

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on  
Monday 18 April 2016 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, G Gilmour, J Haile, T Kelly, F Kennedy, J Mellor, D Millington, M Riley, C Robson, and the Clerk

**In attendance:** Cllr I Hill, Ward Councillor, Copeland Borough Council  
Also present: 3 members of the public

**67/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs N Bettinson, M Davies and N Smart. Cllr Wormstrup, Cumbria County Councillor, also sent his apologies.

**68/16 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was noted that Cllr Kelly had declared an interest in the item on St Bees School as Clerk to the Governors.

**69/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no issues raised.

**70/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2016**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 21 March 2016 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**71/16 CCC ISSUES**

It was noted that Cllr Wormstrup was hoping to arrange a digital inclusion event in St Bees.

The officer in charge of parking enforcement had indicated that visits by the enforcement team could be targeted at specific times and locations. It was suggested that parking on yellow lines was worst on weekday evenings. It was also reported that there were problems with vehicles parking on the verge on Station Rd, making it difficult for buses and large vehicles to pass.

No further information was available on the possibility of a limited bus service to replace service 6. CCC was seeking tenders to provide a service and no decisions could be made until accurate costings were known.

It was noted that a reply had been sent to Frank Morgan, Chair of the CCC Local Committee, on the issues of strategic traffic planning. A reply was awaited.

**72/16 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR**

Three expressions of interest had been received in the vacancy for a parish councillor. All three candidates offered valuable skills and experience and councillors expressed the hope that the unsuccessful candidates would be prepared to help the council with various aspects of its work as committee members and volunteers.

It was RESOLVED that Mrs Hayley Monaghan be co-opted as a parish councillor to serve until the next election in 2019.

Mrs Monaghan then signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

**73/16 CBC ISSUES**

Cllr Hill reported that CBC was pressing ahead with its aim of increasing commercialisation of its services. There was still no firm information on whether the government's proposal for devolution would happen in Cumbria.

Cllr Hill then outlined recent discussions with the Success Regime which was tasked with making proposals for the future of health services in North & West Cumbria and explained his concerns about the potential shortage of medical staff.

It was noted that CBC was inviting views on the way in which it consults local people on strategic planning and preparation of the Local Plan.

**Cllr Hill and Cllr Argyle then left the meeting.**

**74/16 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT****(a) Financial Report**

A summary of income and expenditure at 31 March was received (copies attached to the minutes). It was noted that the income for the year was over budget due to the refund of NNDR on the beach toilets and grants which could not have been foreseen at the start of the year. Expenditure was under budget as insurance and grasscutting costs had been lower than anticipated. A total of £38823.40 would be carried forward to 2016/17 but it was noted that of this total £4000 was ring-fenced or committed to projects already underway and £14000 was held in reserves earmarked for specific purposes such as Village in Bloom and major asset repair/replacement.

It was noted that CBC had confirmed that it would pass on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant to parishes for 2016/17 but had warned that this might not be the case in future years. The grant to St Bees would be £230.13.

**(b) Payments**

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq no 002190 United Utilities-water/wastewater, beach toilets Total £660.19
- Chq no 002191 United Utilities – water, allotments Total £10.26
- Chq no 002192 CBC – emptying bin, Fairladies footpath Qtr 1 Total £24.70
- Chq no 002193 CBC – emptying bins, play areas Qtr 1 Total £247.00
- Chq no 002194 CALC – annual subscription Total £282.00
- Chq no 002195 Viking – stationery £62.06 + £12.41 VAT Total £74.47
- Chq no 002196 CBC – NNDR Station car park month 2 Total £77.00
- Chq no 002197 J Mellor – batteries for speed gun £6.67 + £1.33 VAT Total £8.00
- Chq no 002198 J Donaldson – reimbursement for postage Total £17.04
- Chq no 002199 J Donaldson – Clerk salary April Total £509.15
- Chq no 002200 I C Robson – refreshments for new residents event £21.53 + £4.31 VAT Total £25.84
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service April £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

Payments since last meeting to report

- Chq no 002188 CBC – NNDR Station car park month 1 £81.40
- Chq no 002189 Petty cash (Village in Bloom) £120.38
- Answer 4 You – answering service £8.80 + £1.76 VAT Total £10.56 ( paid by direct debit on 18/04/16)

**75/16 ST BEES SCHOOL**

Cllr Kelly reported that the Board was now actively looking at possible models for a new school and was considering responses received to the advertisement in the Times Ed for possible partners. At this

stage no options had been ruled out. The Management Centre had reopened earlier in the day and the board was continuing to let other facilities on a short term basis to help maintain the assets. The school web-site was being relaunched and the second newsletter would follow shortly.

It was hoped to organise an open day in June when members of the public could meet the Board and also to hold an exhibition of the school archive.

Councillors commended the Board on the way in which the assets had been maintained since the school closed.

## **76/16 PROJECT REPORTS**

### **(a) Beach Regeneration**

It was noted that a local family had offered to donate a seat to be installed at the beach play area. The Clerk would confirm that CBC had no objection as required under the lease.

### **(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch**

Speedwatch sessions were continuing and it was noted that the police had carried out some speed enforcement. One more volunteer had joined the Speedwatch rota but a request for more volunteers would be made through the Facebook page.

### **(c) Community Events**

The event for new residents had taken place on 11 April and had gone well. It was agreed to decide early next year whether to hold an event in 2017 or wait until 2018. It was proposed to hold a Freshers-style event in September when local clubs and societies in the village could promote their activities. Discussions would be taking place to determine if there was support for such an event.

### **(d) Tree Planting**

No further planting would take place until the autumn but tree stakes were being ordered in readiness.

### **(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Path**

The outstanding queries on the tender submission had been satisfactorily resolved. Discussions were taking place with Copeland Community Fund to increase the amount of grant funding originally approved for the feasibility study. The grant from North Copeland Coastal Communities Team would be used as match funding but an increased contribution would be required from St Bees PC. Whitehaven Town Council had also been asked to consider increasing their contribution.

It was RESOLVED to increase the parish council's contribution to the feasibility study to £2500 with the additional funds being vired from the Beach Regeneration budget.

## **77/16 NU-GEN MOORSIDE PROJECT**

Nu-Gen had indicated that letters were being sent to land/property owners whose land might need to be purchased or who were likely to suffer nuisance or loss of value as a result of the project.

The Parish Council had received a letter inviting the council to meet Nu-Gen's land agent as land owned by the council might need to be acquired for proposed rail improvements. The Chairman and Clerk would represent the parish council at the meeting.

## **78/16 NHS SUCCESS REGIME**

It was noted that the Success Regime had announced a series of public events across the county. Details would be posted on the noticeboards. The Parish Council had also received an invitation to a stakeholder event in early May. Cllr Gilmour would be representing the council. It was agreed that councillors would contact Cllr Gilmour with any questions they wished him to raise at the meeting.

**79/16 BEACH RD FOOTPATH**

It was noted that the resurfacing work was scheduled to begin in the next few days. The County Council would be responsible for project management and the work would be done by one of CCC's approved contractors. The Clerk had informed the neighbours whose properties adjoin the path.

**80/16 WEST COPELAND PARTNERSHIP**

Cllr Gilmour reported on the meeting of the Partnership on 12 April. The main topic for discussion had been the Moorside project and what long term legacy the Partnership could foresee from Nu-Gen's plans. A separate meeting was to be held to enable the members of the Partnership to develop their thoughts on legacy proposals which would meet the Partnership's priorities.

**81/16 PLANNING**

(a) New planning applications

The Planning Advisory Committee reported on the following applications which had been received for comment:-

- Ref 4/16/2035/0F1 Erection of 2 storey extension  
Horse Shoe Cottage, 4 Ellerbeck Barns, Egremont  
It was RESOLVED that there was no objection to this application.
- Ref 4/16/2084/0F1 Conversion of former barn/workshop to dwelling including rear extension  
Newtown Barn, Sandwith  
It was RESOLVED that there was no objection to this application.

**(b) Applications approved**

It was noted that the following applications had been approved by CBC:-

Ref 4/16/2034/TPO Tree Works - 3 Fleatham Gardens, High House Rd, St Bees

Ref 4/16/2035/0F1 Alterations and extensions – Sea Breeze, Sea Mill Lane, St Bees

**82/16 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received. The following points were noted

- NNDR Station car park – the application for small business relief on the non-domestic rates for Station car park had been submitted.
- Asset inspections – the annual inspection of assets was almost complete. Minor maintenance issues would be passed on to the lengthsman. A list of other issues would be prepared for discussion at a parish council meeting.
- Bridge at Sea Mill – CCC had confirmed that the bridge repairs were on the list of work to be carried out from flood recovery funds. The timing remained uncertain but it was hoped that it would be given some priority as it forms part of the coastal access project.
- Signage – a resident had pointed out that the onward travel information at the station was out of date as it referred to the recently discontinued bus service and that the signs on the bus stop mentioned information being available at the library. CCC had been asked to arrange for information to be updated.
- Street light repairs- there had been no further information on the repair to the street light on Coach Rd. Cllr Wormstrup would be asked to check progress with this repair.
- Station – the Chairman had lodged a report with Network Rail about several problems around the station, including the unfinished trenching on the platforms. They had promised to carry out an inspection and further information was awaited.

**83/16 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER**

No report had been received. It was reported that there had been recent incidents of anti-social behaviour in Main Street which had been reported to the police. As such incidents usually become more frequent in the spring/summer, it was agreed to contact Insp Wear to ask what action had been taken following the parish council meeting he had attended in September.

**84/16 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Correspondence had been received from Ian Wrigley Environmental Land Management providing details of a proposal to create an area of 8.44 hectares of new mixed broadleaved and coniferous woodland at High House Farm, St Bees. Noted.
- (b) Cumbria Police were seeking to appoint two lay advisers to the Multi-Agency Public Protection team (MPPA). Further details and how to apply were available from the Clerk. Noted
- (c) An invitation had received from Northern Gas Networks to their local depot Open Day in Carlisle on 6 May. Noted
- (d) Details had been received of the next community activity organised by the lengthsman scheme – Apple tree pruning at Egremont Community Orchard on 16 April. Noted
- (e) An email had been received from the organisers of the St Bega’s Ultra event asking for any feedback from the 2015 event. The event this year would take place on Sat 27 August. Noted
- (f) Information had been received from CALC on the forthcoming elections for the Police & Crime Commissioner on 5 May. Noted.
- (g) Correspondence had been received from the owners of Stonehouse Farm about plans to plant a new area of woodland with three new ponds. Noted.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- Cumbria Wildlife Trust –eNewsletter April 2016
- CALC Circular April 2016
- Countryside Voice Spring 2016
- Connecting Cumbria Newsletter
- FLAG Newsletter April 2016

**85/16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- (a) The Village School would be holding an event to launch the new book drop on Thurs 21 April from 1.30 – 4.30pm. All welcome.
- (b) The next Arts Society lecture, entitled ‘The Young Turner’, would take place on Wed 27 April at 8pm in the Management Centre, St Bees School.

**86/16 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was RESOLVED that the annual meeting take place on Monday 16 May 2016, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting which would begin at 6.00pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....