

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on  
Monday 16 September 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, G Gilmour, C Hale, A Kaldos, F Kennedy, A Linton, J Mellor, D Millington, C Robson & the Clerk

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

Also present : 6 members of the public

**136/19 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman expressed the Council's condolences to Cllr Robson on his recent bereavement. A memorial service for Charm would take place on Sun 29 September at 2pm in the Priory. All were welcome with refreshments afterwards in the Memorial Hall.

The Chairman also reported with regret that Jamie Lockie had resigned from the council due to ill health. He had made an important contribution to the council and taken on the roles of co-ordinating the play area inspection rota and inspecting the defibrillators. Councillors expressed their thanks to Jamie Lockie for his work as a parish councillor and sent their best wishes.

**137/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs H Monaghan & E Taylor

**138/19 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**139/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY 2019**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 15 July be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**140/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public raised two matters – traffic issues & pedestrian safety on Outrigg and concerns about public order/anti-social behaviour associated with some rental properties in the village.

It was agreed that the Outrigg issues would be discussed under the agenda item dealing with County Council & Highways matters. The Chairman then invited members of the public to outline their concerns about anti-social behaviour issues.

It was explained that in recent months there had been several occasions on which police had attended privately rented properties in the centre of the village and on at least one occasion had forced entry to a property. The police action had been frightening for children and residents living nearby and there were concerns that properties were being let without background checks on potential tenants. Councillors fully understood the concerns of residents but the Parish Council had no powers to influence the actions of private landlords. It was suggested that the district council might be able to help through their liaison with private landlords. Cllr Hailes offered to follow this up with officers at CBC. The Chairman encouraged residents to report all incidents and matters of concern to the police.

**141/19 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Turner to the meeting.

**(a)Outrigg Traffic & Parking Issues**

Cllr Turner explained that he was part of the CRASH team which brought together CCC and police representatives to look at safety issues. Speed surveys had taken place on Outrigg but the speeds recorded were not sufficient to justify further traffic calming measures. It was pointed out by councillors and members of the public that the safety issues were not solely related to traffic speeds but to the parking around the school entrance and the lack of a pavement higher up the hill. Cars were increasingly being parked higher up the hill where there was no pavement, forcing residents of properties to walk into the road to reach the school. Cllr Turner confirmed that the CRASH team discussions had focussed on speed reduction and that the possibility of extending the pavement had not been discussed in detail. He would however ask whether this matter could be included again in the CRASH team agenda.

Cllr Whiteside reported that he had asked for estimates of the costs of extending the pavement and was awaiting information from Highways officers. He would pass this information to the Clerk as soon as possible. Councillors also asked for details to be provided on the length of pavement being considered. Cllr Whiteside explained that the Local Committee had limited funds and schemes had to be prioritised. Nevertheless, he did recognise the concerns of local residents. There were technical difficulties involved in installing a pavement on a narrow road and cost would be a consideration. However, it was his understanding that none of these difficulties were insurmountable. A local resident reiterated the offer she made some years ago to allow the pavement to be built on part of her land.

There was agreement among residents and councillors that the safety of pedestrians was paramount. Demographics had changed with more young families living on Outrigg and traffic coming to the village school was increasing to the point where the existing pavement was no longer sufficient.

It was RESOLVED to support in principle the extension of the pavement up the hill.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to consider the matter again at the next meeting with a view to offering a financial contribution to the costs of extending the pavement.

#### **(b) Gateway features**

A site meeting had taken place on 20 August attended by Parish Council representatives, Highways officers and Cllr Whiteside to look at proposals for further speed reduction measures on the B5345 at the north and south entrances to the village. Granite setts would be installed to slow traffic speeds but these would be placed away from nearby properties to avoid noise disturbance. Cllr Whiteside confirmed that an order had been placed for the work and he would confirm the likely installation date in due course.

#### **(c) Yellow lines**

Cllr Whiteside had followed up progress with the double yellow lines which had been requested around the Fleatham Croft/High House Rd junction and the Seacroft Drive/Main Street junction. An informal consultation had taken place on both proposals. There had been only one objection received to the Seacroft Drive proposals and this scheme would now proceed to the formal consultation stage. In the case of the Fleatham Croft junction a number of objections had been received and therefore Highways did not propose to go ahead. Councillors and members of the public expressed some disquiet that a proposal designed to increase safety by preventing parking in the immediate vicinity of a junction should be abandoned in this way. Cllr Whiteside explained that members of the public were welcome to attend meetings of the Local Committee and could also raise their concerns in writing to the Chairman, Cllr Keith Hitchen.

#### **(d) Parking between Station Rd and the Priory**

At a previous meeting concerns had been raised about vehicles parking for long periods along the B5345 between the Station Rd junction and the entrance to the Priory. This resulted in the road being restricted to one lane only in the section leading to the chicane. A complete ban on parking along that section of road would be impractical because of cars attending funerals etc at the Priory but it was suggested that a time limited restriction (2 hours) would prevent parking by commuters.

It was RESOLVED to ask Cllr Whiteside to raise the issue with Highways officers.

#### **(e) Other CCC Matters**

Cllr Whiteside reported that the government had not so far called in the decision to approve the new mine. He was hopeful that the project would move forward in the near future.

Cllr Turner had provided details of the updated process for requesting brown tourist signs. It was agreed to consider a fresh application for signage on local roads at a future meeting. Cllrs Turner & Whiteside offered their assistance with an application.

### **142/19 CBC MATTERS**

#### **(a) Anti-social behaviour**

Cllr Hailes reported that the Manor would be required to have door staff on duty and provide better supervision of the outdoor area to the front of the property. Music could not be played outside after 7pm. This restriction also applied to other licensed premises.

## 1218

It was understood that Network Rail was considering the use of their own security staff to address concerns about the risk to staff from anti-social behaviour at the station. Cllr Hailes would continue to work with licensees to address any problems.

### **(b) Consultations**

CBC was seeking the views of parishes on proposals by BT to remove some call boxes, including the one at the main beach. It was noted that the call box was often damaged and out of action. It was suggested that the best solution would be for the kiosk to remain as a means of contacting the emergency services providing that it was adequately maintained.

It was noted that CBC had begun the second stage of consultation on proposals for changes to polling stations. None of the changes affected St Bees or Rottington.

### **(c) Other Issues**

- The new bin on Nethertown Road was due to be installed shortly.
- The local police were monitoring youth crime and anti-social behaviour in the area. They would be following up information received.
- there had been some problems with school transport to West Lakes Academy at the start of the new term. Post 16 students who had paid for places on the bus had been told that there were now no seats available. Staff at CCC were looking into the situation.
- The number of single occupancy passes for parking at the Sellafield site was being further reduced. This was likely to increase pressure on parking in nearby villages.
- CBC had published its Housing Strategy 2018-23 and details had been circulated to councillors.
- The Draft Open Space Assessment Report had been made available to parish clerks for checking. The report included an assessment of the quality of open spaces such as parks and play areas.

### **143/19 ST BEES SCHOOL**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman gave a verbal report on the recent meeting with the Bursar. Subjects discussed had included current pupil numbers, future plans and access to school grounds.

The Parish Council representatives had confirmed that there had never been a public right of access to the school grounds other than along Wood Lane which was a public footpath.

(Cllrs Turner & Whiteside left the meeting at this point)

### **144/19 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**

#### **(a) Finance Report**

The summary of accounts at 31 August was received and noted. FRAG would be meeting shortly to look at the Qtr 2 variance figures.

Work would need to begin shortly on drawing up a budget for 2020/21. Any suggestions for projects to be included in the budget should be sent to the Clerk.

It was noted that new model financial regulations had been issued. FRAG would consider the changes needed to the current financial regs and produce a revised version for consideration by the council.

#### **(b) Contract for cleaning/opening of beach toilets**

A meeting had taken place with the current contractor to discuss the possibility of extending the contract. The contractor was prepared to enter into another contract from 1 October, renewable annually on the anniversary of that date until terminated by either party with three months notice. There would be no increase in the price.

It was **RESOLVED** to extend the contract on the above basis and to set up a new standing order instruction.

#### **(c) External audit 2018/19**

The external audit of the accounts for 2018/19 had been completed. An unqualified opinion had been given and the auditor's advisory comments were noted. The notice of rights to inspect the accounts had been posted on the noticeboards and web-site.

**(d) Payments**

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002561 Information Commissioner – data protection renewal Total £40.00
- Chq 002562 PKF Littlejohn LLP – audit fee £200.00 + £40.00 VAT Total £240.00
- Chq 002563 Works 4 You Ltd – grasscutting August £390.86 + £78.17 VAT Total £469.03
- Chq 002564 J Donaldson – reimbursement for printer ink/postage £16.78 + £1.33 VAT Total £18.11
- Chq 002565 J Donaldson– salary Sept Total £659.62
- Chq 002566 HMRC – PAYE Qtr2 Total £326.66
- Chq 002567 Water Plus Ltd – water/wastewater charges to toilets Total £604.23
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service Sept £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00

**Payments since last meeting to report**

- Chq 002552 Bleasdale & Co – legal work on Village Hall lease Total £1560.00
- Chq 002553 CBC -emptying bins Qtr 2 Total £271.70
- Chq 002554 Works 4 You Ltd – grasscutting July £390.86 + £78.17 VAT Total £469.03
- Chq 002555 CALC – course fee £45.00
- Chq 002556 YNH Ltd – domain name renewal £22.00
- Chq 002557 Playsafety Ltd – RoSPA inspections £182.50 + £36.50 VAT Total £219.00
- Chq 002558 J Donaldson – salary August Total £659.82
- Chq 002559 J Donaldson – printer ink/postage £10.25 + £3.00 VAT Total £13.25
- Chq 002560 D Robinson – plants (VIB) £69.09 + £13.82 VAT Total £82.91
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service Aug £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (paid by SO)
- Answer 4 You – answering service £8.80 + £1.76 VAT Total £10.56 (paid by direct debit on 17 August)
- Answer 4 You – answering service £8.80 + £1.76 VAT Total £10.56 (to be paid by direct debit on 17 Sept)

**145/19 IMPROVEMENTS TO FOOTPATH (SEA MILL TO NETHERTOWN ROAD)**

CCC was proposing to carry out work to improve the footpath from Sea Mill to Nethertown Rd. The work was linked to plans for coastal access but the opportunity would be taken to carry out further improvement work which would require additional funding. CCC was looking for match funding for the project and had asked whether the Parish Council would provide a contribution.

It was RESOLVED to defer a decision until further details of the costs were known.

**146/19 PROJECT REPORTS****(a) Beach Regeneration**

The anchor was still in safekeeping at the Lifeboat station. Cllr Kaldos had inspected the Wainwright wall and concluded that the wall needed to be repointed before the anchor could be re-fixed. Estimates for the work were being sought.

The annual RoSPA inspections had taken place at both play areas. No high risk defects had been identified. CBC had been asked to provide a quotation for repairs to worn ground surfaces. Over the summer the spring had failed on the donkey in the toddler area. The springs on the donkey and dolphin had failed several times previously and CBC was in discussion with Wicksteed about these failures and also about the wear on the bearings on other items of equipment.

CBC had been approached to see whether the proposed cycle stands could be provided as part of the Hidden Coast project. The Project Board would consider this at their October meeting.

Cllr Linton suggested that an adult fitness area would be a popular addition to the facilities at the main beach. The equipment could be used by both local people and visitors and would bring benefits in helping to tackle obesity and other physical and mental health problems. It was agreed that this could be a good future project. Cllr Linton would set up a small group to look at the equipment available, costings etc.

**(b)Traffic Calming/Speedwatch**

Speedwatch sessions were continuing.

**(c)Community Events**

Correspondence had been received from the PCC thanking the Parish Council for its financial support to the community events to celebrate the Priory's 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Planning was continuing for the various events.

Cllr Kaldos agreed to take the lead in planning for the Santa Parade which would take place on the same evening as the RNLI carol concert, provisionally scheduled for 10 December. If the parade was to go ahead, volunteers would need to be found to act as marshals. A request for volunteers to come forward would be put in the parish magazine. Cllr Hailes offered to make enquiries at CBC about obtaining a Christmas tree.

**(d) Tree Planting**

Routine maintenance had been carried out on trees planted by the Parish Council. A number of seedlings had been offered by local residents for planting next season.

**(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track**

There was no progress to report.

**(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project**

A conservation day was to be held at the Paddock on Mon 14 October. All would be welcome.

**(g) Station Car Park Extension**

There had been no further progress since the last meeting.

**(h) Village in Bloom – New Base**

CBC had advised that a full planning application would be required but it was unlikely that approval would be given for a shed in Barony car park because of its proximity to the Priory. Other possible sites were now being investigated.

**147/19 ALLOTMENTS**

The notes of a meeting with allotment holders on 3 Sept were received and noted. The Clerk was obtaining prices for the work required. It was noted that new tenants had been found for the vacant plots for next season.

**148/19 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Chairman had attended the Three Tier Meeting in July and had circulated a written report to councillors.

**149/19 POLICE REPORT**

An update had been received on police work within Copeland but there was no mention of specific issues in St Bees.

Over the summer Sgt Ashbridge of British Transport Police had visited the village and had spoken to the Chairman. His team would continue to patrol the station area whenever possible.

**150/19 PLANNING**

**(a)New Planning Applications**

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

- Ref 4/19/2287/0L1 Listed Building Consent for installation of three new terracotta chimney cowls at the gable end  
Orchard House,115 Main Street, St Bees

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

## 1221

It was noted that responses had been submitted under delegated authority to the following applications received over the summer break. After consultation with the Planning Advisory Group the Clerk had raised no objections to any of the following applications:

- 4/19/2259/0F1 Replacement dwelling type – Plot 4, Fleatham Gardens, High House Rd
- 4/19/2247/TPO Works to two trees within conservation area- Highcroft House, High House Rd
- 4/19/2256/TPO Removal of three plum trees & 1.5m reduction of one plum tree – Glebe Cottage, St Bees
- 4/19/2278/TPO Removal of two pine trees within conservation area -5 Sea View Terrace, St Bees
- 4/19/2275/0F1 Erection of roof over cattle handling area -Loughrigg Farm, Egremont

### **(b) Applications approved by CBC**

The following applications had been approved:

- 4/19/2215/TPO removal of dead sections & retention of healthy sections of plum tree in conservation area– 34 Main Street, St Bees
- 4/19/2189/0F1 Conversion of former barn/workshop to dwelling with rear extension – Newtown Barn, Sandwith
- 4/19/2267/TPO Felling of two sycamore, one birch, one elm, one ash & crown reduction of one sycamore protected by TPO – Fleatham House, High House Rd, St Bees
- 4/19/2256/TPO Removal of three plum trees & 1.5m reduction of one plum tree – Land at Glebe Cottage, St Bees
- 4/19/2247/TPO Works to two trees within conservation area- Highcroft House, High House Rd
- 4/19/2278/TPO Removal of two pine trees within conservation area, 5 Sea View Terrace
- 4/18/2367/0F1 New farm access & access road – Low Walton Farm, St Bees

### **150/19 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report was received and noted.

### **151/19 CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Booking details had been received for the NALC Annual Conference to be held on 28/29 October in Milton Keynes. Noted.

(b) Nominations were being sought for the CALC Executive Committee (deadline 4 October). Motions for the AGM were required by 9 October. Noted.

© An email had been received from CALC encouraging local councils to sign up to CCC's new 'Working Together' initiative to be rolled out across the county in the coming months. Noted.

(d) A reminder had been received from the Pensions Regulator of the need to re-enrol every three years. The Clerk would take the necessary action.

(e) A petition had been received from a number of local residents seeking action to reduce the noise and anti-social behaviour associated with the pubs at the bottom of Main Street. It was noted that Cllr Hailes was continuing to discuss the issues with the licensees, CBC officers and others involved.

(f) Correspondence had been received from a local resident about a drainage survey being carried out at the Adams Ground. Enquiries showed this was commissioned by CCC apparently as part of plans for the coastal access path. Noted.

(g) An email had been received from a local resident about an incident in the village. After consultation with the Chairman it was decided that this was essentially a police matter and not a matter for the Parish Council. A reply had been sent.

(h) A request had been received from the Youth Group for a donation to their summer camp. This was due to take place before the Sept meeting and Standing Orders do not give any delegated authority to make such donations between meetings. It was suggested that the group submit an application in the autumn for a donation to their funds.

(i) The Office of the Police Commissioner and Cumbria Constabulary were carrying out a joint public survey of priorities for policing. Details had been forwarded to councillors to respond individually.

(j) NALC had published new model financial regulations. FRAG would be reviewing the financial regulations shortly and would recommend any changes required.

**1222**

- (k)Skills 4 You had provided details of the service they provide. Copies had been circulated to councillors.
- (l)Notes had been received of the last Colourful Coast meeting. Noted
- (m)CBC had announced the second stage of consultation of its Polling District and Polling Station Review (deadline 23 Sept). Noted
- (n)Lancaster Environment Centre (part of Lancaster University) was looking for projects which could be used as student placements. Noted
- (o)Details had been received of training opportunities as part of the Suicide Safer project. Places were available for events on 8 Oct and 12 Dec. Booking details were available from the Clerk.
- (p)NALC was carrying out a survey of clerks and councillors following the elections in May 2019. The Clerk had completed the survey for clerks. The link to the survey for councillors had been circulated.
- (q)NALC was carrying out a survey to inform their response to government consultation on 5G mobile coverage in rural areas. Details were available from the Clerk.
- (r)Details had been received of a beach clean on 22 September by Melanie Greggain, a climate change activist. Details were available from the Clerk.
- (s) ACT would be holding its AGM and Community-led Housing event on 30 October at Crosby on Eden. Noted.
- (t) Two events were to be held to ascertain the views of local communities on Advanced Modular Reactors in West Cumbria. The events would be free but booking was required. Cllr Gilmour would be attending.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- CALC Newsletter July & Sept
- CBC Bereavement Services Bulletin
- NALC Newsletter & Chief Executive’s Bulletin
- NW Coastal Access Update July & August
- Friends of the Lake District magazine summer/autumn 2019
- Cumbria Action for Health & Mental \health Provider Forum bulletin
- Cumbria Police – West Cumbria News
- Northern Gas Networks Stakeholder update
- Copeland Matters Sept

**152/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- (a)The next meeting of the Arts Society would take place on Wed 18 September at 7.30pm in the Management Centre, St Bees School. The speaker would be Anthony Payne.
- (b) It had been reported that skunk cabbage, a very invasive species which was a serious threat to water courses, had begun to spread from the High House Rd area. Cllr Bettinson had taken steps to prevent it spreading further.

**153/19 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was RESOLVED that the next Parish Council meeting take place on MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....