

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on  
Monday 21 June 2021 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

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

**100/21 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed Debbie Bowler to her first Parish Council meeting since being co-opted.

**101/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D Millington & H Monaghan.

**102/21 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**103/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No issues were raised.

**104/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2021**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the annual meeting on 17 May be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**105/21 CBC ISSUES**

**(a) Consultation on proposed events at the main beach**

CBC was seeking the Parish Council's views on two requests received to hold events at the main beach – an Event Day organised by Cumbria Wildlife Trust on 31 July and a request by the RSPB to have a stall promoting their work on 26 July.

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to the proposed events.

**(b) Request for new litter bin**

CBC had received a request from a local resident for an additional bin to be provided near the golf course path which was regularly used by those walking their dogs. It was noted that CBC's policy was only to install new bins where the parish council was prepared to provide the funding for the initial costs and the on-going costs of emptying the bin.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council was not able to provide the funding for the additional bin.

**(c) Open Spaces Project**

It was noted that CBC was seeking volunteers to help with outdoor projects such as tree planting and improving/maintaining green spaces across the borough. Help was needed with both practical tasks and also with identifying sources of funding which were not available to district councils. Cllr Hale had contacted the relevant officers at CBC to find out more about whether this could be linked to the Parish Council's work on footpaths or engaging with young people.

**(d) Report by Ward Councillor**

Cllr Hailes reported on a number of on-gong matters:

- CBC officers would be meeting PC representatives on 1 July to discuss the possibility of larger, bird proof bins at the main beach.
- Another request had been made for dog fouling stencils to be repainted.
- The problems with delays to recycling collections on Finkle Street had been resolved as the road works which prevented access were now finished.

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- There was some ambiguity about the rules applying to dogs on the Outrigg playing field. This was CCC land associated with the Village School and the Village School policy was to ban dogs for health & safety reasons. However, the CBC Dog Control Orders listed it as a site where dogs were allowed on leads. The Clerk would contact the relevant officers at CBC to clarify the position. It was suggested that the signage needed to be improved.
- The play equipment had all been checked after an incident in Whitehaven where bolts had been deliberately tampered with. No problems had been found.
- CBC had now removed the carcass of the dead sheep which had been washed up close to the main beach a few days ago.
- CBC had recently completed a Transport Study and Cllr Hailes had pressed for schemes such as the cycle track and transport hub in St Bees to be included.
- Cllr Hailes would be continuing to work with the British Transport Police who were proactively visiting local pubs to warn train travellers that drinks could not be brought to the station and to encourage landlords to give customers 15 mins warning of the train departure time.

## 106/21 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

### (a) Monthly Financial Report

A summary of the accounts at 31 May 2021 was received and noted. All allotment and grazing rents had been received. The Finance & Risk Advisory Group would be meeting shortly to discuss the Qtr1 variance figures and would report at the next meeting.

The risk register was reviewed and no new risks were identified.

### (b) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002750 Works 4 You Ltd – grasscutting May £398.68 + £79.74 VAT Total £478.42
- Chq 002751 Viking – office supplies/bin £35.94 + £7.19 VAT Total £43.13
- Chq 002752 Open Spaces Society – annual subscription Total £45.00
- Chq 002753 & 002754 J Donaldson – Webex costs £12.50 + £2.50 VAT, printer ink £2.91 + £0.58 VAT, & salary June £612.52 Total £631.01
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service June £583.33 + £116.67 Total £700.00

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

Water Plus – water/wastewater to beach toilets £231.03 (paid by DD)

Answer 4-U – answering service (June) £12.96 + £2.59 VAT Total £15.55 (paid by DD)

Chq 002747 JRB Enterprise Ltd -dog bag dispensers/bags £680.80 + £120.16 VAT Total £720.96

Chq 002748 BHIB – insurance premium 2021/22 Total £1055.67

Chq 002749 Petty Cash top-up (VIB) £134.84

## 107/21 VACANCY FOR VILLAGE SCHOOL GOVERNOR

The Village School had contacted the Parish Council to ask whether the council could suggest someone to serve on the Governing Body following the death of Gus Kennedy. Although parish councils no longer had an automatic right to nominate a minor authority governor, councillors believed that it was important to maintain the link between the Village School and the local community.

It was RESOLVED to nominate Cllr Mellor to serve on the Village School Governing Body.

## 108/21 ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Bettinson reported on the recent meeting of the Allotment Committee and the discussions which had taken place with plot holders. The Clerk was arranging for various items of rubbish to be removed by the lengthsman. It was clear that the grasscutting of the communal areas had not been done on a monthly basis as previously agreed and the Clerk was in contact with the contractor to ensure that the monthly cut was reinstated as soon as possible.

Plot holders had asked for a change to the current policy on the use of the water supply which only allowed it to be used to fill water butts. The Committee had agreed that hoses could be used to water plots directly as a trial measure for the rest of the season. The volumes of water used would then be

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reviewed. If the change of rules was not increasing the costs excessively, the wording of the tenancy agreement could then be amended.

Other matters discussed included the recommendation that those with poultry should register with DEFRA to receive information on avian flu alerts and ways in which plot holders could work co-operatively. The Clerk was investigating the possibility of joining the national allotment association and would report back at the next meeting.

### **109/21 VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR**

There remained one vacancy for a parish councillor. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy in the parish magazine.

### **110/21 BAG IT, BIN IT CAMPAIGN**

Cllrs Linton and Argyle had circulated designs for posters to support the Dutiful Dog Walker campaign. The posters would be put up near the location of the new dog bag dispensers and would also be displayed on the noticeboards and in windows around the village. It was felt that professional printing would be preferable for the posters which were to be displayed outdoors.

It was RESOLVED to approve the costs of printing & laminating the posters.

### **111/21 ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

Cllr Linton had previously provided a progress report on the initial steps in the project to promote greater engagement with young people. It seemed that young people were probably more inclined to be involved if they were invited to give some input to a specific project such as creating a meeting place or improving facilities at the beach.

A draft safeguarding policy had now been prepared and circulated for comment.

It was RESOLVED to approve the policy.

### **112/21 ST BEES BASH**

The Chairman reported on discussions with the organisers of the St Bees Bash. The delays in relaxing the Covid restrictions had forced some change of plans and venues etc were still being investigated. Although there was limited information available at the moment, it was agreed to support the event in principle.

### **113/21 PROJECT REPORTS**

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

##### **(i) Toilets**

The beach had been exceptionally busy over recent weeks and the toilets had been in great demand. There had been a few complaints about the ladies toilets and reports of problems had been passed to Tom Milburn who had been very helpful in arranging for his staff to deal with the problems. They were now carrying out an additional inspection each afternoon during the busy period. There were signs in place asking that any problems should be reported to the caravan park office. It was noted that the disabled toilet was in need of redecoration and all the facilities might benefit from deep cleaning at the end of the season.

The toilets were paid for entirely by the residents of St Bees through the precept and it was suggested that there should be signage to make this clear to visitors. Whilst charging for use was not considered practical, it was suggested that donations should be sought towards the upkeep of the toilets. Cllr Argyle agreed to investigate designs for donation boxes.

##### **(ii) Play Areas**

Cllr Kaldos reported on a meeting of the Play Area Working Group at which terms of reference had been agreed.

Following discussions with CBC there had been an improvement in the time being taken to complete repairs. CBC had provided prices for the repairs required to several items at the beach play area and these had been approved by the Chairman & Vice Chairman to ensure that the work was done as soon as possible. CBC had also provided advice on repairs/improvements to ground surfaces and alternatives to grass matting would be explored.

The beach play area was heavily used and costs of repairs were increasing. It was suggested that donations could be encouraged to help keep the equipment in good condition. It was agreed that there should be further consideration of whether this could be combined with donations towards the upkeep of the toilets.

The Group had discussed the plans to upgrade the Outrigger play area. Some outline costings had already been obtained but grant funding was likely to be required. In order to proceed it would be necessary to secure a lease on the land which formed part of the school field. The Village School and CCC were both supportive of the project. A lease was likely to require DfEE approval which could be a lengthy process but other legal avenues were also being explored. It had also been suggested that the site of the old scout hut might be used as a meeting place for teenagers. The Clerk would provide contact details for the Scout Committee.

### **(iii) Beach Litter**

It was noted that a meeting was scheduled to take place on 1 July with CBC officers to discuss the possibility of changing the designs of bins at the beach area to make them less attractive to seagulls. Recycling bins had also been suggested as much of the litter was plastic bottles and cans. Cllr Linton was prepared to organise volunteers to help with emptying recycling bins and to raise funds for the purchase of bins if CBC was prepared to give permission for them to be sited at the beach.

### **(b) Beach Bowl**

There had been some progress and further information was awaited from CBC officers.

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

CBC had given agreement in principle to a community asset transfer of land adjacent to the existing Station car park. There would now be further contact with stakeholders and FRAG would be asked to complete a risk assessment for the project. The next stage would be to have plans drawn up to support an application for outline planning permission.

It was RESOLVED to proceed with the next stage of the project.

## **114/21 FOOTPATHS**

The report from Cllr Hale was received and noted. Information had been given to the Trustees of St Bees School to help them complete the dedication of land at the Dandy Walk as a right of way and the Clerk would contact them to discuss progress.

The Wainwright Society had provided some stickers but it was not clear whether these were suitable for use as way markers on the Coast to Coast path.

A group of volunteers had cleared the overgrown sections of Pitman's Trod.

## **115/21 PLANNING**

### **(a) New Applications**

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

- Ref 4/21/2249/0G1 Variation of condition 3 (surface water drainage), condition 4 (surface water discharge) & condition 5 (boundary treatment) of approval 4/20/2516/0F1  
Plot 1 Fleatham Farm, High House Road

It was noted that the application included technical information on drainage issues which the Parish Council did not have the expertise to evaluate. However, there had been significant problems with flooding on High House Road in recent years and the main concern was that there should be no further strain on the drainage infrastructure in that area.

It was RESOLVED to pass on these concerns to CBC

- Ref 4/21/2241/0F1 Internal & external alterations as part of renovation/refurbishment of existing building, including repairs to external render, alteration to dormer windows, demolition of part of existing stores & replacement of windows with double glazed units  
1 – 11 Lonsdale Terrace, St Bees
- Ref 4/21/2241/0L1 Listed building consent for above works  
It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to these applications.

**(b)Decisions made by CBC**

The following decisions by CBC were noted:-

Ref 4/21/2115/0F1 Erection of a 4 stable block, Land adj to Baruth Cottage, Sandwith – REFUSED

Ref 4/21/2197/TPO Removal of dead tree protected by TPO, Linethwaite Hall - APPROVED

**116/21 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Taylor reported on a recent meeting of Copeland Coastal Communities Forum. It had been a useful meeting and had provided the opportunity to promote the project to create a cycle track between St Bees and Whitehaven. The St Bees walks leaflets were to feature in the new tourism publications.

**117/21 CCC & HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

Cllr Whiteside reported on the following issues:

- The number of Covid cases was rising rapidly across the county, particularly among younger age groups. All those aged 12 -30 were being asked to arrange a PCR test. However, the numbers requiring hospital treatment remained low and vaccination rates were high.
- There had been a further instance of a wall of a property in Sea Mill Lane being damaged by a vehicle. The Highways Network Manager had some reservations about additional signage at the entrance to Sea Mill Lane as there are already several signs in place. Cllr Whiteside would discuss with him the possibility of rationalising the signage.
- It was hoped to extend the pavement on Outrigg in this financial year. The Clerk would provide Highways with the details needed to invoice the Parish Council for its contribution.
- CCC officers were checking ownership of the land and wall around the Village School car park.
- There had recently been some confusion over whether CCC or a district council was responsible for granting permission for road closures during parades etc. It was suggested that both CCC and CBC should be consulted when planning the next Santa Parade.
- The government's decision on the re-organisation of local government in Cumbria was expected in the next few weeks.
- The bin by Stonehouse Farm, removed during recent road works, had still not been replaced. Cllr Whiteside would follow the matter up with Highways officers.

**118/21 CLERK'S REPORT**

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

**119/21 CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) An email had been received from a local resident about signs of large vehicle accessing Rottington Common. Cllr Hale had investigated but there were no signs of fly-tipping or suspicious activity.

(b)CALC had confirmed that the GDF Working Group had ruled out the possible site at Ghyll Scaur quarry as it was within a possible extension of the Lake District National Park. Noted.

(c)Details had been received of the LDNPA's launch of its consultation on the Lake District National Park Partnership's Plan 2020- 2025. Noted.

(d)Correspondence had been received from Friends of the Lake District supporting the LDNP Partnership Plan. Noted.

(e)An email had been received from Northern Rail about a report that the 'St Bees' station sign is in need of repainting. Noted

(f)The new highways reporting system (HIAMS) would be introduced later this month. A Teams meeting would take place on 24 June at 7pm to brief parish councils. Noted.

(g)The GDF Working Group had produced a report on the three workstreams required before any decision could be taken on whether a community partnership (or partnerships) would be formed within Copeland (excluding the LDNP). Noted.

(h)A virtual Zero Carbon Communities event would take place on 25 June, organised by Local Energy North West Hub. Noted

(i)Details had been received of the Open Spaces Society AGM to take place on 8 July via Zoom. Noted

(j) CBC were to form a new 30 member residents’ panel to help shape Copeland’s response to the environmental crisis. Information would be sent to households with a deadline of 29 June to register interest. Noted

(k)Information had been received from CALC on plans to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee next year. Noted

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- NALC Chief Executive’s Weekly Bulletins
- NALC Newsletter
- GDF Working Group Newsletters 6 &7
- NW Coastal Access Update
- Cumbria Arts & Culture Network Newsletter
- Open Spaces Society Summer Update
- Cumbria Police -weekly Covid-19 updates
- Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
- ACT News Update
- Northern Gas Stakeholder Update
- Covid 19 – Changes to CCC Public Health Guidance

**120/21 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION /FUTURE AGENDAS**

(a)It was noted that flowers had been placed on the statue of St Bega to mark mid-summer’s day, a significant date in the story of St Bega.

(b) It was reported that the Post Office had relocated the wall-mounted litter bin to the other side of their property, close to the entrance of the adjoining property. The bin no longer had a lid and created unpleasant smells in hot weather. The Clerk was asked to look at whether a better design of covered bin was available.

**121/21 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on Monday 19 July at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....