

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on  
Monday 21 January 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllr D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, G Gilmour, J Haile, C Hale, J Lockie, D Millington, H Monaghan & the Clerk

**01/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs F Kennedy, J Mellor, M Riley, C Robson. Apologies had also been received from Cllr Whiteside (County Councillor for St Bees/Egremont North)

**02/19 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed Dr Claire Hale who was attending her first meeting since being co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

**03/19 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

**04/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No issues were raised.

**05/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2019**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 17 December be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**06/19 WEST CUMBRIA MINING – CONSULTATION**

The consultation on the amended planning application for the new mine was due to end on 28 January and it was anticipated that the application would be considered by CCC Development Panel on 15 February. The Chairman drew attention to the information contained in the application on the layout of the underpass and the impact on public footpaths in the area of the railway loading facility. It was noted that a minor diversion of the footpath would be required around the boundary of the site.

It was RESOLVED to respond to the consultation supporting the planning application, raising no objection to the footpath diversion and welcoming any facilitation of plans for the cycle track by allowing use of the mine road for cyclists.

**07/19 CCC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting with Cllr Whiteside and a representative of Highways. It was understood that the resurfacing of the B5345 around Abbey Corner was already in the schedule of work. The Chairman had confirmed that the Parish Council's priorities for other highways schemes remained unchanged since 2016 (enhanced gateway features at the north and south entrances to the village and extension of the pavement on Outrigg). Brown signs had also been discussed and it was clear that signs from the A595 were not a possibility but some local signage might be possible within the village.

Parking on yellow lines had also been discussed, particularly on Main Street where there was no pavement and vehicles regularly parked close to the gate of the adjacent property, preventing the owners getting in and out. The Highways officer had felt that an extension of the pavement would not be possible and had suggested that signage and enforcement were more appropriate measures.

Councillors reported that there had been some enforcement action in the village but the visits by the Enforcement Team always seemed to take place very early in the morning.

It was RESOLVED to purchase signage for the property on Main Street (subject to the owners' agreement) and to contact Cllr Whiteside to request that the Enforcement Officer varied the days and times of his visits.

It was noted that Highways were seeking help from parishes in creating an inventory of cast iron heritage signs. Several signs were identified within the parish and the Clerk would supply details of location and condition to Highways.

**08/19 DOG FOULING**

Correspondence had been received from a local resident about dog fouling, particularly in the area of Main Street/Seacroft Drive and Sea Mill Lane. Councillors agreed that this was an issue of concern around the parish and it was felt that owners would take greater responsibility if all dogs were kept on a lead and not allowed to wander free. It was noted that there was also a problem at both Sea Mill and the main beach where vehicles had been seen allowing a number of dogs out to run free.

A number of measures were considered which might help the situation. It was noted that CBC no longer provided special dog waste bins as any litter bin could be used for poop scoop bags. The Parish Council purchased environmentally friendly bags which were supplied to the beach shop to give out free to visitors who had come unprepared and it was suggested that this could also be done through the Post Office. CBC had in the past painted stencils on pavements but these had now worn off.

It was RESOLVED to take the following measures:

- CBC to be asked to paint stencils on the ground in appropriate places
- Poop scoop bags to be supplied to the Post Office
- Signage to be put on lamp posts and at both beaches
- An article to be put in the parish magazine asking that dogs be kept on leads and dog waste to be put into bags and disposed of properly
- Additional bins to be requested around the village
- CBC to be asked to provide more visits from their enforcement team to take action against owners who allowed their dogs to foul pavements

**09/19 ST BEES SCHOOL**

No report was available.

**10/19 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT****(a) Finance Report**

The summary of accounts at 31 December was received together with the Qtr 3 variance report.

It was noted that income was above budget at this stage although the quarter 4 figures would be affected by the decision to change the date on which rent payments were due. The expenditure figures showed an underspend on all headings but it was noted that there were invoices outstanding for play area repairs. The main area of underspending was on Projects but the costs of installing the defibrillators would partially offset this.

**(b) Financial Regulations**

The Financial Regulations were reviewed. It was noted that there had been no changes to the NALC model on which the council's Financial Regulations were based since they were last approved in 2016. It was considered that the current regulations were working well.

It was RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations be re-approved without amendment.

**(c) Payments**

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq no 002488 CBC – play area inspections Qtr 4 £319.50 + £63.90 VAT Total £383.40
- Chq no 002489 CBC – emptying bins Qtr 4 £271.70 + £54.34 VAT Total £326.04
- Chq no 002490 Network Rail – annual rent for Station car park £400.00 + £80.00 VAT Total £480.00
- Chq no 002491 P Preston – contribution to electricity for Christmas lights Total £30.00
- Chq no 002492 J Donaldson – reimbursement for contribution to Broadband charges £50.00, printer ink charge Dec £6.66 +£1.33 VAT, postage £6.96 Total £64.95
- Chq no 002493 J Donaldson – salary (net) January- £648.46
- 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 002487 Npower– electricity to toilets £44.31 + £2.22 VAT Total £46.53
- Answer 4 You – answering service £10.56 + £2.11 VAT Total £12.67 (paid by DD on 17/1)

**11/19 VILLAGE HALL LEASES**

Cllrs Sim & Bettinson declared non-pecuniary interests as Trustees of the Pagan Trust

The Chairman explained the background to the leases being drawn up for the Village Hall. The building was owned by the Pagan Trust which leased the building to the Village Hall Committee. The Village Hall Committee then leased part of the building to the Freemasons under a separate sub-lease. The existing leases had now run out and new leases were needed. It was intended that the Pagan Trust would lease the building to the Village Hall Committee for a term of 50 years which would enable the Village Hall Committee to apply for charitable funding. As the Village Hall Committee was not a corporate body, the Parish Council acted as Custodian Trustee and would be the body named on the lease. It had been agreed in Sept 2014 that the Parish Council would meet the legal costs of both the Pagan Trust and Village Hall Committee. The estimated costs of the new lease had increased since that time and were now estimated at between £2000 and £4000.

It was agreed that the Village Hall was a valuable asset to the village and councillors encouraged the Village Hall Committee to publicise its facilities and availability for hire as widely as possible.

It was RESOLVED that work on the new lease should proceed and that the additional costs could be met from underspends on the Project budget.

**12/19 LENGTHSMAN SCHEME**

The existing two year scheme was due to end on 31 March. Discussions were taking place about a further three year scheme and parishes were being asked to consider whether they would be interested in taking part in a further scheme. At this stage firm costings were not available as it would depend on the number of parishes taking part.

It was reported that some of the seats included in the list of work for 2018/19 had not yet been painted/varnished. The Clerk would follow this up.

It was RESOLVED to agree in principle to take part in a new scheme.

**13/19 PROJECT REPORTS****(a) Beach Regeneration**

Arrangements were in hand to obtain quotes for cleaning the ceilings at the beach toilets.

**(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch**

Cllr Millington explained that he had sent some information to PC Turnbull and was awaiting a reply.

**(c) Community Events**

A meeting would be organised in late summer/early autumn to plan for the 2019 Santa Parade.

**(d) Tree Planting**

There was no further progress to report.

**(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track**

There was no further progress to report since the last meeting, although it was noted that the plans were mentioned in a briefing note from CBC in connection with a possible coastal communities project.

**(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project**

Work was continuing to eradicate the invasive species in the pond but this was proving to be a lengthy process.

**(g) Public Access Defibrillators**

Work was in hand to complete the installation of the second defibrillator at the top of Sea Mill Lane and it was hoped that this would be operational very shortly.

Contracts had been received from the Community Heartbeat Trust to transfer ownership of the redundant telephone box adjacent to the railway station. The CHT had also offered to install the defibrillator at a cost of £200 + VAT and were able to supply signage, if required. The telephone box would require some remedial work and the lengthsman would be asked to do this before the equipment was installed.

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It was RESOLVED that the Chairman & Vice-Chairman sign the contracts on behalf of the Parish Council and that the Community Heartbeat Trust be asked to install the equipment subject to clarification of the work to be undertaken.

### **(h) Station Car Park Extension**

There had been no further progress.

### **14/19 UNITED UTILITIES APPLICATION TO CONTINUE EXTRACTION LICENCE**

It was noted that United Utilities Water Ltd had applied to the Environment Agency to vary the terms of the licence to extract water from the South Egremont boreholes. If no variation was allowed, the daily maximum permitted abstraction would reduce from 11 Ml per day to 8ML per day from March. United Utilities believed that the current abstraction levels needed to be retained to allow the company to deal with demand during prolonged dry spells.

### **15/19 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

CLr Gilmour reported on the 2019/20 budget consultation meeting held by the Elected Mayor. Copies of the budget consultation document were available from the Clerk.

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the meeting of the CALC Executive (Copeland District). Matters discussed had included the A595 consultation, GDF, and Sellafield travel plan. It was noted that staff travelling to Sellafield now had to pay to travel on the bus to the site.

It was noted that the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group would be holding a meeting on 4 February to look at how parishes could become involved with Sellafield Ltd's socio-economic strategy.

### **16/19 PLANNING**

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

Three applications had been received for consideration since the last meeting:

- Ref 4/18/2544/0B1 Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission ref 4/17/2007/0F1 for an amendment to the design of the new stairs and elevations  
Stonehouse Farm, Main Street, St Bees  
It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.
- Ref 4/18/2543/0F1 Glazed flat roofed garden room on existing external terrace to west elevation & enlarging of existing opening to kitchen & dining room  
2 Fleatham Gardens, High House Rd, St Bees  
It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.
- Ref 4/19/2004/0F1 Formation of a new garage and driveway & alterations to front and side elevations  
Seefeld, Sea Mill Lane, St Bees  
It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.

#### **(b) Applications approved by CBC**

There were no decisions to report since the last meeting.

#### **(c) Extension of Heritage Coast Designation**

The proposal to extend the Heritage Coast designation northwards towards Whitehaven was noted.

### **17/19 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received. Letters had gone out to all tenants explaining the change to collect rents in April rather than in January. The vacant plot was being offered as two small plots to those on the waiting list. This would clear the waiting list for plots.

**18/19 CBC ISSUES**

Cllr Hill had provided a series of updates on CBC activities which had been circulated to councillors by email.

**19/19 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER**

A report had been received for November. It was noted that the only incident was a report of livestock on the highway.

**20/19 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a)CALC had published its training programme for Jan – July 2019. Noted.
- (b)Details had been received of the new pay scales for Clerks effective from 1 April 2019. Noted.
- (c) Correspondence had been received from the Milestone Society which was working on a project to identify and preserve old sandstone milestones. Two had been identified within our parish on the St Bees – Whitehaven Rd. Much of the overgrowth which was concealing them had been removed but the cast iron plates were missing. Preservation work would be undertaken during summer 2019 at no cost to the Parish Council. Noted.
- (d)The latest NALC newsletter had been received giving an update on GDF. In December the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy had published a policy paper entitled ‘Implementing Geological Disposal: Working with Communities. RWM had updated its web-site to include an introduction to geological disposal, community guidance and the outputs from the national geological screening for a GDF. Noted.
- (e)Details had been received of proposals from the Police & Crime Commissioner to increase their precept by approx. £2 per month for a Band D property to enable the police to meet the demands being made on them. Noted.
- (f)An email had been received from a family-run circus looking for a site for a week in 2019. The Parish Council did not own any suitable sites but it was agreed to forward suggestions of others who might be interested in hosting a circus.
- (g) A letter had been received from CBC giving the estimated costs for the parish elections in May. The charge for an uncontested election was estimated to be £80. The costs of a contested election were estimated at £1500 for St Bees Ward and £500 for Rottington Ward. Noted.
- (h)Details had been received of the NALC Spring Conference to take place in London on 11 February. The subject would be Rural Isolation. Noted.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- NW Coastal Access Update December
- CALC Newsletter December
- Copeland Matters January
- Trudy Harrison MP E-newsletter Nov/Dec

**21/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- (a) It was reported that horses were being ridden along the pavement on Beach Rd and horse droppings were causing a nuisance for those walking along the pavement. It was agreed to put an item in the parish magazine reminding riders that horses should not be ridden on the pavement.
- (b)It was reported that better signage was required at the start of the cycle track at Linethwaite and also on the track itself to indicate the exit to St Bees. The Clerk would check responsibility for the cycle track.
- (c)It was noted that all parish council seats would be up for election on 2 May. It was expected that CBC would hold a meeting for Clerks in the next few weeks to explain the timetable and procedures. The election would be publicised in the parish magazine to encourage local residents to consider standing for election.

**22/19 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

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

Signed.....

Date.....