

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 21 November 2022 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

In attendance: Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor - Egremont North/St Bees
Mr R Silk. Headmaster, St Bees School
Mr N Graham

176/22 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that it was proposed to bring forward the County Council item on the agenda, as Councillor Whiteside had another meeting to attend.

177/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Linton and Millington. Apologies were also received from Cllrs Hailes and Minshaw who both had work commitments.

178/22 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Gilmour declared an interest in Agenda item 11(b) as a member of the PCC which publishes the parish magazine. Cllr Robson declared an interest in the new planning application for The Knoll, High House Rd as the owner of an adjacent property.

179/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no matters raised.

180/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 17 OCTOBER 2022

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

181/22 CCC & HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Cllr Whiteside reported on several on-going matters:

- Highways officers had been unaware that some of the markings at Fleatham Croft had not been completed. The work would be included in a new contract to be let shortly.
- Cllr Whiteside had asked officers to look at options for other traffic calming measures at the south entrance to the village, as the quick sets were not deemed appropriate.
- The issue of signage at the top of Sea Mill Lane was not yet resolved. Highways officers had suggested an online meeting with Cllrs Linton and Millington but it was felt that a site meeting would help officers to appreciate the problems. Cllr Whiteside would try to facilitate a meeting.
- The proposed rewilding project on Beach Road was moving forward.
- Highways had undertaken some drainage work on the Outrigg road in recent months but this had not resolved the flooding problems and officers were working to find a solution. It was pointed out that this was an unlit road and the signage was inadequate to give drivers sufficient warning.
- CBC had been asked to carry out regular sweeping of leaves on High House Rd to avoid gullies becoming blocked.
- There had also been flooding to a property on Main Street and Cllrs Whiteside and Hailes had been working to sort out the problem. It appeared that there may be an issue with a United Utilities drain.
- Over the weekend water had again flowed down the B5345 from the fields on higher ground, leaving mud on the road and around the School and Priory. Cllr Whiteside would be taking this up with Highways officers. It was pointed out that a number of gullies on the Byersteds road were completely grassed over and this might be contributing to the problem.
- Patching work had been undertaken on Station Road and patching was scheduled to take place on Beach Road in February. The link to the Beach estate footpath would be done at the same

time. Cllr Hale asked whether CCC could replace the missing finger post while the work was taking place.

Councillors asked whether there had been any progress with identifying whether the markings and drains at the entrance to the beach car park were a CBC or CCC responsibility. Cllr Whiteside agreed to follow this up with Cllr Hailes.

Councillors commented on the number of the issues related to drainage problems, which reflected the fact that the drainage systems in the village were old and operating at capacity. It was a matter of regret that these issues did not seem to receive appropriate attention when new developments were given planning approval.

Cllr Whiteside then left the meeting.

182/22 ST BEES SCHOOL – FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Mr Silk and invited him to explain more about the plans he had outlined at the Sept meeting. Mr Silk explained that St Bees School was keen to be part of the local community and to make its facilities available to residents of St Bees and the wider local area. It was hoped to develop this further by creating a library with technology facilities together with a theatre which could be used by both the school and local community. The plans were still at a very early stage but the school wanted to share its ideas with the Parish Council and enlist support for the project.

In answer to questions, Mr Silk explained that funding would need to come from a number of sources, including alumni and the sale of assets such as Grindal House which were no longer required for school purposes.

Councillors thanked Mr Silk for the information which he had provided and welcomed the opportunity to comment on the plans at an early stage. It was suggested that the school might wish to consider broadening membership of the task force involved in planning the project to include representation from other stakeholders. Councillors looked forward to hearing more about the project as plans developed.

Mr Silk was asked about recent incidents of anti-social behaviour and confirmed that there had been a reduction in the number of incidents in the last two weeks. The dog fouling signage on the Dandy Walk path had resulted in some improvement but had not eliminated the problem.

183/22 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Nicholas Graham had submitted an expression of interest in the vacancy for a parish councillor.

It was RESOLVED that Mr Graham be co-opted as a parish councillor to serve until the elections in May 2023.

Mr Graham then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

184/22 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Hailes had provided a report on the following matters:

- Gully & street cleaning had been requested at Rottington, High House Rd and at the entrance to The Crofts
- A date was awaited for the planned replacement of the bin by the beach café with a larger bird proof bin.
- There had been reports of thefts from a local farm.
- Cllr Hailes had laid a wreath at the village war memorial on behalf of CBC, the last occasion before CBC ceases to exist.

It was reported that the redundant light at 97 Main Street had still not been removed and several footway lights were not working. These had been reported but not yet repaired. The Clerk would follow this up with Cllr Hailes and CBC officers.

185/22 SHADOW CUMBERLAND COUNCIL

Cllr Minshaw had provided an update on progress with local government reorganisation. The new Cumberland Council would shortly be considering how it could work with parish/town councils and local communities and he would be interested to hear the views of parish councillors.

It was agreed that a date would be set for a meeting for councillors to share ideas. Cllr Graham offered to act as facilitator.

186/FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**(a) Financial Report**

(i) The notes of the FRAG meeting on 8 November were received, together with a summary of the accounts at 31 October 2022. There were no items of note from the review of the Qtr 2 variance figures with income on target and expenditure lower than expected but with some invoices still awaited.

(ii) FRAG had considered the possibility of moving to online banking with NatWest. This would require amendments to the Financial Regulations and a reduction in the number of authorised signatories but would offer significant advantages.

It was RESOLVED that an application be made to transfer to an online account with NatWest with Cllrs Sim, Taylor, Monaghan and Argyle as authorised signatories.

(iii) The Internal Auditor had recommended that the council adopt a reserves policy. A draft policy had been prepared and FRAG had recommended its adoption. The policy would be subject to annual review. It was RESOLVED that the policy be adopted.

(b) Donations

It was RESOLVED that the following donations be approved:

PCC – contribution to the publication costs of the parish magazine	£1200
Village Hall – use of hall & office	£ 750
Royal British Legion – donation to 2022 Poppy Appeal	£ 150
Vicarage Community Garden -purchase of wheelbarrow	£60
Great North Air Ambulance	£125
Citizens Advice Copeland	£125
St Bees Over 60's	£125
Friends of the Priory	£40 (plus £10 membership fee)
Furness Line Action Group	£40 (plus £10 membership fee)

(c) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002895 Village Hall Committee – room hire Total £30.00
- Chq 002896 Works 4 You Ltd– grasscutting Sept £430.20 + £86.04 VAT Total £516.24
- Chq 002897 CBC –play area inspections Qtr 3 £347.85 + £69.57 Total £417.42
- Chq 002898 JRB Enterprise Ltd – dispenser bags £170.35 + ££34.07 VAT Total £204.42
- Chq 002899 G Bettinson–replacement of lost cheque (Jubilee expenses) £45.56
- Chq 002900 R Mayow – payment for hosting defibrillator £100.00
- Chq 002901 J Donaldson – salary Nov including backdated salary award £956.23
- Chq 002902 J Donaldson defib battery £160.00 + £32,00 VAT, Webex costs £12.50 + £2.50 VAT, printer ink £8.32 + £1.67 VAT, stamps £5.44 Total £222.43
- Chq 002903 CBC – play area repairs £1379.24 + £275.85 VAT Total £1655.09
- Chq 002904 Works 4 You Ltd – grasscutting Oct £430.20 + £86.04 Total £516.24
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service (Nov) £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00

The payments made since last meeting were noted:

- Water Plus – water/wastewater toilets Total £129.37 (direct debit 1/11/22)
- Npower – toilet electricity £29.30 +£1.46 VAT Total £30.76 (direct debit 14/11/22)
- Answer 4-U– answering service £11.50+ £2.30 VAT Total £13.80 (direct debit 17/11/22)

187/22 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

It was noted that there had been a few reports of incidents since the last meeting but the situation did seem to have improved. The Neighbourhood Policing Team would be holding another drop-in session on Thursday 24 November 10-30am to 12.30pm at the Village Hall.

188/22 PLACES TO TALK

Cllr Hale reported that a session had taken place in the Village Hall on 20 October. A number of residents had attended and shared experiences of the Covid pandemic. A report had been sent to ACT who were hoping to use this as a case study.

189/22 PROJECT REPORTS**(a) Community Events**

(i) Remembrance Sunday – The Remembrance Sunday parade had gone well with eight wreaths being laid at the war memorial. Attendance had been good and Dave Rothery had done an excellent job in organising the parade.

(ii) Christmas event – the Christmas tree had been delivered and a team of volunteers would put it in position on Cross Hill on 26 November. The Santa Parade would take place on Tuesday 29th setting off from Fairladies at 5.45pm and travelling around the village before Santa switches on the lights at 7pm. Santa would be accompanied by elves on bicycles and it was hoped to collect donations for the Lifeboat along the route. A resident had kindly agreed that the lights could be powered from his supply in return for a donation to Hospice at Home.

(b) Beach & Play Area

(i) New play area surfacing – the costs of the surfacing and preliminary groundworks had risen significantly and now exceeded the budget for the project. Cllr Kaldos would review the scope of the project before a decision was made.

(ii) Proposed new projects – Cllr Ritson had put forward a number of suggestions for projects to make the main beach area more attractive. It was agreed to convene a meeting of the Beach Regeneration Committee to look at the ideas.

(c) Upgrading of Outrigg Play Area

It was understood that the Village School was to join the West Lakes Academy Trust and that the Trust had agreed in principle to transfer ownership of the land on which the play equipment stands to the Parish Council. This would make it simpler to obtain grant funding for new equipment but would also bring new responsibilities and liabilities.

It was RESOLVED to thank the school for its helpful response and to seek further detailed discussions.

(d) Station car park extension/transport hub

Cllr Taylor reported that there had been no progress since the last meeting. The Shadow Cumberland Council had announced that there would be no new asset transfers until at least April 2023.

(e) Valley Link Cycle Track

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

(f) Priory Paddock

Volunteers had undertaken some routine maintenance work. It was hoped to organise a meeting of the support group in the new year to plan work for the coming months. The condition of the board walk was deteriorating and would shortly need patching or complete replacement. Cllr Ritson would investigate the options for repair and Cllr Argyle would continue to look for suitable contractors able to install a new board walk.

(g) Interpretation Boards

There had been no progress since the last meeting but plans were in hand for several new boards.

190/22 PLANNING**(a) New Applications**

The Planning Advisory Group reported on applications received for comment:

- Ref 4/22/2415/0B1 Variation of condition 2 (plans) of planning approval /21/2241/0F1-internal & external alterations as part of renovation & refurbishment of existing buildings
1 – 11 Lonsdale Terrace St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application

1417

- Ref 4/22/2407/0F1 Construction of 3 two storey, four bedroomed detached dwellings with associated infrastructure

The Knoll, High House Road, St Bees

(Cllr Robson took no part in the discussion of this item)

It was noted that there were concerns about the impact of three new dwellings on the sewerage system which was old and not adequate to cope with additional demands. The plans for surface water drainage were also unsatisfactory. The Design & Access Statement indicated that the preferred plan was to deal with surface water via a drain within the site, which it was said ran into a ditch on an adjacent property and then discharged into Pow Beck. In fact the drain ends in the garden of the adjacent property where it soaks into the ground. The additional demand from the new development would result in the adjacent land becoming waterlogged.

It was RESOLVED to object to the application until satisfactory drainage arrangements were proposed.

- Ref 4/22/2448/0F1 Demolition of existing conservatory & construction of new single storey extension to south: new raised patio & altering of ground level to provide level access to patio from kitchen & bedroom 3- resubmission of approved application 4/22/2205/0F1

Torpoint, Egremont Road, St Bees

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

- Ref 4/22/2389/0F1 Change of use to apart-hotel including internal works, new vehicle exit, creation of parking areas to rear (amended description & additional information)
- Ref 4/22/2387/0F1 Listed building consent for above works

Grindal House, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to these applications

(b) Applications Approved by CBC

- 4/22/2372/0L1 Installation of woodburning stove & external flue – 115 Main Street, St Bees
- 4/22/2300/0F1 Annex to provide additional accommodation & creation of additional parking space – Somerby, Beach Rd, St Bees
- 4/22/2350 Felling of sycamore tree protected by TPO – 1 Fleatham Gardens, St Bees

191/22 DEEP TIME COASTAL ART PROJECT

The Chairman reported that the consultant leading the project to site art works along the coast had visited St Bees. A site on Parish Council land at Sea Mill had been offered but this was not deemed suitable.

192/22 FOOTPATHS

The report by Cllr Hale was received and noted. Some work had been done by volunteers at St Bees Common to clear a path to the tarn and further work would be carried out.

193/22 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Taylor reported that he had had a discussion with Katie Read, CBC Tourism Officer, and she had suggested that the Parish Council join the Western Lake District & Coast Tourism Group. Membership was free of charge until next spring and there might be incentives for increasing tourism to the area.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council join the group.

The Chairman reported on a meeting of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group. It was noted that the membership of the group was being reviewed.

194/22 CLERK'S REPORT

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

195/22 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) An email had been received from a community group in Ennerdale concerned about the method of consultation on the proposal by Forestry England to introduce beavers in Ennerdale. Noted

(b) National Highways had provided further details of the planned improvement work on the A66 Penrith to Scotch Corner. Noted

(c) An update had been received from CALC on help available for the Cost of Living Crisis. Noted

- (d) An email had been received from a local resident offering help with work at Priory Paddock. Cllr Bettinson would follow this up.
- (e) A legal update had been received from NALC on various matters including qualification to stand for election. Noted
- (f) Details had been received of Cumbria in Bloom AGM on 16 November. Noted.
- (g) A Local Authority Climate Change update had been received. Noted
- (h) Details had been received of the 2022 salary increase for local government staff, effective from April 2022. Noted.
- (i) A local resident had forwarded a copy of her correspondence with CBC about dog fouling close to the Village School entrance on Outrigg. CBC had agreed to paint stencils on the pavement in that area once the weather was suitable. Noted
- (j) CALC had forwarded a CCC update on flu and Covid cases. Noted
- (k) CALC had forwarded information on support for Green Spaces 2 Grow. The information had been passed on to the Vicarage Community Garden project.
- (l) Details had been received of Cumbria CVS AGM to be held on 30 November. Noted
- (m) The Boundary Commission had published its final proposals for changes to parliamentary constituency boundaries. The consultation would run until 5 December. Noted
- (n) CALC had forwarded details of a survey of residents within the South Copeland GDF search area. The results suggested that there was good awareness of the proposals but at this stage understanding of the issues was limited. Noted
- (o) Details had received of a planned road closure of a section of the B5345 for essential gas works. The closure would be for 5 days commencing 5 December and would affect a 100m section from the junction with Sea Mill Lane northwards. Noted.
- (p) An email had been received from a resident about the lack of lighting on the Beach Rd footpath. A reply had been sent explaining CBC policy on footway lighting.
- (q) Water Resources West had published its draft regional plan which is available on the United Utilities website. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- NALC Chief Executive’s Weekly Bulletins
- NALC Newsletter
- Northern Gas Stakeholder Update
- Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
- LGR Updates
- Cumbria Police update
- Open Spaces Nov update
- Connecting Cumbria Newsletter

196/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION /FUTURE AGENDA

- (a) There would be an Arts Society lecture on 23 November in the Management Centre entitled ‘The Art of Deception’.
- (b) Philip Barratt would be giving a talk entitled ‘Agatha Christie and her Poisons’ on 25 Nov at 7pm in NCH.
- (c) There would be an Art & Craft event on the theme of climate change in NCH on 27 November.
- (d) The Christmas Tree Festival would take place at the Priory from 4 December to 2 January.
- (e) A Christmas Fayre would be held in the Priory and Old College Hall on 4 December from 2 -5pm
- (f) A wine tasting event would be held at the Village Hall on Sat 17 December.
- (g) Sellafeld Ltd had provided advance notice that a large helicopter would be bringing service personnel to the site on 22 November and this might be audible in local villages.

197/22 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

Signed.....

Date.....