

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 18 February 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllr D Sim (in the Chair), N Bettinson, G Gilmour, C Hale, F Kennedy, J Lockie,
J Mellor, D Millington & the Clerk

23/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs P Argyle, T Kelly, H Monaghan and C Robson.

Apologies had also been received from Cllr Whiteside (County Councillor for St Bees/Egremont North)

24/19 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman reported that Maxine Riley had submitted her resignation from the Parish Council due to work commitments. Councillors thanked Ms Riley for her contribution to the council and it was agreed that the Chairman would write to her on behalf of the council.

25/19 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

26/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No issues were raised.

27/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2019

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 21 January be approved and signed by the Chairman.

28/19 CCC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Whiteside had provided a written report on highways and CCC matters:-

- A consultation was taking place on how the County Children & Families department organises services for 0-19s. Any comments from parish councillors would be welcome.
- The consultation on a possible Whitehaven relief road had attracted over 800 responses. It was looking hopeful that the scheme would be included in the road improvement programme with a possible completion date of 2027.
- Highways England was making progress with plans to improve the A595 junctions at Scalegill Rd and Linethwaite. Plans would be available for the March PC meeting.
- Discussions were continuing on whether funding would be available for any highways improvement schemes in St Bees. Further information might be available for the next meeting.
- There had been a number of road closures recently for utility works and road repairs. Cllr Whiteside asked to be informed of any issues.

It was noted that the resurfacing of the B5345 around Abbey Corner was underway. The road closure had been publicised on the St Bees Facebook page. It was noted that warning of the road closure was not signed from the A595 from Whitehaven early enough to prevent traffic reaching the village.

Cllr Whiteside had asked the parking enforcement team to vary the times of visits to the village to help tackle the problems of parking on double yellow lines. The Clerk would check on progress with the plans for yellow lines around the High House Rd/Fleatham Croft junction which had been the subject of consultation late last year. A 'no parking' sign had now been purchased for Main Street as discussed at the last meeting and the lengthsmen would be asked to fix it in place.

A request had been made to Sustrans for better signage to/from the C2C cycle track at Linethwaite.

A reply had been received from the Police & Crime Commissioner to the council's concerns about large vehicles being diverted through St Bees in the event of accidents on the A595. The letter indicated that suggestions from the Parish Council would be welcome.

1185

It was RESOLVED to send a reply pointing out that, whilst St Bees was an appropriate diversion route for light vehicles, it was completely unsuitable for HGVs and alternatives routes to the east of the A595 should be used for such vehicles.

29/19 ST BEES SCHOOL

No report was available.

30/19 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Finance Report

The summary of accounts at 31 January was received and noted. A FRAG meeting was being arranged to look at the likely year end position and to review the risk register.

(b) Donations

The Chairman reported that the Village School had been successful in reaching the national finals of the First Lego League competition. A group of 10 children had attended the event in Bristol last weekend. Whilst they had not won the national final, it had been a great achievement for the village school to reach that stage in the competition.

It was RESOLVED to make a donation of £250 to the school as a contribution to the costs of attending the event, with funds being vired from the Community Events budget.

(c) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002496 Harrison's Packaging- poop scoop bags £171.99 + £34.40 VAT Total £206.39
- Chq 002497 Community Heartbeat Trust (Solutions) Ltd -installation of defibrillator & signage £303.00 + £60.60 VAT Total £363.60
- Chq 002498 P Argyle -reimbursement for flowers Total £15.00
- Chq 002499 YNH Ltd – renewal of US domain names Total £44.00
- Chq 002500 CBC – high level cleaning at beach toilets £216.61 + £43.32 VAT Total £259.93
- Chq 002501 J Donaldson – reimbursement for ink, parking sign, postage £ 26.78 + £3.67 VAT Total £30.45
- Chq 002502 J Donaldson – Clerk salary Total £648.46
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service Feb £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00
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Payments since last meeting to report

- Chq 002494 Fenwick Electrical – connection of defibrillator Total £100.00
- Chq 002495 L J Kyles – groundworks for connection of defibrillator Total £365.67
- Answer 4 You – answering service £8.80 + £1.76 VAT Total £10.56 (paid by DD on 17 February)
- Water Plus – water/wastewater to toilets £351.49 (DD)

31/19 WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS

The Chairman explained that the St Bees website was very well used, receiving around 292,000 hits each year. It was now in need of upgrading as it was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain. The upgrading would be done gradually over a period of time and it was estimated that the costs at this stage would be around £200- £300.

It was RESOLVED that expenditure of £300 be approved.

32/19 PROJECT REPORTS

(a) Beach Regeneration

The only quotation received for high level cleaning at the toilets was from CBC. The work had been now been carried out and it was hoped that the remaining work to redecorate the toilets could still be done before the start of the season.

It was noted that more volunteers would be welcome to help with play area inspections. The Clerk would put a note in the parish magazine asking for volunteers for both play area inspections and the Speedwatch scheme.

CBC had included in its coastal bid a project to create art installations along the coast, the first stage of which would be a series of individually designed artistic seats along the route of the coastal footpath. The Parish Council had been asked whether it would support the idea and to suggest possible locations for a seat. Councillors welcomed the idea and suggested that a location near to the Wainwright wall would be the most appropriate.

(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch

Cllr Millington reported that he had received no response from PC Turnbull.

Cllr Mellor reported that a new Speedwatch rota had been drawn up covering the period from March to June. One volunteer had withdrawn from the rota but a new volunteer had been recruited.

(c) Community Events

There were no events planned in the next few months.

(d) Tree Planting

The annual pollarding of the willows in Priory Paddock had been completed with help from the lengthsman.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track

There was no further progress to report since the last meeting. It was hoped to find new volunteers to join the project group.

(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project

Work was continuing to eradicate the invasive species in the pond. The lengthsman had carried out strimming around the pond and a team of volunteers had tidied up the area.

(g) Public Access Defibrillators

The installation of the second defibrillator at the top of Sea Mill Lane was now complete. The Parish Council was very grateful to the owners of 83 Main Street who had allowed the cabinet to be fixed to their wall and also allowed it to be connected to their electricity supply.

It was RESOLVED that an annual payment of £100 be made to the owners of the property in recognition of their help in allowing the equipment to be mounted on their property and to cover running costs.

The lengthsman had cleaned and carried out minor repairs to the telephone box ready for the third defibrillator to be installed on 25 February. It was suggested that there should be some signage on each of the defibrillators so it was clear where it should be returned to. Cllr Argyle was arranging for a training session to take place in the village to demonstrate how the defibrillators should be used and it was agreed that there should also be a publicity event to raise awareness of the devices.

All three defibrillators were now registered with the Community Heartbeat Trust and the Ambulance Service and the locations and access codes were shown on the village web-site. It was noted that one of the postcodes shown on the CHT data base was incorrect and the Clerk would ask for this to be corrected.

(h) Station Car Park Extension

There had been no further progress.

33/19 VILLAGE IN BLOOM

The Village in Bloom Committee had met earlier in the evening. Cllr Gilmour reported on the discussions which had taken place about the search for a new base for the group. The VIB volunteers had agreed to draw up a list of their requirements as a first step. Possible sites had been considered as planning permission for a base in the centre of the village might not be straightforward. It was noted that the site of the former scout hut might be a possibility and it was agreed to make enquiries of the owners of the site.

Committee members had asked about progress with the project to renovate the large 'St Bees' sign on the wall of Platform 9. The Chairman explained that the project was not straightforward as work could only take place when there were no trains and scaffolding would be required. It was still hoped to carry out the renovation but for the moment it remained in abeyance.

34/19 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Gilmour reported on the Copeland Tourism Summit organised by the Elected Mayor which had taken place in the Management Centre at St Bees School. The event had been well attended and lots of ideas had come forward for tourist initiatives.

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group and the workshop on Sellafield Ltd and the NDA's socio-economic strategy.

35/19 PLANNING

(a) New Planning Applications

No new applications had been received for consideration since the last meeting:

(b) Applications approved by CBC

The following applications had been approved by CBC:-

4/18/2523/0F1 Erection of steel framed agricultural building -Springbank Farm

4/18/2543/0F1 Glazed flat roofed garden room on existing external terrace -2 Fleatham Gardens

4/18/2544/0B1 Variation of condition 2 of permission ref 4/17/2007/0F1 for amendment to design of stairs and elevations – Stonehouse Farm

(c) Extension of Heritage Coast Designation

Cllr Hale had attended one of the consultation events on the proposal to extend the Heritage Coast designation northwards towards Whitehaven and reported on the plans. If the extension of the heritage coast designation was confirmed it would be retitled the St Bees & Whitehaven Heritage Coast.

36/19 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting were discussed. It was agreed to hold the meeting at 6.30pm on Monday 20 May (immediately before the Annual Parish Council Meeting).

37/19 CLERK'S REPORT

The vacant allotment plots had been let and there was now no waiting list.

Following the discussions about dog fouling at the last meeting details of key areas had been passed to CBC so that their enforcement team could draw up an action plan. It was agreed to go ahead with purchasing signage and the Clerk would source suitable signs.

38/19 CBC ISSUES

Cllr Hill had provided a series of updates on CBC activities which had been circulated to councillors by email. It was noted that CBC had agreed its budget for 2019/20 and would be increasing the precept by 1.95%.

CBC had launched a new scheme in partnership with Lakes College to help people with mental health or other problems reach their potential and find employment.

39/19 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

No report had been received. for November.

40/19 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) CALC had made changes to the dates of some courses in its training programme for Jan – July 2019. Details were available from the Clerk.

(b) The minutes of the meeting of the Colourful Coast Partners' Meeting on 9 January had been received. Noted.

(c) A stakeholder update had been received from Northern Gas Networks. Noted.

1188

(d)A reply had been received from the Police & Crime Commissioner about the diversion of traffic following accidents on the A595. A copy had been circulated with the agenda and discussed under CCC & Highways Matters.

(e)Notes of the meeting of West Copeland Partnership on 28 January had been received. Noted.

(f)Details had been received from CALC of a consultation by Cumbria LEP on Local Industrial Strategy. Noted.

(g)An invitation had been received to a workshop organised by ACT on Consulting Your Community to take place in Gosforth on 19 March. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

NW Coastal Access Update January

CALC Newsletter February

Copeland Matters February

NALC Chief Executive's bulletins Jan – 8 Feb

41/19 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 18 MARCH 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....