Council's response to the consultation had been submitted, opposing the inclusion of the site south of Fairladies on the grounds of visual amenity and inadequacy of the infrastructure to cope with further development.

A further two residents had sent copies of their responses to the consultation, opposing the inclusion of the site above Fairladies as a site for housing development.

173/21 CCC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Whiteside reported on the following issues:

- The Cabinet was progressing the legal challenge to the government's decision to create two unitary authorities.
- Work was due to commence in the next few days to extend the pavement on Outrigg. The work would take place over half term to minimise inconvenience.
- The Parking Enforcement team had been asked to make visits during term time to help with parking problems at the beginning and end of the school day.
- The Local Committee had approved funding for the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure study. It was reported that the response in support of the Valley Link scheme had been higher than for any other area.
- The wall alongside Beach Rd had still not been repaired and the wall alongside the B5345 towards Whitehaven had also been damaged in a recent incident. Cllr Whiteside agreed to follow up the repairs to the wall on Beach Road which had been reported some weeks ago.
- The litter bin which used to be sited near Stonehouse Farm had still not been reinstated. Cllrs Hailes and Whiteside agreed to liaise to get the bin back in position as soon as possible.

174/21 GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY

The Copeland GDF Working Group had recommended that Community Partnerships should be formed in two search areas, one in mid-Copeland covering the Beckermeth, Gosforth and Seascale and the other in the south covering Haverigg and Millom. This would allow detailed consultation to take place with local communities on possible sites. CBC had now accepted the Working Group's recommendations subject to call-in.

175/21 PROJECT REPORTS

(a) Beach & Play Areas

- A problem had been reported with exposed wire on an item of play equipment, The equipment had been taken out of service pending repair.
- The lengthsman had pruned back the bushes at the Outrigg play area.
- The trial of providing water for dogs at the beach toilets had gone well. It was agreed that this should become a permanent arrangement and Cllr Bowler had volunteered to organise this.
- The proposal to put a donation box at the beach toilets would be discussed at the next FRAG meeting.

(b) Upgrading of Outrigg Play Area

A meeting had taken place with a representative of the Village School. The fundamental issue remained that the Parish Council had no formal lease or licence to put play equipment on the school field. Whilst the school was supportive, the lack of a legal agreement would prevent the Parish Council from obtaining grant funding. Cllr Kaldos would liaise with Cllr Whiteside to establish whether it was possible to apply for Dept for Education approval even if this would take some time.

(c) Beach Bowl

Although some advice had been received from CBC, this was largely directed at the possible planning issues. As the land was owned by CBC, it was important to establish whether CBC was supportive of the scheme before any further progress could be made. Cllr Hailes agreed to follow this up with CBC.

(d) Station car park extension/transport hub

Cllr Taylor had provided a written report on progress. The initial design work had been completed and suggested that more than 40 car park spaces could be accommodated on the site. This would help significantly with the parking problems in the centre of the village.

It was RESOLVED to proceed with an application for outline planning permission.

(e) Valley Link Cycle Track

Cllr Taylor had provided a written report on progress. In August CCC officers had advised that the Parish Council should put forward as much evidence as possible of support for the cycle track. The response to the call for support from the public and local councillors had been outstanding. In addition, indications of support had also been received from the CBC Mayor, Mike Starkie, and Trudy Harrison MP. The outcome of the LCWIP consultation was now awaited.

(f) Community Events

- (i) **Christmas** - The order for the Christmas tree had been placed. It was agreed that the Santa Parade last year had worked well and had prevented large crowds gathering. Cllr Kaldos offered to lead the planning for a similar event this year. The Clerk would order some hi-viz vests for those helping to marshal the parade.
- (ii) **Platinum Jubilee** – Cllr Monaghan would be asked to provide a brief report for the next meeting. Meanwhile ideas and offers of help would be sought via the Parish Council's Facebook page.
- (iii) **CPR/AED Training** -A course had been arranged for Monday 22 November in New College Hall. The capacity of the hall was currently limited to 15 but further courses would be organised if there was sufficient demand. Cllr Linton had contacted St Bees School to see if their pupils and staff wanted to take up the offer of a training session.
- (iv) **Remembrance Sunday** -The wreaths had been ordered. Cllr Bettinson would organise the parade and wreath laying ceremony and lay the wreaths on behalf of the Parish Council.

(g) Priory Paddock

The work to repair the board walk was still outstanding and some of the regular grass cutting had not been done in accordance with the schedule. The Clerk would follow this up with Works 4 You.

176/21 FOOTPATHS

The report provided by Cllr Hale was received and noted. The process of dedicating land on the Dandy Walk was in hand. The Chairman and Cllr Hale would seek a meeting with the landowner to discuss the creation of a link between Pitman's Trod and the common.

The agent for the owner of Abbey Wood had provided further information following the meeting last weekend. New gates were to be installed to ensure that the paths were accessible to all terrain mobility scooters.

177/21 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports on meetings attended.

178/21 CLERK'S REPORT

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

179/21 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) An email had been received from a canine visitor (& his owner) congratulating the Parish Council on its provision of dispensers and dog waste bags. Noted.
- b) Details had been received of ACT's AGM on 20 October at 10am. It would be a virtual meeting with prior booking needed to obtain the link to the meeting on Zoom. Noted.
- c) Sellafeld Ltd would be holding a site emergency exercise during day light hours on Tues 19 October, during which the site siren would be sounded. Noted.
- d) Correspondence had been received from two local residents expressing concern about the work taking place at Abbey Wood. The Clerk had replied with further information provided by the agents for the land owner. Noted.
- e) The Copeland GDF Working Group had announced its recommendation for the formation of two Community Partnerships, each with its own Search Area, to look at potential siting of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) in more detail. Noted.
- f) Details had been received of a series of virtual events by Cumbria CVS to promote volunteering opportunities. The next would take place on 20 October at 12 noon, featuring volunteering opportunities with Citizens Advice. Noted.

1345

- g) An email had been received from CBC offering litter pickers etc to parishes to promote local volunteer litter picks. Cllr Linton was followed this up with CBC. Noted.
- h) CALC had forwarded the agenda for the AGM on 16 October together with a copy of its Annual Report. Noted.
- i) Details had been forwarded by CALC of a meeting being organised by the GDF Working Group to discuss the two proposed search areas. The mid Copeland meeting would be held on 2 November at 6.30pm in Seascale Methodist Church. The meeting would be open to parish councillors from communities both inside and outside the proposed search area. Noted.
- j) CBC had forwarded information on the memorial trees to be planted by MPs in Westminster to commemorate those lost in war. Trudy Harrison MP was requesting information on regiments or individuals whose stories could be featured on her web-site. Noted.
- k) Correspondence had been received from three local residents enclosing copies of the responses sent to the Local Plan consultation, objecting to the proposal to include the site above Fairladies as a site for development.
- l) A request had been received from St Bees Triers asking the Parish Council to press CBC to repair the lights at the beach car park where the group meets. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- NALC Chief Executive’s Weekly Bulletins
- NALC Newsletter
- Cumbria Police Update -Egremont, Cleator Moor & Rural
- Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
- Trudy Harrison MP – October newsletter
- Open Spaces Society - Early Autumn News

180/21 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION /FUTURE AGENDAS

- (a) Several councillors had received an invitation to join an online My Neighbour group. The organisers of the group and its purpose were not known.
- (b) There had been reports of litter bins being used for household waste. A resident had reported this to CBC. It was agreed to use the parish magazine to point out that domestic waste should not be put into litter bins but should be put out for collection in the usual way. Those renting out property would be asked to ensure that household waste bags were available together with information on waste collection days.
- (c) Cllr Linton was organising a beach clean on Sat 13 November 10.00am to 11.30am. CBC had donated equipment to parishes to encourage community litter picks.
- (d) There would be a service at the Priory on 31 October (All Souls Day) in memory of those who had died.
- (e) St Bees School was organising a bonfire on 5 November from 4.30 -6.30pm. It was understood that the event would be open to local residents.
- (f) The annual charity sale would take place in Old College Hall from 12 – 14. An exhibition of art by local artists would take place at the same time in New College Hall.

181/21 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on Monday 15 November at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....