

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 17 June 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, G Gilmour, C Hale, F Kennedy,
A Linton, J Lockie, J Mellor, H Monaghan & the Clerk

Also present: 1 member of the public

In attendance: Mr L Gribble, Full Circle
Cllr J Hailes, CBC Ward Councillor

100/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs D Millington & C Robson. Apologies were also received from Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor for Egremont North/St Bees.

101/19 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

102/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No items were raised.

103/19 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2019

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the annual meeting on 20 May be approved and signed by the Chairman.

104/19 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Whiteside had provided a written report on on-going matters:

- County Council officers were still in on-going discussions with the Dept for Communities & Local Government about the approval of the West Cumbria Mining planning application.
- A traffic speed review had been carried out on the B5345 through St Bees and gateway features to the north and south entrances to the village would be proposed. Cllr Whiteside had requested that the Parish Council have sight of the plans.
- The Local Committee was currently reviewing school crossing patrols. The Village School has asked whether volunteers could be used. This was under consideration but would require a change in CCC's contract.
- The drains in the village were programmed for attention shortly, including a full clean of the main lines.

It was noted that vehicles were parking for long periods along the section of the B5345 between Station Rd and the Priory which caused some problems with traffic trying to get through the chicane by Barony House. It would not be practical to prohibit parking in this area completely because of funerals etc at the Priory but it was suggested that a two hour limit might help the situation. It was agreed to raise this suggestion with Highways.

105/19 CBC MATTERS

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Hailes to his first meeting of St Bees Parish Council since his election as CBC Ward Councillor.

Cllr Hailes reported that seasonal staff had been appointed to look after the four beaches in Copeland over the summer months. He would try to ensure that they spent as much time as possible in St Bees which was the busiest of the beaches. The staff would work weekends and duties would include emptying bins and picking up litter.

Cllr Hailes noted that issues of noise and anti-social behaviour associated with the public houses in the centre of the village had been discussed at the annual parish meeting and he explained that this had been the issue most often mentioned by local residents during the recent election campaign. No response had yet been received from licensees to the letter sent by the Parish Council. Discussion took place on how best to deal with residents' concerns. It was suggested that Cllr Hailes should arrange to meet the licensee of the Manor as a first step.

It was noted that CBC had begun its 5 yearly review of polling stations which could be considered at the next meeting. CBC had also launched a survey on green open spaces which could be completed online via the CBC web-site.

106/19 COPYRIGHT APPLICATION

The Chairman welcomed Mr Gribble of Full Circle and invited him to explain the background to the copyright application made by a Chinese company. Mr Gribble explained that the Trustees of St Bees School had licensed the IP of the school name, crest and branding to Full Circle for use outside the UK. Full Circle had been registering the school's name and crest for use in Hong Kong and China but a Chinese investment company had also tried to register the St Bees crest with the Chinese name of the school and the Chinese name for the village of St Bees. The Chinese authorities had rejected the first two of these but had provisionally accepted the registration of the Chinese name of the village subject to a period of public consultation.

It was noted that the company concerned had no connection with the school or the village and its motives were unclear. There was concern that it could prove detrimental to the interests of the school and the village if the copyright application was confirmed.

It was RESOLVED to send a formal letter of objection to the Chinese authorities.

Mr Gribble also outlined the relationship between Full Circle and the Trustees and explained current progress with the school. The Tier 4 licence had now been approved for 10 Chinese students initially to come to study in St Bees. Councillors thanked Mr Gribble for his explanation of the respective responsibilities of Full Circle and the Trust but pointed out that the distinction between the Trustees, Full Circle and the Old St Beghians was not recognised by most local people and this perhaps needed to be borne in mind in communicating developments.

107/19 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS

Two expressions of interest had been received in the two vacant seats on the Parish Council.

It was RESOLVED that Andras Kaldos and Eric Taylor be co-opted to serve as parish councillors until the next elections in 2023.

Mr Kaldos then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

108/19 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Finance Report

The summary of accounts at 31 May was received and noted. A meeting of the Finance & Risk Advisory Group would take place shortly to review the Qtr 1 income and expenditure figures.

The Annual Governance & Accounting Return had been forwarded to the external auditor. The period for the exercise of public rights would run from 17 June to 26 July and was advertised on the web-site and noticeboard.

(b) Donations

(i) A request had been received from St Bees & District Garden Society for a donation towards the cost of the Annual Show in August.

It was RESOLVED to make a donation of £150 towards the costs of staging the show.

(ii) A request had been received from Citizens Advice Copeland for a donation towards the cost of the service provided across Copeland.

The policy for awarding donations was discussed. It was agreed that an advertisement would be put in the parish magazine in September inviting applications and bids would be considered in October. If funds then remained in the donations budget, any funds would be distributed to local groups in rotation. The Finance & Risk Advisory Group would compile a list of such groups for consideration by the council.

It was RESOLVED to postpone consideration of the request from Citizens Advice Copeland until October.

(c) Contract for cleaning/opening of beach toilets

The current contract was due to end on 30 September. The quality of the service provided by the current contractor had been excellent and staff were always on hand to deal with any issues. It was noted that when the contract had been advertised previously there had been no interest shown by other parties. It was RESOLVED that, in view of the exceptional service which had been provided under the current contract in terms of standard of service, responsiveness and value for money, the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to hold discussions with the current contractor about a new 3 year contract to commence in October 2019.

(d) Internal Audit Arrangements 2019/20

A volunteer had come forward to express interest in acting as Internal Auditor for 2019/20. The Clerk would be meeting him shortly to discuss the work involved.

(e) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002535 Open Spaces Society - annual subscription 2019/20 Total £45.00
- Chq 002536 Thomas Milburn (Property) Ltd – materials/fitting splashbacks at toilets £460.00 + £92.00 VAT Total £552.00
- Chq 002537 Unipar Services LLP – repair to speed gun £156.00 + £31.20 VAT Total £187.20
- Chq 002538 Works 4 You Ltd – grass cutting April & May £721.72 + £144.34 VAT Total £866.06
- Chq 002539 B Nesbitt -reimbursement for battery for water bowser £49.13 + £9.83 VAT Total £58.96
- Chq 002540 J Donaldson -reimbursement for printer ink and packaging £9.90 + £1.98 VAT Total £11.88
- Chq 002541 J Donaldson– salary June Total £659.62
- Chq 002542 HMRC - PAYE Qtr 1 Total £326.66
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service June £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00

Payments since last meeting to report

- Chq 002534 Water Plus – water charges for beach toilets Total £231.44
- Water Plus- water charges to allotments Total £19.86 (paid by direct debit)
- Answer 4 You – answering service £10.01 + £2.00 VAT Total £12.01 (to paid by direct debit on 17 June)

109/19 DOG FOULING

It was noted that local residents continued to express concerns about dog fouling but the situation had been monitored over recent weeks and showed an improvement since the article had been published in the parish magazine. Cllr Argyle had contacted CBC some time ago to ask for stencils to be painted again on paths in the village and at the main beach but this had not yet been done. Cllr Hailes offered to follow this up with the appropriate officers at CBC. It was noted that CBC's Enforcement Team visit the village as often as they can but it was important for residents to report problems to CBC Customer Services so that the officers could target their efforts at the most appropriate times and places.

110/19 LITTER ISSUES

Arrangements had been made with CBC for the litter bin at the Outrigg play area to be emptied more frequently over the summer. The situation would be monitored over the coming weeks and a decision would be made at the end of September whether to reduce the frequency over the winter months. It was reported that cigarette ends were being swept into the gutters outside the public houses rather than being collected and disposed of properly. Cllr Hailes agreed to take this up with licensees. The new bin which had been requested some months ago had still not been installed on Nethertown Road. The Clerk would follow this up with CBC.

111/19 PROJECT REPORTS**(a) Beach Regeneration**

The anchor had been dislodged from its fixings on the Wainwright Wall and had been recovered by the lifeboat crew. The Chairman was organising for the anchor to be refixed with more secure fixings.

(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch

The speed gun had been repaired and was back in operation. The rota now covered sessions up to the autumn.

(c) Community Events**(i) CPR/defibrillator training**

A second training session had now taken place. A separate session had been held for the lifeboat crew and a session was being organised for the Youth Club. If there was demand, further training would be organised in the autumn. The Village School had offered to publicise this in their newsletter to parents and Cllr Linton would pass information to parents attending the Parent & Toddler Group.

(ii) 900th anniversary of St Bees Priory

Cllrs Mellor & Gilmour declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as members of St Bees PCC. Cllr Mellor explained that a year of celebration would take place between May 2020 and May 2021. Whilst some events would be focussed on the church itself, many of the events planned would be community events to celebrate the place of the Priory in the history of the village. It was RESOLVED to contribute £500 towards the costs of community events.

(d) Tree Planting

A small number of trees had been planted at the allotment field. A representative of the football club had asked that the Parish Council consider further planting at the Adams Ground where a number of silver birch had already been planted.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track

There was no further progress to report since the last meeting.

(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project

Cllr Bettinson reported that children from the Reception class at the Village School had enjoyed a recent visit to Priory Paddock.

(g) Station Car Park Extension

There had been no further progress since the last meeting.

(h) Village in Bloom – New Base

The Village in Bloom group had been asked to confirm their agreement to the proposed siting of a new base behind Barony House. The Clerk would then progress discussions with CBC about whether a planning application would be required.

112/19 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There had been no meetings attended.

113/19 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 May were received and noted.

114/19 POLICE REPORT

A report had been received from PCSO Bragg on logs for the month of May. There had been a total of 13 logs during the month.

Sgt Ashbridge of British Transport Police had also reported that his officers had carried out patrols on two recent Fridays but no anti-social behaviour had been observed around the railway station.

115/19 PLANNING

(a) New Planning Applications

The Planning Advisory Group reported on three applications received for comment:-

- Ref 4/19/2176/TPO Works to Monterey cypress & yew tree within conservation area
The Retreat, High House Rd, St Bees
It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.
- Ref 4/19/2189/0F1 Conversion of former barn/workshop into dwelling including rear extension
Newtown Barn, Sandwith, Whitehaven
It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.
- Ref 4/19/2195/TPO Removal of two elm trees protected by TPO
Plot 4, Fleatham Gardens, High House Rd, St Bees
It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.

(b) Applications approved by CBC/CCC

The following applications had been approved:

- 4/19/2095/0F1 Single storey extension – 5A Vale View St Bees
- 4/19/2082/0F1 Demolition of existing semi-detached barn and build two bedroom dwelling with garage- 116A Main Street St Bees
- 4/19/2149/0F1 Alteration & extension for kitchen & dining room – 29 Seacroft Drive St Bees
- 4/19/2145/0F1 Installation of PV panels to shed roof & main house – 2 Fleatham Gardens
- 4/19/9002 Application to vary condition 2 of permission 415/9001 to allow a revised scheme of working & progressive restoration & minor amendments to final restoration plan – Birkhams Quarry Sandwith (approved by CCC).

(c) Abbey Wood – Proposals for planting and stone track

Correspondence had been received from Edwin Thompson, agents for the new owners of Abbey Wood, informing the Parish Council of plans to extend the woodland area and change the mix of conifer and broad-leaved species to be used. It was noted that a new stone track would be created as well as a series of ponds in the boggy area.

Councillors welcomed the development which would have a positive environmental impact. It was agreed to provide the agents with details of the Parish Council's outline plans for a cycle track along the valley which might be compatible with the plans for Abbey Wood and invite them to meet Parish Council representatives for discussions.

116/19 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was received. It was noted that rent was outstanding for one allotment plot and a formal letter would be sent to the tenant.

The Old St Beghians Society had confirmed that members were being offered the opportunity to tour the village as part of Old St Beghians Day on 28 September. Once numbers were known, arrangements could be made to provide a guide.

117/19 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) A letter had been received from John & Eleanor Haile thanking the council for the salver and bouquet presented at the Annual Parish Meeting. Noted.

(b) Cumbria Constabulary had provided a copy of a new newsletter they intend to produce highlighting issues relevant to West Cumbria. The Clerk had asked to be included in the circulation list for future editions.

(c) Details had been received of the temporary closure of Frizington HWRC for resurfacing. The site was due to reopen on 19 June. Noted

(d) Further information had been received from CALC on the free conference to take place on 22 June at the Stoneybeck Inn, Penrith. Noted

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(e) An email had been received from a local resident unhappy about the cutting of verges which had cut down wild flowers and spoiled the look of the hedgerows. It was noted that the Clerk had passed on contact details for Highways and the County Councillor for St Bees if he wished to take up the issue with them. CCC's policy on the cutting of roadside verges was available on their web-site.

(f) Notification had been received of a re-activation of the closure of High House Rd for utilities work for three weeks. Noted.

(g) Details had been received of a campaign to recruit volunteers to act as Champions for a Garden Organic Composting Scheme. A poster would be displayed on the noticeboards.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Copeland Matters June
- Northern Gas Networks update
- NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin 24, 31 May & 7 June
- CPRE Campaigns News
- NALC Newsletter
- Open Spaces Society Newsletter & AGM details
- NW Coastal Access Update May
- Friends of the Lake District News & Events (June)
- West Cumbria Mining Project Update
- Full Circle Newsletter

118/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- (a) A charity family fun event was due to take place at St Bees School on 6 July.
- (b) St Bees Village School would be holding a Summer Celebration event on Sat 29 June 1-4pm.
- (c) Some concerns had been reported about the state of the trees on the Village School field. Cllr Kennedy would raise this at the next meeting of the Governors.

119/19 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next Parish Council meeting take place on MONDAY 15 JULY 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....