

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on  
Monday 25 April 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,  
A Linton, D Millington, H Monaghan, S Ritson, C Robson, E Taylor & the Clerk

**In attendance:** Cllr C Whiteside. County Councillor, Egremont North/St Bees

**56/22 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed councillors to the meeting. He explained that due to unforeseen circumstances the representatives from Sellafeld Ltd were unable to attend the meeting. Their visit would be rearranged to a later date. As Cllr Whiteside needed to leave early, the County Council item would be brought to the top of the agenda.

**57/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Bowler & Mellor. Apologies were also received from Cllr J Hailes, CBC Ward Councillor, who was unable to attend because of work commitments.

**58/22 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**59/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No matters were raised.

**60/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2022**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 21 March 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**61/22 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

Cllr Whiteside reported on progress with the following matters:

- Highways officers had accepted the views expressed by the Parish Council on proposed changes to parking restrictions. At the recent meeting of the Highways Working Group officers had recommended that the proposals for Finkle Street should be dropped and the time limit on parking on Main Street should be removed completely. 'No parking at any time' restrictions would be put in place at the junction of Main Street and Sea Mill Lane which would ensure that the splay was kept clear of parked vehicles. The officers' recommendations would now be put to the Copeland Local Committee for approval.
- County Council officers were investigating the situation which arose last week when the school bus failed to pick up children in the village. Some children had managed to get to lifts to Egremont whilst others had tried to walk. This was an unacceptable situation and officers were making urgent enquiries into the background to the incident.
- A meeting had taken place on 22 April at the Village School to discuss options for upgrading the play area. The process of obtaining Dept for Education approval for a formal lease on the land was likely to be lengthy and he was asking CCC officers to look at whether any other legal arrangements might be possible which would meet the criteria for grant funding.
- Highways officers were considering the amended plans for drainage and highways issues associated with the Nethertown Road development and would be responding to CBC shortly.
- The consultation on a strategic cycle route as part of the Borderlands project had ended on 22 April. However, Cllr Whiteside was aware of the concerns expressed by parish councillors about how the consultation had been publicised and officers at CCC would be willing to accept any further comments from the Parish Council following this meeting. The Chairman pointed out that despite the short notice there had been a good response from the local community. Cllr Taylor had spoken to the CCC officer and arrangements were in hand for a meeting in due course.

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- Cllr Whiteside was continuing to follow up the matter of the speed reduction measures on the B5345 which had been agreed some time ago but had not been implemented at the south end of the village.
- There was no progress yet on the issue of repairs to the speed humps and improved access to the Beach Rd footpath.

**Cllr Whiteside left the meeting at this point to attend another meeting.**

It was noted that some residents had asked whether the cutting of the verge on Beach Rd alongside the Adams Recreation Ground could be delayed to allow the wild flowers to seed. It was agreed that the Clerk would check with CCC whether this area was cut by their contractor and, if so, whether this could take place later in the summer.

### **62/22 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS**

Cllr Hailes had provided a written report on several on-going matters.

It was noted that the additional bins had been put out on the promenade in time for the Easter period and this had helped with the litter problem. However, the bins were open topped and seagulls were continuing to strew rubbish around. CBC officers had said that they hoped to have a clearer timescale for the installation of bird proof bins in the next month or so.

Councillors reported that there had recently been a series of apparently related fly-tipping incidents around the parish. Anyone who had information about those responsible should be encouraged to pass the information to CBC.

Councillors reported that the stones at the bottom of the small ramp onto the beach had been washed away over time, leaving a significant drop. People with limited mobility were unable to use the ramp and, when the tide was coming in, they were unable to reach the boat ramp because of the groynes.

It was RESOLVED to write to CBC about the safety issues associated with the ramp.

### **63/22 PLATINUM JUBILEE**

The working group of councillors reported on progress with plans for the Jubilee celebrations. A list had been produced of events taking place in the week leading up to and over the Jubilee weekend. These would include a series of walks, events at the Village Hall as well as the tea party on Cross Hill. All the events would be publicised on the Parish Council's Facebook page and village noticeboards. A road closure application had been submitted to allow Cross Hill to be closed off on the afternoon of 5 June enable the street party to take place on Cross Hill. The group were continuing to work on the detailed planning.

An event would also take place at the Priory during the week commencing 29 May with displays illustrating the seven decades of the Queen's reign.

Two commemorative seats were also being ordered for the path from Wood Lane to Abbey Wood.

### **64/22 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**

#### **(a) Financial Report**

A summary of the accounts at 31 March was received and noted. Income for the year was higher than budget largely due to donations for memorial seats and repayment of the loan from the Centenary Book Fund. Expenditure was lower than anticipated but there were several invoices still awaited for work commissioned in 2021/22 which would now fall in the new financial year. A fuller breakdown of the accounts and reserves would be available at the annual meeting in May.

It was noted that a further £40 had been donated through the donation boxes at the toilets.

No changes were identified to the risk register. It was noted that the Jubilee Working Group would be preparing a risk assessment for the street party.

#### **(b) Payments**

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

Chq 0028237 Works 4 You Ltd -installing seat/removing rubbish from allotments £130.00 + £26.00 VAT Total £156.00

Chq 002838 JRB Enterprise Ltd – dispenser bags £144.90 +£28.98 Total £173.88

Chq 002839 CALC -annual subscription Total £321.39

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Chq 002840 N Bettinson– reimb for plants £30.75 + £6.15 VAT Total £36.90  
Chq 002841–reimb for fixings for heritage board & dog signs £110.09 + £19.19 VAT Total £129.28  
Chq 002842- Webex costs £12.50 + £2.50 VAT & printer ink charge £8.32+ £1.67 VAT Total £24.99  
Chq 002843 J Donaldson – salary April Total £580.72  
Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service (April) £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (SO)

The following payments made since the last meeting were noted:

Chq 002835 A2K Cleaning Services – deep clean of toilets Total £499.00  
Chq 002836 VIB Petty Cash top-up Total £110.57  
Npower – toilet electricity (Feb) £20.09 + £1.00 VAT (paid by direct debit 04/04/22)  
Answer4-U– answering service £ 12.70 + £2.54 VAT Total £15.24 (direct debit 18/04/22)

### **65/22 JOINT MEMBERS COASTAL WORKING GROUP**

Correspondence had been received from CCC inviting the Parish Council to nominate a representative to attend meetings of the Joint Members Coastal Working Group.  
It was RESOLVED that Cllr Bettinson or Cllr Taylor would attend the next meeting of the group.

### **66/22 PROJECT REPORTS**

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

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

The deep cleaning had been completed on time and had improved the condition of the toilets. Cllrs Argyle & Ritson had repainted the doors and gates. The Chairman reported that a meeting had taken place with Tom Milburn to look at how best to maintain the condition of the toilets in light of the increased use in recent years. The toilets are cleaned each morning and at busy times staff make an additional visit during the day. The main issue was with the gents toilets which often had an unpleasant smell. In the short term the frequency of flushing of the urinal was being increased and it was suggested that replacing the urinal with a model stainless steel model would help.  
It was RESOLVED to purchase a new urinal at a cost of approx. £500.

##### **(ii) ‘Find a ball, Take a ball’ Tub**

Cllr Linton explained the proposal to locate a small tub near the toilets to hold balls found on the beach so that they could be reused by other dog owners.  
It was RESOLVED to approve the proposal.

##### **(b) Upgrading of Outrigg Play Area**

Cllrs Kaldos & Gilmour reported on the meeting that had taken place with Cllr Whiteside and representatives of the Village School. It had been a positive meeting but it was clear that funding would be the main challenge. A number of actions had been agreed, including investigating the requirements of grant funders and looking at options for formalising the agreement to place equipment on school grounds.

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

A report on progress had been circulated. The application to Northern Rail for grant funding to help with design costs had been successful and detailed design work was now underway. It was uncertain how local government reorganisation might affect community asset transfers and further information was awaited from CBC.

##### **(d) Valley Link Cycle Track**

Cllr Taylor had spoken to the CCC officer leading on the LCWIP and further discussions would take place as the Plan was finalised. CCC recognised that there was considerable local support for the project but there were still many obstacles to be overcome including land owner agreements and uncertainty over the proposed new mine.

**(e) Priory Paddock/Tree Planting**

It had taken longer than first anticipated to deal with the invasive species in the Paddock but replanting was now underway. The gate which was damaged by vandalism last year had been repaired thanks to the efforts of Phil Hughes. A new interpretation board was being designed for the Paddock.

Some trees had been donated and had been planted at the Adams Recreation Ground. More trees had been offered for the next planting season.

**(f) Interpretation Boards**

The interpretation board for the Heritage Trail had been delivered and would be installed shortly in Stonehouse Garden. The new sign to be installed by the level crossing had also been delivered and CBC were arranging with CCC for the sign to be put up. Both had been funded from the EU funding being managed by CBC. It was suggested that a guided walk and map could be produced to support the heritage trail.

New signs were also being designed for the beach shelter.

**67/22 PLANNING****(a) New Applications**

The Planning Advisory Committee reported on the following applications received for comment:

- Ref 4/22/2141/0F1 Single storey side extension for lounge/utility  
7 Seacote Gardens, St Bees

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

- Ref 4/22/2131//0F1 Demolition of existing single storey rear extension; erection of new two two storey extension to rear; erection of detached store; alterations to front elevation of existing dwelling

1-2 Peck Mill, St Bees

It was noted that the property had been empty for some years and was in a dilapidated state.

Councillors welcomed the prospect of the property being restored and brought back into use.

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

**(b) Other Planning Matters – Nethertown Rd Development**

A reply had been sent to CBC following the discussion at the last meeting about the reserved matters application ref 4/21/2369/OR1. The issues of concern remained drainage and highways safety, particularly the need for widening of the road from the last house on Nethertown Rd to the new development. CBC had subsequently drawn attention to the amended drainage report submitted by the applicant but it was felt that this did not address the concerns previously expressed.

It was understood that both the reserved matters application and the outline application for two further dwellings would be considered by the Planning Panel in May with the Panel making a site visit in the days before the meeting.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Argyle would represent the Parish Council at the Planning Panel and site visit.

**(c) Applications approved by CBC**

It was noted that the following application had been approved by CBC:

4/22/2072/OL1 Installation of fencing & retrospective consent for reorientated staircase at signal box – St Bees Station

**68/22 FOOTPATHS**

A report on footpaths matters was received and noted. It was noted that CCC had reinstated a number of missing or damaged finger posts. As part of the Jubilee celebrations there were to be a number of guided walks making use of the footpaths and the new coastal path. The Kittiwake Trail from St Bees to Fleswick Bay (one of the Tale Trails organised by CBC and the Outdoor Partnership) would be part of the programme. Any adult volunteers willing to be Pirates or Trolls on this walk would be welcome.

**69/22 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

The next meeting of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group was to take place on 3 May. Cllr Taylor would deputise for the Chairman who was unable to attend.

**70/22 CLERK'S REPORT**

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

**71/22 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Regular updates had been received from CCC on preparations for the move to two unitary authorities. Noted
- (b) Information had been received on a marine geophysical survey to take place over the summer as part of the early steps towards consideration of a geological disposal facility. Noted.
- (c) Copies had been received of CBC's Sustainability Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan, presented at the recent Copeland Open for Business conference. Noted
- (d) NALC was seeking views of local councils to inform their Civility & Respect Project. Noted
- (e) A resident had asked whether the use of weedkillers could be banned in the parish. A reply had been sent by the Clerk explaining that the Parish Council had no powers to do this and explaining the council's own policy on the use of weedkillers at the allotment.
- (f) Two requests had been received from residents asking that the cutting of verges be delayed to allow wildflowers to seed. Noted
- (g) The Village Hall Management had forwarded copies of the minutes of the recent AGM together with their annual accounts. Noted
- (h) Brampton Parish Council had contacted the Clerk seeking information on setting up a Facebook page after reading the profile of St Bees PC in the recent CALC newsletter. The Chairman had responded with the information requested.
- (i) CALC had circulated a questionnaire to help inform its resilience project and identify how CALC could improve its support to local councils. The Clerk would respond on behalf of the Parish Council.
- (j) A letter had been received from a number of hospital campaigners seeking support for their campaign to improve services at West Cumberland Hospital for heart & stroke patients who are currently treated at the Cumberland Infirmary. It was RESOLVED to write a letter supporting the campaign for these specialist services to be available in West Cumbria and commenting on the excellent standard of care at WCH.
- (k) An email had been received from the British Horse Society seeking volunteers for their historical research project or to become local Access & Bridleway Officers. Noted.
- (l) A company called High Street Safaris had forwarded details of an augmented reality trail which they could design for any area to encourage residents to explore their area. Noted.
- (m) NALC's Smaller Councils Committee was seeking the views of parishes on the issues which they could focus on. The deadline for suggestions was 6 May. Noted
- (n) The Environment Agency was setting up a meeting with stakeholders in Cumbria to discuss any matters relating to the nuclear industry. Meetings were planned to take place bi-monthly. Noted
- (o) CCC had provided a copy of the Order amending the Definitive Map to show the correct location of the railway crossing on FP423011. Noted.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- NALC Chief Executive's Weekly Bulletins
- NALC Newsletter
- Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
- Trudy Harrison MP – Newsletter
- Cumbria Police bulletin Egremont, Cleator Moor & Rural
- North West Coastal Access Update
- ACT Update
- Connecting Cumbria Newsletter

**72/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

(a) CBC was looking for a location for a sculpture commissioned as part of the Hidden Coast project, as the location originally planned was no longer available. After consultation with the Chairman, St Bees had expressed an interest in having the sculpture.

(b) A talk would take place each Friday at 5pm in the Priory to explain aspects of the village's history. The talk would be followed by a short recital by Frank Bowler on the Willis organ. The talks were aimed primarily at visitors but local residents would also be welcome.

**73/22 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would take place on MONDAY 23 MAY in the Village Hall immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting which would begin at 6.30pm.

Signed.....

Date .....