

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on  
Monday 20 June 2022 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

**In attendance:** Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor - Egremont North/St Bees  
Mr D Pettitt & Mr H Rooms, Sellafield Ltd

Also present: 1 member of the public

**95/22 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also reported that Debbie Bowler had resigned as a parish councillor and expressed his thanks to her for her contribution to the council. The vacancy created by her resignation would be advertised in the usual way.

**96/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr P Argyle. Apologies were also received from Cllr Hailes, CBC Ward Councillor, who was unable to attend due to work commitments.

**97/22 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made at this stage in the meeting

**98/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The member of the public present indicated that he was concerned about parking issues on the Beach estate and the deteriorating state of the groynes at the main beach. The Chairman agreed that the discussion of the Coastal Working Group meeting would be taken immediately after the CCC item.

**99/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 MAY 2022**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the annual meeting on 23 May be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**100/22 SELLAFIELD LTD TRAVEL & TRANSPORT PLAN**

The Chairman welcomed David Pettitt and Howard Rooms from Sellafield Ltd and invited them to give an update on traffic issues affecting the village.

Mr Pettitt explained that the company had a 3 year Travel & Transport Plan covering the period 2020-2023 which aimed to reduce the number of vehicles travelling to /from the site. The Covid pandemic had affected the implementation of the plan but more normal working patterns were now being resumed. The numbers employed on site had been reduced to approx. 6000 as others were now working in premises off-site. No significant increase in numbers was anticipated. Park & ride facilities were being developed across the area and car sharing was being encouraged. Vehicle access to site was being tightened again from next week. Contractors now had to agree a transport plan for their staff before beginning work on site to reduce the number of contractor vehicles. He confirmed that employees were still making use of public transport such as buses and trains but the length of the platform at Sellafield station limited the size of trains. The aim was to have no private vehicles (other than those for disabled access) on site by 2025/26 and work would be taking place to plan how to get employees away from the site, if required in an emergency.

A question was asked about arrangements for staff who might have to leave during the working day to collect sick children etc. Mr Pettitt explained that there continued to be a process by which staff could apply for a single occupancy pass but these would be strictly controlled. The availability of shuttle buses etc should meet most needs. Mr Pettitt confirmed that there was no mechanism for counting the number of vehicles travelling through St Bees. Whilst a count could perhaps be done by volunteers, it would be impossible to identify which vehicles were travelling to Sellafield. Councillors noted that there were numerous instances of poor and inconsiderate driving and asked whether SL could do more to remind employees of the need to comply with speed limits. Mr Rooms explained that this was already done periodically.

Councillors asked about measures to reduce carbon emissions. Mr Pettitt explained that the present plan did not include a move to electric buses but the plan would be reviewed in 2023. The company was trying to move towards electric/hybrid vehicles for its own fleet but at present there were problems with the availability of electric vehicles. Some EV charging points had been installed on site.

The current plan supported the use of cycling to access the site and the company was aware of the proposal to create a cycle link between St Bees and Whitehaven.

The Chairman thanked Mr Pettitt and Mr Rooms for their attendance and they then left the meeting.

## **101/22 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

### **(a) Parking Issues - Beach Estate**

The Chairman invited the member of the public present to explain his concerns about parking on the Beach estate.

He explained that he was a resident of Firth Drive and he believed that a 'residents only' parking scheme was needed on the estate. The problems were caused by people parking on the estate roads to avoid the parking charges at the beach car park. The roads were narrow and the parked vehicles made it difficult or impossible for residents to move cars off their drives. The Chairman and Cllr Whiteside confirmed that a scheme of this type would need a Traffic Regulation Order and this was a formal process which would take some time. Any parking restriction would also require the consent of the majority of residents in the area. Cllr Whiteside agreed to speak to officers at Cumbria Highways about the process and would forward information which the Clerk could pass on. Cllr Millington also offered to look into whether this was an issue which the Parish Council's Traffic Calming Committee could take up.

### **(b) Report on on-going matters**

Cllr Whiteside reported on a number of on-going issues:-

- A number of parents had raised complaints about the school transport to West Lakes Academy. Issues included failing to pick up children entitled to transport, changing pick up times without notice and driver behaviour. Cllr Whiteside had referred these complaints to the County Council officers concerned but would be interested in receiving any further information which might add to an understanding of the situation.
- Formal consultation would begin shortly on the proposed changes to parking restrictions on Main Street and around the Sea Mill Lane/Main St junction.
- There had been no further progress with discussions about formalising the arrangement for the Outrigger play area to be sited on Village School land.
- The LCWIP report was due to be published shortly and a members' briefing was due to take place in the next few days.
- There was no further progress with the new signs requested at the top of Sea Mill Lane but Cllr Whiteside would follow this up.
- Cllr Whiteside was continuing to follow up the matter of the proposed gateway features which had not been installed as agreed at the southern approach to the village on the B5345.
- There had not yet been any progress with the proposal to create an opening in the wall on Beach Rd to improve pedestrian safety. Cllr Whiteside would follow this up with Highways officers.
- Highways officers had confirmed that the patching work on Sea Mill Lane was still scheduled to take place at the end of the summer.

It was noted by councillors that the new road markings at the Fleatham Farm/High House Rd junction had still not been completed and Cllr Whiteside was asked to follow this up with Highways officers.

The new sign to be sited near the level crossing was still awaiting installation. The Chairman would contact Cllr Whiteside to ask for his assistance to get this in place as soon as possible.

### **(c) Rewilding of verge on Beach Road**

Cllrs Bettinson & Linton reported on a meeting with Highways officers about the proposal to allow the verge alongside the wall on Beach Rd to be kept as a wildflower area. Highways had raised no objections in principle providing that the visibility splay at the new development was kept clear. CCC had agreed to confirm their agreement in writing shortly.

**(d) Consultation on age range of Village School**

Cllrs Mellor & Ritson declared an interest as Governors of the Village School. Cllr Monaghan declared an interest as an employee of the school

CCC was carrying out a 6 week consultation on the proposal to change the age range of the Village School from 4- 11 to 2 -11. This was essentially an administrative change to ensure that there could be greater sharing of facilities between the school and the Pre-school group which already operates next to the school.

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

**102/22 JOINT MEMBERS COASTAL WORKING GROUP**

Cllrs Bettinson & Taylor reported on the discussions at the recent virtual meeting of the Coastal Working Group which were relevant to the concerns expressed by a member of the public about the state of the groyne. A number of reports had been obtained over recent years and it appeared that a further desk-top study was now to be commissioned. The PC representatives had now received copies of the most recent (2021) report but no decision had yet been made on what work would be undertaken. The CBC officer dealing with coastal management had been asked to come to a Parish Council meeting to explain the position fully.

**103/22 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS**

As he was unable to attend the meeting, Cllr Hailes had sent a written report:-

- The issue of difficulties experienced by those with limited mobility who were unable to use the small ramp to get back to the promenade from the beach had been referred to the Environmental Health Dept. A response was awaited
- There had been complaints about excessive noise from live entertainment at the Manor. Two recordings had been sent to Environmental Health.
- He was working with the Adams Ground Committee to identify opportunities to support their plans.
- The bin at the start of the Dandy Walk had been destroyed by fire and had been reported for replacement. As short term measure Cllr Linton had provided a temporary bin which was being emptied by volunteers.

**104/22 PLATINUM JUBILEE**

Cllr Hale had provided a written report on the various events which had taken place to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Chairman expressed the Council's thanks to the Working Group who had organised the programme of events. The Jubilee street party had been a great success with more than 100 people attending. The Village in Bloom volunteers had provided Jubilee themed displays in various parts of the village. The expenses for the various events were being finalised and the total would be within the budget previously agreed. Thanks were due to all the community volunteers who had helped with the various events and also to the Village School and St Bees Priory for the loan of chairs and to the Village Hall for the use of their facilities.

It was RESOLVED to make a donation of £30 to both the Priory and the Village School in recognition of their help.

**105/22 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT****(a) Monthly Financial Report**

A summary of the accounts at 31 May 2022 was received and noted. All allotment and grazing rents had now been received. The annual accounts had been submitted to the external auditors and the notice of public rights to inspect the accounts had been published on the web-site and main noticeboard.

**(b) Payments**

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002851 Open Spaces Society – annual subscription Total £45.00
- Chq 002852 WDS – Station car park extension design fees £2475.00 + £495.00 VAT Total £2970.00
- Chq 002853 S Ritson – reimbursement for Jubilee expenses Total £122.38

## 1391

- Chq 002854 H Monaghan – reimbursement for Jubilee event expenses Total £179.50
- Chq 002855 Egremont Town Council – annual contribution to Lengthsman Scheme Total £2000.00
- Chq 002856 & 002857 J Donaldson - Webex costs £12.50 + £2.50 VAT, printer ink charge £8.32+ £1.67 VAT, stamps £5.44 & salary £571.72 Total £602.15
- Chq 002858 HMRC- PAYE qtr1 £677.25
- Chq 002859 G Bettinson -Jubilee expenses Total £45.56
- Chq 002860 Works 4 You Ltd – grasscutting & additional work April £597.20 + £119.44 VAT & May £430.20 +£86.04 VAT Total £1232.88
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service (June) £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00

The payments made since last meeting were noted:

- Chq 002850 Blomfields Ltd -VIB plants £100.30 + £20.06 VAT £120.36
- Water Plus – water charges for allotments £18.88 (direct debit 21/6/22)
- Npower – toilet electricity (April) £35.42 + £1.77 VAT Total £37.19 (direct debit 06/06/22)
- Answer 4-U– answering service £13.88 + £2.78 VAT Total £16.66 (direct debit 17/06 /22)

## 106/22 PROJECT REPORTS

### (a)Beach & Play Area

A revised quotation had been received for the surfacing work around some of the equipment. This was still within the budget estimate and it was hoped to proceed with the work in the early autumn. Cllr Kaldos would supply a specification for the preparatory work required so that prices could be obtained. CALC had organised a course in play area inspections to take place on 27 Sept in Penrith. Cllrs Ritson & Kaldos expressed an interest in attending and the Clerk would book places.

Cllr Linton reported on the latest beach clean. A small number of those attending had taken up the offer of a free drink from the beach café and a bill was awaited.

### (b) Upgrading of Outrigg Play Area

There was no progress to report.

### (c)Station car park extension/transport hub

The detailed designs had been completed. Arrangements were being made to draw down the funding from the Northern Rail Seedcorn Fund.

### (d) Valley Link Cycle Track

The decision on the planning application for the new mine was expected shortly and until then no progress could be made. It was expected that the cycle track would be included in the LCWIP report which would be published shortly.

### (e) Priory Paddock

Work was continuing at Priory Paddock. An open day had been held last week and there had been a visit by a party from the Village School.

### (f) Interpretation Boards

The design for the new interpretation board at the beach was complete and a quotation was being obtained. The beach shelter would be repainted shortly. The possibility of signage on the Dandy Walk to request that dogs not to be allowed to run free on the playing fields was still being discussed. Signage was also being considered to point up the footbridge over Pow Beck which was not easy for visitors to see.

## 107/22 PLANNING

### (a)New Applications

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

- Ref 4/22/2228/0F1 First floor extension & porch  
18 The Crofts, St Bees

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

Ref 4/22/2252/0F1 Single storey extension to side & rear to create new entrance hall,  
kitchen, bedroom & study  
8 The Crofts, St Bees

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

**(b) Other Planning Matters**

- The owner of the Little Learners Nursery had informed the Clerk that she had reluctantly decided to withdraw her planning application for Grindal House as it had not proved possible to meet the differing requirements of the planning officers, conservation officer and Highways. The nursery would now move to premises in Egremont, although it was hoped to use premises at the Adams Ground as a base for beach activities. Councillors expressed disappointment that the difficulties in finding an acceptable solution to the various planning requirements had resulted in a successful business leaving the village.
- The new Local Plan was due to be submitted to the Secretary of State shortly and the Public Examination by a Planning Inspector would begin later this year. The Parish Council had been asked whether it wished to speak at the hearings. It was RESOLVED not to request the right to speak at the Public Examination.

**(c) Applications approved by CBC**

- 4/21/2368/0O1 Outline application for residential development – Land at Nethertown Rd
- 4/21/2369/0R1 Approval of reserved matters – Land to the south of Southrigg, Nethertown Rd
- 4/22/2066/0F1 First floor extension creating a gable on front of property – 53 The Crofts, St Bees
- 4/22/2186/TPO Removal of walnut tree in conservation area -Glebe Cottage, St Bees

**108/22 FOOTPATHS**

The report by Cllr Hale was received and noted. It was reported that the stile into the allotment field on Sea View was broken and had been taped off. Cllr Hale would seek advice from CCC on whether the stile was needed as there was a pedestrian gate beside it which could be used.

**109/22 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES**

There had been a meeting of the Sellafield Parish Liaison Forum but there were no relevant matters to report.

**110/22 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report on ongoing matters was received and noted

**111/22 CORRESPONDENCE**

(a)Correspondence had been received from a resident of Holly Mews concerned about sewage leaking on to the adjacent field. The Clerk had raised an enquiry with United Utilities to ascertain whether there were any plans to adopt sewers to properties built since 2011. Noted

(b)Sellafield Ltd had provided details of its review of beach monitoring arrangements. Cllr Taylor had volunteered to attend a workshop for town & parish Councils on behalf of the Parish Council.

(c)CALC had forwarded details of the latest Broadband social tariffs. Noted

(d)An email had been received from the owner of Little Learners Nursery explaining her decision to withdraw from the purchase of Grindal House and thanking the Parish Council for its support. Noted.

(e)Information had been received on changes to the Podiatry Service in North Cumbria. Noted

(f)The AGM of Copeland District of CALC would take place via Teams at 7pm on 12 July. All parish councillors and clerks in Copeland would be welcome to join the meeting. Noted.

(g)CCC had formally confirmed that the dedication of the land on the Dandy Walk as a public footpath would take effect on 15 June. Noted

(h)Information had been received on the process for nominating voluntary groups for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Noted

**1393**

- (i)The Friends of the Lake District were launching a campaign to prevent developments taking place on registered common land without the necessary permission and were seeking support from local councils. Noted.
- (j)The LDNP was inviting communities to nominate ‘hidden gems’ (buildings, archaeological remains etc) to include in publicity material. Nominations were also welcome from areas outside the national park. Noted.
- (k)The Open Spaces Society AGM would take place on 7 July. Noted
- (l)CALC had forwarded information from Public Health Cumbria on drug related deaths in North & West Cumbria and the help available for drug users. Noted

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- NALC Chief Executive’s Weekly Bulletins
- NALC Newsletter
- Northern Gas Stakeholder Update
- Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
- Connecting Cumbria Newsletter
- Trudy Harrison MP – Newsletter
- Cumbria Police bulletin Egremont, Cleator Moor & Rural
- ACT Newsletter
- Open Spaces Update May
- LGR Update

**112/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION /FUTURE AGENDA**

Cllr Ritson asked that ideas for beach area improvements should be included in the next agenda.

**113/22 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on Monday 18 July at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....