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**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 18 July 2022 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs G Gilmour (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, C Hale, A Kaldos, A Linton,
H Monaghan, S Ritson, C Robson & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor - Egremont North/St Bees
Cllr J Hailes, CBC Ward Councillor
Mr D Bechelli, Flood & Coastal Defence Engineer, CBC

114/22 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman, it was necessary to elect a chairman for the meeting.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Gilmour take the chair for the meeting.

Cllr Gilmour welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced David Bechelli, who was attending for the discussion of coastal defence issues.

115/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Mellor, Millington, Sim and Taylor.

116/22 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in matters on the agenda.

117/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

118/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2022

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 20 June be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

119/22 COASTAL WORKING GROUP

The Chairman welcomed David Bechelli and invited him to explain the situation with coastal defence issues which had been raised at the recent meeting of the Joint Members Coastal Working Group.

Mr Bechelli explained that a Shoreline Management Plan was drawn up in the 1990's including short, medium and long term plans for coastal defence. It was subsequently updated and adopted by CBC. This was a high level plan covering the North West coast and below this sat various strategies including the 2020 Cumbria Coastal Strategy. The current approach in St Bees was to hold the line and an Action Plan was being drawn up to look at the defences in St Bees. In February 2021 a report was commissioned to look at all the possible options and five options were recommended for further assessment. It was hoped that a further consultant's report on the five options would be available shortly which would look at the economic case for each option. This would enable a business case to be put forward for work required. Such projects were usually funded by a partnership of central government, local authorities and local businesses. Mr Bechelli confirmed that the Parish Council would be consulted on the recommendations in the consultant's report and he anticipated that the options appraisal would be completed in this financial year.

Councillors asked a number of questions about the groynes which were now in poor condition. Mr Bechelli explained that a previous report in 2011 had not given a definitive opinion on whether the groynes were effective but this would be addressed in the new report. Regular surveys were carried out on the profile of the beach and these showed no significant change along the promenade over the longer term. It was pointed out that over the last 10 years there had been significant change at the north end of the beach. The latest study should show whether this was related to the state of the groynes. Mr Bechelli agreed to forward the link to the survey data and to keep the Parish Council aware of developments.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bechell for attending and Mr Bechelli then left the meeting

120/22 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Whiteside reported on the following issues:

- Work had started on drainage work near Ellerbeck Bridge which it was hoped would prevent a recurrence of the flooding which had occurred in recent months. Outrigger would be closed for 3 days to allow the work to take place
- The traffic lights on the B5345 towards Whitehaven were at the request of Northern Gas Networks who were carrying out work nearby.
- CCC had received the expression of interest in the Planting for Pollinators scheme for the Beach Rd verge rewilding project, Further information would be sent to the Parish Council.
- There was no definite news to report on possible options for a legal agreement to site the play equipment on the Village School field but officers had undertaken to contact the Parish Council by 29 July to confirm the position.
- The LCWIP was on the agenda for discussion at the meeting of the Local Committee on 20 July. The draft plan included the cycle track project in St Bees as Priority 2, despite having received huge public support in the consultation. Cllr Whiteside would be questioning the decision to make this a Priority 2 scheme and Cllrs Argyle & Ritson agreed to attend the meeting and, if possible, would speak in support of the St Bees project.
- The proposed change in the age range of the Village School would also be discussed at Local Committee.
- A report had been published on the activities of the parking enforcement team. This showed that St Bees had received more visits than other villages of similar size but councillors suggested that the visits were not happening at key times such as the start/end of the school day.
- The proposed changes to parking restrictions would be going out to formal consultation shortly.
- Highways officers had agreed to contact the Clerk for further discussions about new signage at the top of Sea Mill Lane.
- Cllr Whiteside had organised a site meeting with Cllr Ritson and the Highways Manager to look at the possibility of creating a gap in the wall on Beach Rd to improve pedestrian safety for those using the footpath to the Beach estate. A decision was awaited from Highways.
- Cllr Whiteside had investigated the process for applying for a 'residents only' parking restriction as a member of the public had suggested at the last meeting. This was a lengthy process similar to a Traffic Regulation Order and would require consultation with residents in the area affected.
It was noted that Cllr Millington had arranged to have discussions with the resident in the coming weeks.
- No further information had been received from officers on the delays in completing the road markings at the Fleatham Farm/High House Rd junction nor on plans for gateway features at the southern entrance to the village.

Councillors reported that the road markings at the entrance/exit to the beach car park were in need of repainting and the sign at the entrance to Sandwith had disappeared. Cllr Whiteside agreed to follow up these issues. Cllr Hale reported some difficulties with using the online system for reporting problems with public footpaths. She would forward the details to Cllr Whiteside so he could report this to Highways staff.

Cllr Whiteside then left the meeting.

121/22 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Hailes reported on the following matters:

- Discussions were taking place with the Adams Ground Committee to identify opportunities for funding to support their plans.
- The bin at the start of the Dandy Walk had been replaced.

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- The new bird proof bins were working well and more bins would be provided in due course. It was reported that the CBC operative was having some difficulty in emptying the bins and Cllr Hailes agreed to follow this up with CBC officers.
- CBC had confirmed that no request for an election had been received following the advertisement of the vacancy for a parish councillor and the vacancy could now be filled by co-option.
- Reports of cars driving around the beach car park at speed had been reported to the police who had been asked to monitor the area during their patrols.
- There had still been no progress with the request for measures to improve access to the promenade from the beach. Cllr Hailes was continuing to press officers at CBC.

It was noted that there had been two recent incidents of the level crossing barriers failing, causing inconvenience to drivers. Cllr Hailes agreed to take up the matter with Network Rail. It was also noted that some of the seats at the main beach were in poor condition and Cllr Hailes would report this to the appropriate officers.

The beach shelter (owned by CBC) had now been repainted by a volunteer from the Parish Council and was looking much more attractive. There had been some misuse in the past and, if there were no objections from CBC, it was proposed to put in place some security measures to try to prevent further damage or misuse.

122/22 PLATINUM JUBILEE

Almost all the expenses associated with the Jubilee events had now been paid. There was one payment outstanding but the total expenditure would be within the budget set for the celebrations. The Village Hall Committee had indicated that they would not be charging for the use of the facilities for the street party.

It was RESOLVED that a donation of £30 be made to Village Hall funds in recognition of their help with the street party.

123/22 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Monthly Financial Report

A summary of the accounts at 30 June 2022 was received and noted. A further sum of £99.01 had been banked from the donation boxes at the toilets. Overall expenditure was less than anticipated at the end of Qtr 1 but this was due in large part to invoices being delayed. FRAG would present a detailed report on the Qtr 1 variance figures at the next meeting.

(b) Donations

A letter had been received from St Bees & District Garden Society seeking a donation towards the cost of staging the Annual Show on 20 August.

It was RESOLVED to make a donation of £200.00

(c) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002864 Works 4 You Ltd – grasscutting/emptying bin June £430.20 + £86.04 VAT Total £ 516.24
- Chq 002865 & 002857 J Donaldson - Webex costs £12.50 + £2.50 VAT, printer ink charge £8.32+ £1.67 VAT, stamps £10.88 Total £35.87
- Chq 002866 J Donaldson salary Total £577.72
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service (June) £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00

The payments made since last meeting were noted:

- Chq 002861 St Bees Village School – donation £30.00
- Chq 002862 St Bees PCC – donation £30.00
- Chq 002863 S Ritson -reimbursement for paint £69.75 + £13.95 VAT £83.70
- Water Plus – water/wastewater to toilets £11.76 (direct debit)

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- Npower – toilet electricity (May) £37.13 + £1.86 VAT Total £38.99 (direct debit)
- Answer 4-U– answering service £12.69 + £2.54 VAT Total £15.23 (direct debit 18/07/22)

124/22 PROJECT REPORTS

(a) Beach & Play Area

An update had been received from CBC on various outstanding repairs at the beach play area. The carriage on the zip wire would need complete replacement. The cost would be just under £1000 and the Chairman & Vice Chairman had authorised the work to minimise the delay in getting the equipment back into use.

The details of the groundworks required before the planned resurfacing around some items of play equipment had been clarified. Cllr Taylor had offered to help write a specification which could be used to obtain quotations for the work.

Councillors thanked Cllr Ritson for his work in repainting the beach shelter. The new interpretation boards had been delivered and would be installed shortly.

Cllr Ritson explained his suggestion for creating an attractive area close to the beach shelter featuring a donation box to replace the old wishing well. As this was on land owned by CBC, the plans would need to be agreed with CBC. Councillors supported the project in principle and Cllr Ritson would now work up more detailed plans and submit a project evaluation form for consideration by FRAG.

(b) Upgrading of Outrigger Play Area

There had been no further progress, although Cllr Whiteside was pressing CCC officers to look at ways of formalising the arrangement for the play equipment to be sited on the school field.

(c) Station car park extension/transport hub

There was no progress to report.

(d) Valley Link Cycle Track

The decision on the planning application for the new mine had been further delayed and until then no progress could be made.

(e) Priory Paddock

The pond was becoming overgrown and further work would be required. The board walk was deteriorating and would need some professional work to repair it. It was agreed to investigate possible contractors who were experienced in this kind of work.

(f) Interpretation Boards

The written report from Cllr Sim was received and noted. The boards for the beach shelter were ready to be installed. Further work was being done on dog signage for the hockey field and the turning space at the bottom of Sea Mill Lane.

125/22 PLANNING

(a) New Applications

There had been no new planning applications since the last meeting, although some amendments had been received to application ref 4/22/2252/0F1 Single storey extension to side & rear to create new entrance hall, kitchen, bedroom & study at 8 The Crofts, St Bees, which had been considered at the last meeting. The Planning Advisory Group had advised that these amendments did not necessitate a change to the response agreed at the June meeting.

(b) Other Planning Matters

A further consultation was taking place on two amendments to the Publication Draft of the Copeland Local Plan. The amendments related to the proposed addition of a Gypsy and Travellers site and also

wording changes to address the issue of nutrient neutrality under policy N5. The consultation would run until 24 August.

(c) Applications approved/refused by CBC

There had been no decisions published which were relevant to St Bees

126/22 FOOTPATHS

The report by Cllr Hale was received and noted. Some strimming was required on Pitman's Trod and Cllr Hale would be happy to receive offers of help.

It was noted that the metal gate on the Wood Lane footpath was not suitable for pushchairs/prams. The adjacent field gate was locked to ensure that stock could not get out. The metal gate appeared to be owned by the Trustees of St Bees School. It was agreed to discuss the options with the School and CCC officers to try to find a solution which would make the path more accessible whilst ensuring that the gate remained stock-proof.

127/22 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Linton explained some developments at the Adams Recreation Ground, including plans to establish a traditional meadow on parts of the land not required for games, marking out a cross country track open to all, and replacing the old changing rooms to rooms suitable for a range of activities. An honesty box had also been installed in the car park.

128/22 CLERK'S REPORT

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

129/22 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) CALC had forwarded the final newsletter of NALC's Civility & Respect Project, looking at ways of preventing or dealing with issues within councils such as bullying, harassment etc. Noted.

(b) CALC had forwarded information on a Places to Talk Project, encouraging local organisations to hold events to bring communities together to talk about their experiences of the Covid 19 pandemic. Noted.

(c) Details had been received of the Copeland Health & Well-being Forum on 14 July. Noted

(d) The first results of the 2021 census had been published at local authority level. Figures by ward would follow. Noted.

(e) CALC had forwarded information encouraging local councils to register their defibrillators on the Circuit (nationwide database used by ambulance services). Arrangements were in hand to register the Parish Council's defibrillators.

(f) Information had been received from CALC of an unpaid opportunity to become a Cumbria Community Climate Champion. Amy Linton had applied and been successful. Noted.

(g) An update had been received on the Homes for Ukraine Project. Noted.

(h) Cumbria CVS and Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) had launched a new project - Going Greener Together - where voluntary groups across the North East and Cumbria could access training, resources and support to help reduce their carbon footprint and learn how to make their working practices more environmentally conscious. There would be an online launch event on 19 July at 3pm. Details available from the Clerk

(i) Cumbria Wildlife Trust had provided information on its 'Cumbria's Plan Bee' - a Pollinator Action Plan. It would be part of the Planting for Pollinators Project, developed in partnership with the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership with the aim of bringing as many areas as possible into use to attract pollinators. Further details would be forwarded as the plan developed.

(j) West Copeland Partnership would be meeting on Tues 16 August in Egremont Market Hall. Cllr Gilmour would represent St Bees. Noted

(k) CALC had forwarded information on funding available for tree planting. Details were available from the Clerk.

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(l)A media statement had been issued by North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust denying that there were any plans to close the A&E dept at WCH. They stressed that they were working hard to maintain the service in the face of potential staffing shortages but there might be times in the future when it might not be possible to provide overnight cover. Noted.

(m)An email had been received from Hedgehogs R Us explaining their project to create safe routes for hedgehogs by encouraging people to create small holes in fences to allow hedgehogs to move around. A box of highway surrounds could be purchased for £150 which could be made available to local residents.

(n)Home to Work (a not for profit organisation based in Cleator Moor) would be holding an Open Day to highlight their Goodlives Growing Project which helps unemployed people aged 16+ to get into employment. The project is based at West Lakes Science Park and the open day would take place on 27 July 10am - 4pm. Noted

(o)Details had been received of the amber heatwave warning with information on precautions which could be taken to avoid health impacts. Noted

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- NALC Chief Executive’s Weekly Bulletins
- NALC Newsletter
- Northern Gas Stakeholder Update
- Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins & Funding Digest
- Connecting Cumbria Newsletter
- Trudy Harrison MP – Newsletter
- ACT Newsletter July
- LGR Updates & Town & Parishes Newsletter
- Police Update – Egremont, Cleator Moor & Rural
- CALC News May-June
- FLAG Newsletter

130/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION /FUTURE AGENDA

(a) It was reported that one of the seats in Beck Edge Garden was in need of repair. This was in hand and the lengthsmen had been asked to repair this as soon as possible.

(b) Cllr Argyle would investigate the possibility of having a designated seat where people could sit if they would welcome a chat. Similar projects had been tried in other parts of the country to help with loneliness and mental well-being. This could form a project to be considered by FRAG for inclusion in future plans.

(c)It was reported that there was potential interest in the development of Grindal House which had been empty for some time and was now beginning to deteriorate.

131/22 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

Signed.....

Date.....