

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 18 January 2021 at 6.30pm via Cisco Webex**

PRESENT: Cllr D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, G Gilmour, C Hale, A Kaldos, F Kennedy,
D Millington, H Monaghan, C Robson, D Rothery, E Taylor & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor - Egremont North/St Bees
Cllr J Hailes, CBC Ward Councillor

Also present: 1 member of the public

01/21 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

02/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs J Mellor, N Bettinson and A Linton

03/21 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Millington declared an interest in the planning application for Shorelinks, Nethertown Rd as the owner of an adjoining property.

04/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The member of the public present expressed an interest in the project proposal for an arena at the beach to be discussed later in the meeting.

05/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 DECEMBER 2020

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 21 December be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

06/21 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Whiteside reported on several issues:

- The government had lifted its holding direction on the planning consent for the new mine. The next stage would be to finalise the Section 106 agreement and discussions were still taking place with one landowner. Cllr Whiteside had contacted CCC's Planning Officer about how best to progress the cycle track project and was awaiting a reply.
- Discussions were on-going about how the Sellafeld Travel Plan was working.
- The County Council had been invited to join the GDF Working Group but the Leader had decided not to take up the offer. Copeland Local Committee had discussed this at their meeting earlier in the day and had asked that the matter be referred to the Cabinet and that the Independent Chair of the Working Group be made aware of their interest in the matter.
- An update on the plans for the extension of the pavement on Outrigg had been requested
- There were a number of changes to staff responsibilities with Cumbria Highways. Kevin Cosgrove was being seconded to another role and his role would be partially covered by Martyn Taylor. Matthew Reeves would now take on the role of Traffic Management Team Leader for Copeland.
- No further information had been provided by Highways on the improvements to the Fleatham Farm junction or the resurfacing work between the level crossing and the Priory but Cllr Whiteside agreed to follow this up and provide an update to the Clerk.

Councillors asked how Cumbria Highways dealt with planning applications referred to them for comment by district councils. The Parish Council had recently objected to an application because of concerns about highways safety but councillors were disturbed to find that the response from Cumbria Highways had not identified any issues. Cllr Whiteside explained that he was aware that other parish & town councils had raised similar concerns. Until recently all planning consultations had been dealt with by a central department but these were now being dealt with by staff based in local areas which should allow more local input into the response.

07/21 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**(a)FRAG Report & Qtr 3 Review**

The summary of accounts at 31 December was received together with the notes of the FRAG meeting on 13 January and the Qtr 3 variance reports. It was noted that income was very close to budget. Overall expenditure was in line with expectations but there was an underspend on the Projects budget and an overspend on Asset Maintenance due to an unexpected repair to the pipe a Sea Mill, the purchase of new play equipment and increased charges by CBC for emptying litter bins.

It was RESOLVED to vire funds from the Projects budget to Asset Maintenance.

(b) Project Evaluation Procedure

A local resident had recently suggested a new project to create a terraced arena on the grassed area at the main beach for performances, learning activities etc. This had prompted thinking of how potential projects should be evaluated and a template had been devised using the arena project as an example. The aim was to capture all the relevant information including benefits/risks, capital and on-going costs and other requirements eg planning consents, land ownership etc. The use of the template would mean that all potential projects could be evaluated in a standardised way by FRAG before being presented to the full parish council with a recommendation.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the procedure for all projects put forward for consideration.

The project proposal for a grassed arena at the main beach was discussed. Councillors commented on the excellent presentation which had been submitted. Further information had been put forward shortly before the meeting but there had not been time to circulate this to all councillors. It was pointed out that the land was owned by Copeland Borough Council and the proposal would need to be discussed with CBC officers. Planning permission would also be required and it was suggested that more information would be needed to quantify the potential usage.

It was agreed to support the project in principle subject to further evaluation.

(c)Budget 2021/2024

FRAG had drawn up a revised budget for 2021/24 taking into account the discussion at the last meeting. The revised budget did not completely eliminate the need to draw on reserves in 2021/2 but it did reduce the amount needed to balance the budget. The project to upgrade the Outrigg play area would be postponed until 2022/23.

It was RESOLVED that the budget be approved (copy attached to the minutes)

(d) Risk Register

FRAG had reviewed the risk register. No new risks had been identified but FRAG had recommended that the probability for Risk 9 should be increased to medium as the council continued to take on new commitments.

It was RESOLVED that the risk register be amended in line with the FRAG recommendation.

(e) Risk Management and Health & Safety Policies

FRAG had reviewed both policies and recommended that no changes were required.

It was RESOLVED that both policies be re-adopted without amendment.

(f)Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002717 CBC – play area inspections Qtr 4 £336.00 + £67.20 VAT Total £403.20
- Chq 002718 Network Rail – Station car park rent £400.00 + £80.00 Total £480.00
- Chq 002719& 002720 J Donaldson –annual Broadband allowance £50.00 , printer ink service £8.32+ £1.67 VAT, monthly Webex costs £12.50 + £2.50 VAT, postage £7.92, stationery £0.83 + £0.17 VAT salary Jan £549.52 Total £633.43
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd -toilet service Jan £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

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The following payments made since last meeting were noted:

Chq 002711 St Bees PCC – contribution to parish magazine costs £720.00

Chq 002712 Village Hall Committee- donation £600.00

Chq 002713 Royal British Legion– donation £155.00

Chq 002714 Great North Air Ambulance– donation £50.00

Chq 002715 CPR Group – donation £50.00

Chq 002716 Steven Brown Fencing – installation of kissing gate £360.00 + £72.00 VAT Total £432.00

Answer 4-U – answering service (Jan) £9.99+ £2.00 VAT Total £11.99 (paid by DD)

08/21 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

It was noted that work was in hand to set up a small group to suggest ways in which the parish council could engage with younger members of the community.

09/21 GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY

It was noted that there would be discussion of the current position at the Three Tier Meeting later in the month. The Independent Chair of the Working Group was expected to attend and answer questions.

10/21 OUTRIGG PARKING GROUP REPORT

The Working Group had been set up to look at options in light of the planning application for Outrigg Yard. Following the decision not to proceed with negotiations to acquire the site, several ideas had been put forward for other initiatives. The extension of Station car park and cycle track were already being pursued and electric charging points could form part of the Station car park project. The Group had also looked at whether there were any actions which could be taken to ensure that the council was prepared in the event that other sites of community value were put up for sale/development. Two sites had been suggested by the Group which might be listed as Assets of Community Value.

It was RESOLVED that the process for listing sites as Assets of Community Value be investigated.

It was further RESOLVED that the Working Group be disbanded as its task was now completed.

11/21 DATA PROTECTION & DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICIES

Both policies were due for their annual review. The Data Protection Working Group had reviewed both policies and did not believe that any changes were required.

It was RESOLVED that both policies be re-adopted without amendment.

12/21 PROJECT REPORTS

(a) Beach Regeneration & Play Area

The new 2 Minute Beach Clean Station had been delivered and would be installed shortly.

A quotation was being sought for replacing the broken swing at the Outrigg play area. An update had been requested from CBC on the outstanding repair items at the beach play area.

(b) Community Events

It had not yet been possible to take down the Christmas tree due to limited availability of volunteers and the need to comply with social distancing rules. The position would be kept under review.

(c) Station Car Park Extension/Cycle Track – the progress report circulated by Cllr Taylor was received and noted.

(d) Other Projects – The new VIB shed was due to be delivered on 24 March subject to any changes in Covid restrictions.

13/21 FOOTPATHS

The report compiled by Cllr Hale was received. It was noted that a small group of volunteers was undertaking a survey of all the public footpaths in the area and would submit a report to the Parish Council in due course. A draft working plan had been circulated for comment and it was proposed to begin with the most popular paths on the walks leaflets. CCC had agreed to provide a small supply of way markers which could be put up by volunteers. It was also noted that some of the leaflets needed to be updated to take account of new developments in the parish.

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It was RESOLVED to support the survey and to work with CCC to agree the best way of carrying out any repairs identified.

14/21 PLANNING

(a) New Planning Applications

The Planning Advisory Group reported on four new applications received for comment:

- (i) Ref 4/20/2512/0F1 New sunroom to replace existing conservatory
Shorelinks, Nethertown Rd, St Bees

It was RESOLVED there were no objections to this application.

- (ii) Ref 4/20/2515/0F1 Side & rear extension
7 Solway Rise, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.

- (iii) Ref 4/20/2516/0F1 Three bedroomed dwelling
Plot 1, Fleatham Farm, High House Rd, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.

- (iv) Ref 4/21/2014/0F1 Single storey kitchen extension to rear of property
43 Fairladies, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.

(b) Decisions by CBC

The following decisions by CBC were noted:

4/20/2428/0F1 Two storey side extension, 17 The Crofts APPROVED

(c) Other Planning Matters

It was noted that an appeal had been lodged by the applicant against the refusal by CBC of the application for in principle approval of three new dwellings on land adjacent to School House & the B5345 (ref 4/20/2357/PIP). The comments made by the Parish Council at the application stage would automatically be passed to the Planning Inspectorate.

15/21 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received and noted.

16/21 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) An email had been received from a local resident thanking the Parish Council for its part in pressing for improvements to the footpath from Sea Mill to Nethertown Rd. Noted.

(b) CALC had forwarded government guidance on funerals during the Covid restrictions. Noted

(c) A press release had been received from North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT announcing the suspension of non-urgent out-patient appointments until further notice at WCH and CIC. Previously circulated.

(d) CALC had forwarded information from the GDF Working Group inviting groups and individuals to sign up to receive newsletters etc. The Group was also offering to provide text for parish magazines and virtual meetings, if required. Noted.

(e) A Legal Update had received from NALC dealing with changes resulting from the end of the transition period following the UK's decision to leave the EU. Noted

(f) The Environment Agency had announced its consultation on generic design testing of UK HPR 1000 nuclear power station. Noted.

(g) CALC had provided copies of CCC Scrutiny Group reports on aspects of the CCC proposals for local government reform in Cumbria. Noted.

(h) CALC had forwarded an update from the Vaccination Planning Group explaining that Covid vaccinations were taking place via the Primary Care Networks in North Cumbria across nine sites. People were being urged to wait to be called for vaccination and not to contact their GP. Noted.

(i) A Covid update had been received from the Community Resilience Group. Noted

(j)Details had been received of the free family earning courses offered by CCC Community Learning & Skills, aimed at helping parents/carers supporting children with home learning. Details were available from the Clerk.

(k)Messages of thanks had been received from the PCC, Royal British Legion, Great North Air Ambulance and CPR Group for the recent donations. The CPR Group had stated that the donation would be used to provide information and resources in our local village school. Noted.

(l)An open letter had been received from Sue Baxter at NALC addressed to all councillors. Copies had been circulated.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- NALC Chief Executive’s Weekly Bulletins
- NALC Coronavirus Update
- Copeland Matters January
- Cumbria Police -weekly Covid-19 updates
- Cumbria Police – Egremont, Cleator Moor & Rural Bulletin
- Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
- Trudy Harrison MP -End of Year update

17/21 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Hailes reported on a number of CBC items:

- Posters advertising sources of help during the current Covid situation were now on the parish council’s noticeboards
- The interpretation board near the beach café had been repaired and put back in place
- The heras fencing had not yet been removed but the Parks Dept had been asked to remove it as soon as possible
- The telephone at the main beach was now working again
- There had been further incidents of anti-social behaviour and the situation would be monitored

18/21 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION /FUTURE AGENDAS

(a)It was noted that the film (The Knight of St Bees) based on the story of St Bees Man had recently been shown again on Sky and this had attracted some interest. A link to the film was available from Chris Robson if anyone wished to watch it.

(b) Cllr Robson reminded councillors that he had changed his email address and would circulate the new contact details to councillors after the meeting.

19/21 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next Parish Council meeting would take place on MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2021 at 6.30pm via Cisco Webex.

Signed.....

Date.....