

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

PRESENT: Cllrs N Bettinson, C Hale, A Kaldos, F Kennedy, A Linton, H Monaghan, D Millington,
C Robson, E Taylor & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr J Hailes, CBC Ward Council

Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor Egremont North/St Bees

Also present : 2 members of the public

154/19 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman it was necessary to elect a councillor to chair the meeting.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Millington would take the chair for this meeting.

155/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs P Argyle, G Gilmour, J Mellor and D Sim.

156/19 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

157/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2019

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 16 September be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

158/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public raised the issue of the decision by CCC not to proceed with the short section of yellow lines around the Fleatham Croft/High House Rd junction.

It was agreed that their comments would be considered under the agenda item dealing with County Council & Highways matters.

159/19 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Yellow lines -Fleatham Croft/High House Rd Junction

The Chairman invited the members of the public present to outline their comments on the decision by CCC not to proceed with the proposal to put a short section of double yellow lines to prevent parking close to the junction. They expressed concerns that safety was being compromised by vehicles parking on High House Rd right up to the junction which affected visibility for drivers coming out of Fleatham Croft. The original planning consent for the development had included a condition that a visibility splay must be provided but this was being negated by parked vehicles. They had written to Cumbria Highways to express their concern that convenience of parking was being put before safety.

The Chairman reported that he and two other parish councillors had visited the site and endorsed the concerns expressed by members of the public. It was noted that the Highway Code already advised that vehicles should not be parked close to a junction. A short section of double yellow lines would reinforce this and only one or two parking spaces would be lost. It was suggested that once this specific issue was resolved CCC could be asked to carry out a more comprehensive review of the parking situation on High House Rd. Cllr Whiteside indicated that he would ask that the matter be included in the agenda for the next meeting of the Local Committee and that a representative of the parish council and members of the public could ask to speak at the meeting. Cllr Hailes agreed to check whether CBC was able to support the Parish Council's concerns.

It was RESOLVED to write to CCC to ask that the decision be reconsidered and that the proposed yellow lines be provided at the earliest opportunity with a comprehensive review of the parking and traffic issues at a later stage.

(b) Pavement Extension – Outrigg

The Area Highways Manager had provided costings for an extension of the pavement on Outrigg. The cost of 180 linear metres at the minimum width would be approximately £51,000. At the last meeting the Parish Council had unanimously agreed to support an extension in principle and to consider a possible financial contribution. Cllr Whiteside agreed that a financial contribution would be helpful in demonstrating the Parish Council's support for the scheme but it would have to be considered against other schemes across Copeland so he could give no assurance that it would go ahead.

It was RESOLVED that a contribution of £5000 be offered to CCC as a contribution to the costs if the scheme went ahead.

(c) Gateway features

Cllr Whiteside reported that the plans for enhanced gateway features on the B5345 were moving ahead.

(d) Abbey Road

Cllr Whiteside reported that the new 'no footway' signs would be installed within the next few days. The Chairman asked Cllr Whiteside if he would investigate the grounds for the decision not to proceed with a 20mph limit on Abbey Road.

(e) Other CCC Matters

It was reported that there appeared to be a problem with a drain as foul water had been seen in the Dandy Walk field. It was noted that this would be a Highways matter only if the drain was damaged under the highway but in this case it was possible that this was the responsibility of the landowner. It was agreed to contact the Bursar of St Bees School in the first instance.

160/19 CBC MATTERS**(a) Anti-social behaviour**

Cllr Hailes reported that Network Rail would have their own security staff on duty over the Christmas period. CBC's Licensing and Environmental Health Dept were in discussion with the licensee of the Manor about the concerns expressed by local residents.

(b) Litter & Recycling

The new bin had now been installed on Nethertown Road. It could be used for both general litter and poop scoop bags.

CBC had undertaken a review of recycling sites and a number of sites in villages around Copeland were to be closed. However, the recycling bins at the beach car park were among those to be retained.

It was reported that the litter bins at the beach were often full. Cllr Hailes advised that rubbish left by the bins would be collected but he agreed to check whether the frequency of collections needed to be increased.

It was noted that a recycling collection had been missed on Sea Mill Lane as the smaller recycling vehicle was off the road and the larger vehicle could not get down the lane. Councillors questioned whether this was also a problem for emergency vehicles but the Chairman explained that the Fire Service had assured the council some time ago that their vehicles would be able to reach properties in Sea Mill Lane, if required.

(c) Sea Defences -Sea Mill

It was noted that CBC was intending to carry out work to improve the coastal defences at Sea Mill in conjunction with the work which was being undertaken by Network Rail to install more rock armour to protect the railway line. Network Rail had sought permission to park a vehicle at Sea Mill car park overnight whilst work was taking place and agreement had been given after discussion with the Chairman.

(d) Other CBC Matters

Cllr Hailes reported on a number of other issues:

- The street light on Station Rd had now been repaired

1225

- The issues reported at the last meeting with the tenants of some privately rented properties seemed to have lessened in recent weeks but Cllr Hailes was continuing discussions with the residents who had reported the problems.
- A new service was now available at WCH where patients referred by their GP could be seen by a nurse practitioner if the GP was unable to offer an appointment on the same day.

161/19 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Finance Report

The summary of accounts at 30 September was received and noted together with the notes of the FRAG meeting on 17 October and qtr 2 variance figures. At this stage in the year income was slightly above budget and expenditure was under budget. The risk register had been reviewed and FRAG's recommendation was that no changes were required.

FRAG had begun to consider the changes needed to the current financial regulations and hoped to produce a revised version for consideration by the council in November.

(b) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002570 CBC – play area inspections qtr 3 £329.04 + £65.82 VAT Total £394.91
- Chq 002571 CBC – emptying litter bins qtr 3 Total £323.70
- Chq 002572 Real Christmas Trees Ltd – Christmas tree £325.00 + £65.00 VAT Total £390.00
- Chq 002573 Works 4 You Ltd – grasscutting September £390.86 + £78.17 VAT Total £469.03
- Chq 002574 CBC – play area repairs £286.57 + £57.32 VAT Total £343.89
- Chq 002575 Egremont Town Council – course fees Total £30.00
- Chq 002576 J Donaldson – reimbursement for printer ink/postage £13.98+ £1.33 VAT Total £15.31
- Chq 002577 J Donaldson– salary October Total £565.42
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service Oct £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00

Payments since last meeting to report

- Chq 002568 Solway Direct – seats £610 + £122.00 Total £732.00
- Chq 002569 Npower Ltd – electricity to toilets £77.97 + £3.90 VAT Total £81.87
- Answer 4 You – answering service £10.89 + £2.18 VAT Total £13.07 (paid by direct debit on 17 Oct)

162/19 CASUAL VACANCY

The formal notice inviting electors to apply for an election had been published on 30 September and the deadline had now passed. The Parish Council was now able to fill the vacancy by co-option. The vacancy would be advertised in the parish magazine inviting expressions of interest by 15 November.

163/19 RIGHTS OF WAY

(a)The Inquiry into objections to modifications to FP423011 & FP423012 would take place on 29 October at the Seacote Hotel. Cllr Taylor agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

(b)CCC Rights of Way Team had confirmed that the proposed improvements to the footpath from Sea Mill to Nethertown Rd would be going ahead next year as funding had been obtained from the Hidden Coast project.

(c)It was reported that some of the stiles on the footpath to Couderton were in poor condition. The Clerk would check the situation and report the matter to CCC if required.

164/19 PROJECT REPORTS

(a)Beach Regeneration

There was no progress at this stage with the proposed cycle stands. A reply was awaited from CBC on whether they could be provided as part of the Hidden Coast project.

Quotations were being sought for the work required to the Wainwright wall. It was noted that Stuart Burgess had offered to take over the co-ordination of the play inspection rota.

(b)Traffic Calming/Speedwatch

There was no progress report.

(c)Community Events

Planning was underway for the Santa Parade. Cllr Kaldos would be updating the risk assessment and a road closure application would be submitted. Some volunteers had come forward to act as marshals but it was hoped a few more volunteers could be found. The parade would be timed to fit with the Carol Concert at the Lifeboat Station later that evening.

A supplier had been found for a large Christmas tree. This would be delivered on the same day as trees were delivered to Egremont to save delivery costs. It was noted that new tree lights were likely to be required.

It was RESOLVED that a budget of £100 be approved for new lights.

(d) Tree Planting

There was no progress to report.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track

There was no progress to report.

(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project

A conservation day was held at the Paddock on Mon 14 October. It had been well attended and volunteers had helped to remove non-native species from the pond.

It was noted that the seat donated by the Old Millhillians was in need of repair. The Clerk would ask the Lengthsman to carry out repairs.

(g) Station Car Park Extension

There had been no further progress since the last meeting.

(h) Village in Bloom – New Base

Three possible sites had been identified and CBC Planning Dept had been asked for preliminary advice on which, if any, might be suitable in planning terms.

165/19 GEOCACHING

A request had been received from a local resident to set up one or more geocaches on parish council owned land. It was agreed that this would encourage visitors and local people to explore the area. The Clerk would provide a list of council-owned land which might be suitable.

It was RESOLVED to support the request subject to clarification of any insurance issues.

166/19 DATA PROTECTION REVIEW

Cllrs Gilmour and Mellor had carried out an annual review of the documentation produced last year to meet the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations. Their recommendation was that no changes were necessary.

It was noted that another councillor was needed to join the Data Protection Advisory Group. Cllr Taylor volunteered to be part of the group.

It was RESOLVED that the report of the Data Protection Advisory Group be accepted.

167/19 COUNCILLOR TRAINING

A number of councillors had attended courses recently. Cllr Monaghan & Gilmour had attended the session on the Code of Conduct and the newly elected and co-opted councillors had attended one or both modules of the Effective Councillor course.

168/19 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Clerk reported on the recent Three Tier Meeting where there had been a presentation on the Future High Street and Small Towns funding programmes as well as information on the Hidden Coast project. The Clerk and Cllr Gilmour had also attended the meeting of West Copeland Partnership. There had been an update on the Lengthsman programme and information on Egremont Town Council's discussions with Sellafeld Ltd about support for projects from the socio-economic programme. CBC's new Tourism Development Officer would be attending the next meeting of the Partnership on 2 December to discuss ideas for developing tourism across the Copeland area.

Cllr Taylor reported on the first of two workshops on Advanced Modular Reactors. This was based on a research paper and was intended to assess what the community might expect from such developments.

169/19 POLICE REPORT

An update had been received on police work within the Copeland area but there was no mention of specific issues in St Bees. It was reported that there were difficulties in contacting the police on the non-emergency number with long delays before the call was answered. There were concerns that this was a deterrent to residents reporting incidents. The Clerk would contact Sgt MacDonald about the problems. Sgt Ashbridge of British Transport Police had sent an update on issues affecting the station area which was received and noted.

170/19 PLANNING**(a) New Planning Applications**

The Planning Advisory Group reported on one recent application received for comment:-

- Ref 4/19/ Ref 4/19/2334/0G1 Removal of condition 5 of planning approval 4/78/0513/OO3
re agricultural occupancy
High House Farm, High House Rd, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections in principle providing that this did not create a precedent for allowing further development between this property and other properties lower down High House Rd.

- Ref 4/19/2342/TPO Crown lift & prune various trees in conservation area
The Priory, St Bees

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

- Ref 4/19/2356/0F1 Construction of glasshouse to rear of property, of traditional design
with brick & stone base and glass walls & roof
- Ref 4/19/2357/0L1 Listed building consent for above development
How Man, Egremont

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to these applications.

- Ref 4/19/2363/0L1 Listed building consent for replacement of 3 upper storey windows
to the side and rear of the house
How Man, Egremont

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

(b) Applications approved by CBC

It was noted that the following applications had been approved:

- 4/19/2259/0F1 Erection of dwelling house (revision to approved scheme) - Plot 4
Fleatham Gardens
- 4/19/2275/0F1 Erection of roof over cattle handling area – Loughrigg Farm, Egremont
- 4/19/2287/0L1 Listed building consent for installation of 3 new terracotta chimney
cows – Orchard House, 115 Main Street, St Bees

171/19 CLERK'S REPORT

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

172/19 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) An email had been received from the football club asking whether further tree planting could be carried out at the Adams Ground. Cllr Bettinson was responding on behalf of the council.
- (b) An invitation had been received to the CALC AGM on 9 November at Wigton Market Hall. Noted.
- (c) CALC had forwarded information from the Environment Agency about the spread of the invasive water primrose. If anyone spots this species it can be reported to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk
- (d) CALC was seeking expressions of interest in an event to be organised on climate change and the actions local councils can take. Cllr Kaldos had expressed an interest.
- (e) Details had been received of an event organised by ACT at Rheged on 7 Feb 2020 to mark the end of their project on building community resilience. Noted.
- (f) Details had been received of the launch of the Robin Rigg Community Fund which would now be open to coastal communities as far south as St Bees. Noted.
- (g) Details had been received from the Environment Agency of the review of Sellafield Ltd's Radioactive Substances Activities Permit. Noted.
- (h) CALC had forwarded information about free cyber awareness training for councillors on 20 Jan 2020. Details had been circulated by email.
- (i) Correspondence had been received from a local resident about the lack of parking for cycles and motorcycles in the village. Noted.
- (j) Correspondence had been received from the Old St Beghians Society thanking the council for arranging a tour of the village on 28 Sept. Noted.
- (k) Details had been received of a temporary road closure of Byersteds Rd from 21 Oct for approx. 1 week. Noted.
- (l) NALC had issued a Call for Evidence on the Independent Review of Local Government Audit. Noted.
- (m) An update had been received on planning for the national commemoration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day over the weekend of 8 – 10 May 2020. Parish Councils were encouraged to become involved in local events. It was agreed to include this in the agenda for a future meeting.
- (n) Details had been received of 'A conversation about our NHS', a public event to take place on Wed 30 October at Whitehaven Golf Course to discuss how local NHS services are developing. Noted

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- NALC Newsletter & Chief Executive's Bulletins
- NW Coastal Access Update Sept
- Friends of the Lake District News & Events (Oct)
- Northern Gas Networks Stakeholder update
- Copeland Matters Oct
- Friends of the Lake District Planning & Policy News Update
- St Bees School News – The Hive Issues 1 & 2
- Open Spaces Society autumn e-zine
- Mental Health Provider Forum Bulletin 25 Sept

173/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- (a) The annual charity sale would be taking place at New College Hall over the weekend of 8 -10 November. There would also be a sale of pictures by local artists in aid of Hospice at Home.
- (b) Works 4 You Ltd, the social enterprise company which provides the Lengthsman service, was about to open a new shop in Cleator Moor to raise funds. The shop would sell wooden items produced in their workshop as well as donated items of all kinds. Donations would be welcome.

174/19 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

Signed.....

Date.....