

ST BEES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 20 May 2019 at 6.30pm in St Bees Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr D Sim (in the Chair), C Alexander, P & P Argyle, N Bettinson, D & F Bowler, G Gilmour, N Gribble, E & J Haile, C & J Hale, I Hill, J Lockie, R Mayow, H Monaghan, A Oldham, M Rothery, S & S Sanderson, V Turpin, and the Clerk

In attendance: Mr R Sinnett, Headmaster of St Bees School
Sgt G Ashbridge, British Transport Police
Sgt D MacDonald & PCSO S Bragg, Cumbria Constabulary

2019/1 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the monthly meeting of the Parish Council would take place immediately after the annual parish meeting and members of the public were invited to stay for that meeting if they wished.

Before the main business of the meeting began, a presentation would take place to a retiring parish councillor.

The Chairman explained that John Haile had first been elected to St Bees Parish Council in 1979 and had served for a period of 40 years, only stepping down at the recent elections. He had served for five years as Chairman at the time when the council was making the transition to computerised records. In recognition of his long service to the parish the Chairman presented John Haile with an engraved salver and Mrs Haile with a bouquet of flowers.

Mr Haile expressed his thanks for the gift and explained that his family's association with the Parish Council went back many years as his father had served as a parish councillor in the 1930s. He wished the Parish Council well in its on-going work for the local community.

2019/2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Gus Kennedy, D Millington, J Mellor, A Linton and Cllr J Hailes, CBC Ward Councillor.

2019/3 MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2019/4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters outstanding from last year's Annual Parish Meeting.

2019/5 ST BEES SCHOOL

The Chairman welcomed Mr Sinnett, the Headmaster of St Bees School, to the meeting.

Mr Sinnett gave a presentation on the plans and vision for the future of the school. He explained that the school would be different from the old St Bees School. It would offer a 'fusion' curriculum combining the best elements of eastern and western education – the first school in the UK to do so. The aim would be to ensure students achieved academic success but also left St Bees with skills in areas such as teamwork, organisation, creativity, independence and communications to prepare them for a future in a global environment. Mandarin would be taught as the foreign language and students and staff would spend time at the campus in China with students from China coming to study in St Bees. The first St Bees School campus was just being opened in China.

In answer to questions, Mr Sinnett explained that the number of students was currently lower than had been hoped but from September there would be approximately 30 pupils in years 7, 8 and 9. It was planned to double the number of pupils in the following year and to continue to grow the numbers in subsequent years. Residents asked about plans for possible development of school buildings and land. Mr Sinnett replied that the school itself did not own any property or land – the

buildings and land were owned by the Trustees or the Old St Beghians. Grindal and Lonsdale Terrace were being sold as they were surplus to requirements. The cost of bringing them up to the standard required for modern boarding facilities would be uneconomic.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sinnett for his presentation.

2019/6 ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & POLICING ISSUES

The Chairman welcomed the police officers to the meeting and explained that residents had expressed concerns about rowdy and anti-social behaviour in the Main Street and around the station. This was a particular problem on Friday afternoon/evening and seemed to be associated with groups coming to the village to visit the local pubs before travelling to Whitehaven by train later in the evening.

Sgt MacDonald explained that in the last year the police had received comparatively few reports of problems in St Bees, particularly problems associated with licensed premises. This seemed surprising in view of the concerns being expressed. He urged residents to report any problems they observed, whether related to licensed premises or other issues, as this was the only way that the police could build up a picture of what was happening in the village. It was suggested by members of the public that incidents were not being reported because of the fear of reprisals. Sgt MacDonald explained that reports could be made anonymously if necessary or incidents could be reported via Crimestoppers. He explained that issues of anti-social behaviour could be taken into account at licensing reviews but evidence was needed. The importance of reporting incidents was echoed by Sgt Ashbridge of British Transport Police who had had discussions with the railway companies about some concerns but very few reports of incidents were being received. A question was asked about the possibility of extending the ban on alcohol on trains. Sgt Ashbridge explained that there was a ban on alcohol on certain trains but the problems in St Bees were more concerned with travellers drinking alcohol before boarding the train.

Sgt MacDonald confirmed that both police forces would continue to work together to deal with any issues and were happy to speak to anyone who had particular concerns.

2019/7CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Copies of the Chairman's Annual Report were available at the meeting and the text would be published in the July/August edition of the parish magazine.

2019/8 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MOTIONS

No motions had been received.

2019/9 FORUM ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

As no issues were raised for discussion, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

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