

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 15 January 2018 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, G Gilmour, T Kelly, F Kennedy, J Lockie, J Mellor, D Millington, M Riley, C Robson, N Smart & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor Egremont North/St Bees
Mr M George, Chairman of Trustees, St Bees School
Mr J Hallows, Headmaster, St Bees School
Ms J Scott, Bursar, St Bees School
Mrs J Laine, Whitehaven Town Council

Also present: 1 member of the public

01/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Haile and H Monaghan

02/18 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Robson declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 13a New Planning Applications as the owner of the property concerned. Cllr Kelly declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters on the agenda as a Trustee of St Bees School.

03/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no matters raised.

04/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2017

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 18 December 2017 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

05/18 CCC & HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Cllr Whiteside noted that the emergency closure of High House Rd for gas repairs had caused some disruption with increased traffic on Outrigg. The Highways Group of the Local Committee would be meeting shortly; the possible extension of the pavement on Outrigg was one of the issues to be discussed along with the programme for road maintenance. The budget was limited and repairs to Derwentwater Rd on Mirehouse were a high priority but Cllr Whiteside would be interested to hear of any other priority areas.

Cllr Whiteside reported that the A595 Working Group would be meeting with Highways England shortly. CCC would be submitting a response to the consultation launched recently by Highways England.

Cllr Whiteside also explained the County Council's role in scrutinising changes in local health services. Recruitment to senior medical posts was still an issue but there had been progress, particularly in filling posts in obstetrics and paediatrics. The proposed 12 month trial period of maternity services had been formally approved following consideration by a review panel set up by the Sec of State but the trial period was yet to begin.

Councillors asked Cllr Whiteside to pass on thanks to the highways team for the excellent response in carrying out repairs to pot holes.

It was noted that the footway lights on Station Rd were still not working. Although CBC had agreed that the damaged lighting column should be replaced it would now require Electricity North West to install the necessary connections.

It was also reported that there were further problems with the gully by the entrance to Station car park where water was getting under the tarmac due to a blocked drain. Cllr Whiteside agreed to follow this up.

06/18 PLACARDS AROUND THE VILLAGE

Following the discussion at the last meeting the Chairman had contacted the spokesman whose name had appeared in the local press as opposing any sale of land by St Bees School for development. The Chairman had invited spokespersons to meet parish council representatives to discuss their objections but the invitation had been declined.

There was concern among councillors that the signs were creating a negative image of the village for visitors. Councillors expressed disappointment that the invitation to meet had not been accepted. As the body elected to represent local interests in St Bees, councillors believed that it was important that the Parish Council understood the views of all parties, and emphasised that the Parish Council was always willing to listen and discuss local concerns.

It was RESOLVED to extend an open invitation those involved in placing placards around the village to meet the Parish Council and discuss their objections.

07/18 ST BEES SCHOOL

The Chairman welcomed Mark George, Chairman of the Trustees, to the meeting together with the Headmaster and Bursar representing St Bees School.

Mr George explained that surveys of the buildings had been completed and a major programme of work had begun to ensure the buildings were ready for September. Scaffolding had been erected around Foundation and for safety reasons there would be no pedestrian access to the terrace. Interviews would be taking place in the next few days for the post of Deputy Head. An OFSTED inspection would also be taking place this week as part of the preparations for the reopening of the School.

The Headmaster explained that recruitment of pupils was continuing with an Open Day last weekend and marketing activities taking place in various countries. He stressed the financial benefits and employment opportunities which the reopening of the School would bring to the local economy.

The Headmaster referred to the request by the Parish Council that pedestrians coming to/from Abbey Rd should be allowed to walk through the School grounds to avoid the dangerous section of road by the bends. Mr Hallows explained that this would not be possible because of the safety issues while structural work was taking place. He went on to explain that, when the School reopened, it was unlikely to be possible to allow public access to the grounds (other than via the public footpath on Wood Lane) because of the stringent safeguarding procedures required of schools but he undertook to confirm the position in due course.

Councillors commented on traffic problems associated with contractors' vehicles parking outside the quadrangle whilst unloading. The Headmaster promised that the Bursar would take this up with the contractor.

The Chairman thanked Mr George and the School representatives for coming to update the Parish Council on progress and they then left the meeting.

08/18 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Financial Report

The summary of accounts at 27 December was received and noted (copy attached to the minutes).

(b) Budget 2018-2021

A revised 3 year budget had been prepared following the preliminary discussions at the last meeting. The decision to purchase two defibrillators in the current year would result in a higher VAT reclaim in 2018/19 and this was reflected in the revised budget. The main area of uncertainty remained the costs of implementing the changes to data protection regulation. Some

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allowance had been made for this within the budget but at this stage the costs were very uncertain. It was agreed that any additional cost could be met from reserves.

The draft budget proposed drawing on reserves to supplement the precept and other income but the reserves were considered sufficient to allow this. If the precept was set at the same cash amount as in the current year, there would be a small reduction in the charge for a Band D property due to a higher council tax base.

It was RESOLVED that the budget for 2018-21 be approved and that the precept be set at £40,351, unchanged from the current year.

(c) Donations

The Over 60's Group had contacted the Clerk to enquire about the process of applying for a donation towards their activities. As the Donations budget for 2017/18 had been spent it was agreed to invite the group to make an application in the new financial year.

(d) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002371 AST Signs Ltd -noticeboard header £75.25 + £15.05 VAT Total £90.30
- Chq 002372 Water Plus – allotment water charge Total £12.85
- Chq 002373 Water Plus –water/wastewater charge beach toilets Total £481.65
- Chq 002374 CBC – emptying litter bins qtr 4 £271.70 + £54.34 VAT Total £326.04
- Chq 002375 CBC – play area inspections qtr 4 £310.20 + £62.04 VAT Total £372.24
- Chq 002376 P Preston – electricity for Christmas tree Total £30.00
- Chq 002377 J Donaldson – contribution to Broadband charge £50.00, reimbursement for postage £14.09 & stationery £16.87 + £3.37 VAT Total £84.33
- Chq 002378 J Donaldson– salary (net) Jan - £635.48
- Answer 4 U – answering service - £12.32 + £2.46 VAT Total £14.78 (to be paid by direct debit on 17 Jan)
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service (Jan) £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

Payments since last meeting to report:

- Chq 002369 Npower – electricity to beach toilets £42.89 + £2.14 VAT Total £45.03
- Chq 002370 HMRC – PAYE qtr 3 £268.55

09/18 HIGHWAYS ENGLAND CONSULTATION

It was noted that Highways England had launched a consultation on priorities for investment for the period 2020 – 2025. Whilst this was a consultation on policy rather than on specific schemes it did provide an opportunity to continue to press for major improvements to the A595.

It was RESOLVED that a response be submitted based on the Parish Council's agreed position on strategic traffic issues.

10/18 SEA MILL BRIDGE

CCC had confirmed that work had begun to install the new bridge at Sea Mill. It was expected that the work would be complete in 3 – 4 weeks. Discussions were taking place with the landowner to provide a footpath to the north side of the beck when the existing right of way was diverted to go over the new bridge. The old bridge was not owned by CCC so it would not be removed when the new bridge was complete.

The County Council had asked the Parish Council whether it wished to take ownership of the wooden steps which gave access to the old bridge. Councillors felt that this would discourage use of the new bridge and there was no other use to which the steps could be put within the parish. The Clerk would inform CCC officers of the Parish Council's view.

11/18 PROJECT REPORTS

(a) Beach Regeneration

It was noted that there had been further damage at the beach toilets where the temporary repair made to the cubicle in the gents toilets had been forcibly removed.

It was RESOLVED not to proceed with replacement of the partition at this stage but to continue with a further temporary repair.

The donkey springy at the play area had been removed as the spring had failed. The cost of replacement was £250 + VAT but discussions were continuing with Wicksteed over whether this should be covered under the warranty.

It was RESOLVED to await the outcome of these discussions before ordering a replacement.

(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch

The speed gun had been recalibrated and a new rota had been prepared for Speedwatch sessions to resume in February. Councillors expressed thanks to all the Speedwatch volunteers without whom the project would not be possible.

The request for signage and possible 20mph zone on Abbey Rd had been passed to Cumbria Highways and would be considered by the Traffic Engineer. Cllr Millington would be writing to Dr Weston about the helpful response from Shepley Engineers. It was reported that the Sellafield bus which travels between sites had also travelled through the village recently despite Dr Weston's assurance that the use of the B5345 would be discouraged.

(c) Community Events

The recent Murder Mystery evening had raised £330 to be shared between the NSPCC and Village Hall Kitchen Renovation Fund.

The Village Pantomime would take place in the Village Hall over the weekend of 9/10 February.

(d) Tree Planting

The final stage of planting at the Adams Ground had been delayed by the weather but the remaining trees/shrubs would be planted shortly. A progress report had been sent to Nu-Gen who had funded the project and Cllr Bettinson had also spoken to Cumbria Wildlife Trust who were supporting Nu-Gen's Green Grant Scheme.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track

The Chairman reported that he had contacted CCC to ask about progress with discussions with West Cumbria Mining and was awaiting a reply. He had also contacted Whitehaven Town Council and met Cllr Laine to explain the current position with the project. He would forward details of the proposed route and feasibility study to Cllr Laine so that she could share the information with her colleagues at Whitehaven Town Council.

(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project

It had not been possible to find a contractor to carry out work in the pond itself. The focus now was on dividing up the tasks so that it could be tackled by volunteers.

(g) Public access defibrillators

An order had been placed for two defibrillators and the company had quoted an estimated delivery time of 3-4 weeks. One would be located at the beach toilets and it was hoped to locate the second on Main Street.

(h) Station car park

The possible extension of the car park had been discussed at a recent meeting of Copeland Rail Users Group. Northern Rail had confirmed that this was a matter solely for Network Rail. It was noted that there would be increased pressure on parking as Barony car park was unavailable for much of the week. The PCC was looking into the possibility of creating additional parking on church property for those attending services.

12/18 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Following the discussion at the Parish Liaison Forum the Chairman had received a copy of the recently published Sellafield Transport & Movement Plan. It was noted that the document contained a number of objectives but the key drivers did not include consideration of arrangements for site evacuation in an emergency. It was agreed that this issue should be raised with both the Sellafield Parish Liaison Forum and the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Committee's Emergency Planning Group.

13/18 PLANNING**(a) New Planning Applications**

Cllr Robson withdrew during consideration of this item.

The Planning Advisory Group reported on the following application which had been received for comment:-

Ref 4/1/0F1 Alterations & Extension – 4 Abbey Farm, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application, although the work would need to be carefully managed because of the limited space in the courtyard.

(b) Applications approved:

4/17/2355/0L1 Listed building consent for installation of powered extractor fans on upper panes of two west facing windows – New College Hall, St Bees Priory

4/17/2394/0F1 Variation of conditions 2& 4 of approved application 4/17/2193/0F1 (windows & materials) -116A Main Street, St Bees

(c) Other Planning Matters

A further update had been received from CBC on the current situation following the issue of the Planning Contravention Notice in respect of unauthorised work to the rear of 4 Blythe Place. CBC had received a response from the property owner and a meeting was now being arranged between CBC representatives and the owner and his agent.

14/18 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received. It was noted that CCC had investigated the report of a broken stile on the footpath from The Crofts to Loughrigg and would be speaking to the landowner. CCC was also considering improvements to the public footpath from Sea Mill to Nethertown Rd which formed part of the Coastal Access Project. This would take place next year and CCC officers would discuss detailed plans with the Parish Council in due course.

15/18 CBC MATTERS

Cllr Hill had provided information on a number of issues which had been circulated to councillors. It was noted that the Elected Mayor was to hold a budget consultation event for local businesses on 25 January at the Beacon Portal.

16/18 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

No report had been received.

17/18 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Arthur Millie had forwarded a copy of his latest letter to the Whitehaven News about the need to press central government for improvements to the A595. Noted.
- (b) CALC was inviting nominations to be entered into a draw for the Buckingham Palace Garden Parties in 2018. Noted.
- (c) Further information had been received from CALC about changes to Data Protection Regulations. It was noted that NALC was continuing to press central government to consider exempting local councils or at least funding the additional costs.
- (d) CALC had forwarded details of the new audit return which would need to be completed for 2017/18 onwards. The return would now be sent to parishes electronically. Noted.
- (e) A letter and card had been received from the Parent & Toddler Group thanking the Parish Council for its recent donation towards the purchase of new equipment. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

NW Coastal Access Update Dec 2017
St Bees School December Newsletter

18/18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- (a) A meeting would be taking place shortly between representatives of the Parish Council, Priory, Old St Beghians and the School to discuss plans for a joint commemoration of the end of WW1.
- (b) The Arts Society would be holding its next meeting on Wed 24 January when Dr James Taylor would give a lecture entitled ‘The Forgotten Art of the Picture Postcard’.
- (c) It was noted that John and Sally Kennedy had both been awarded British Empire Medals in the New Year’s Honours list for service to the local community. The Clerk would write to congratulate Mr & Mrs Kennedy on their awards. It was also noted that Cllr Whiteside had been awarded an MBE. The Chairman had contacted Cllr Whiteside to pass on the Parish Council’s congratulations.

19/18 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2018 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....