

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 15 April 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs P Argyle, N Bettinson, J Haile, C Hale, T Kelly, F Kennedy, J Lockie, J Mellor,
D Millington, H Monaghan & the Clerk

In attendance: Sgt Gary Ashbridge, British Transport Police
Cllr I Hill (CBC Ward Councillor)
Cllr C Whiteside (County Councillor for Egremont North/St Bees)

Also present: 1 member of the public

61/19 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 the meeting.

62/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs G Gilmour, D Sim & C Robson.

63/19 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

64/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The member of the public present explained that he was a candidate in the Borough Council elections and wished to observe the meeting to learn more about current issues in St Bees.

65/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2019

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 18 March be approved and signed by the Chairman.

66/19 RAILWAY ISSUES – ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Chairman welcomed Sgt Ashbridge of the British Transport Police to the meeting. Sgt Ashbridge explained that reports had been received of anti-social behaviour around the station, particularly on Friday evenings. This seemed to be associated with groups leaving Sellafield and visiting the local pubs before taking the train into Whitehaven. The behaviour of some groups was proving intimidating for railway staff and other travellers. He was interested to learn whether similar problems were being experienced in the village.

Councillors confirmed that there had been instances of nuisance behaviour within the village as groups left the pubs to walk to the station. The noise and anti-social behaviour were a concern for local residents and gave a poor impression to tourists arriving at the station. It was suggested that better CCTV coverage might help. Sgt Ashbridge explained that plans were in place to improve CCTV at the station. He was working closely with Cumbria Constabulary and he had spoken to the licensees in the centre of the village to try to find ways of reducing the problems. Police officers would be visiting the station at key times.

Sgt Ashbridge encouraged anyone witnessing inappropriate behaviour to report this to the police. British Transport Police could be contacted by text on 61016 if there were problems around the station area. Questions were asked about how such behaviour might be taken into account at licensing reviews. Cllr Hill explained that such issues could be taken into account by the Licensing Panel but evidence would be needed. Councillors asked whether an extension of the ban on alcohol on trains might help. Sgt Ashbridge stated that in this case the alcohol was being consumed before getting on the train.

Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should do whatever it could to help mitigate the problem.

It was RESOLVED to take the following actions:

- A letter to be sent from the Parish Council to the licensees of the pubs in the centre of the village, asking for their help in reducing the problems and suggesting that membership of the Pubwatch scheme might help

- A note to be put in the parish magazine to explain how to report anti-social behaviour
- Northern Rail to be asked to provide more notices at the station to highlight reporting procedure
- Cllr Hill to be asked to request Environmental Health to check noise levels
- Northern Rail to be asked to consider an extension of the ban on alcohol on trains
- Parish Councillors to monitor the problems in the village and report back at the next meeting

Councillors thanked Sgt Ashbridge for attending the meeting and welcomed his offer to come back to a future meeting.

(Cllr Hill left the meeting at this point)

67/19 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Whiteside reported on a number of county council and highways issues.

The planning application by West Cumbria Mining had been approved by CCC subject to a number of conditions and a Section 106 agreement to cover a number of improvements including facilitation of a cycle track. There remained the possibility of the application being called in by the Secretary of State but he was hopefully that the plans for the new min would now go ahead.

Natural England had confirmed that work to create the coastal access route around the golf course should be completed in June.

Cllr Whiteside had passed on the Council's thanks to the highways staff involved in the resurfacing of the B5345 around Abbey Corner. It was noted that other sections of the road near the level crossing were also in need of repair. Cllr Whiteside reported that more funding had been made available nationally for pot-hole repairs but it was not yet known whether any funds would be allocated to Copeland.

Cllr Whiteside reported that the order to extend yellow lines around the Seacroft and Fleatham Croft junctions was due to be advertised shortly. Copies of the plans would be passed to the Clerk for circulation.

CCC had developed a permit scheme to co-ordinate work by contractors and statutory undertakings. It was hoped that this would avoid the problem of utility companies digging up roads which had just been resurfaced or leaving roads in an unsatisfactory state. Feedback on the operation of the new scheme would be welcome.

The Local Area Committee would be considering its programme for highways improvement schemes in the next few weeks. There was a limited budget available but the schemes for enhanced gateway features and possible extension of the pavement on Outrigg would be considered for inclusion in the programme.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Area Highways Manager (copied to the Committee Chairman) to express the hope that funding would be available for these schemes.

68/19 LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Twelve nominations had been submitted for the thirteen seats available for St Bees Ward of the parish council. All those nominated had been automatically elected to serve as parish councillors until 2023. No nominations had been received for the seat for Rottington Ward. The two vacant seats could be filled by co-option at a later date.

Cllrs Haile and Kelly had not stood for re-election so this would be their last meeting. The Chairman expressed the Council's thanks to them both for their contribution over their time in office.

69/19 ST BEES SCHOOL – TRUSTEE BOARD REPORT

Cllr Kelly reported that the Headmaster, Roger Sinnett, had accepted the invitation to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 May. He had agreed to give a short presentation on his plans for the future of the school and would answer any questions. A new Bursar had now taken up post but enquiries about hiring facilities at the school should be addressed to Ann Stott, Commercial Manager.

Property matters would continue to be a matter for the Trustees and the Trustees would be happy to provide feedback to the Parish Council as required. In response to questions, Cllr Kelly explained that the conversion of Lonsdale Terrace to individual dwellings was a matter for the Old St Beghians but he understood that it was likely to go ahead shortly.

70/19 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**(a) Finance Report**

The summary of accounts at 31 March was received and noted. The internal audit had begun and it was hoped that the annual accounts and governance return would be ready for approval at the May meeting.

(b) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002519 CALC - annual subscription 2019 Total £284.18
- Chq 002520 CBC – emptying litter bins qtr1 £271.70 + £54.34 VAT Total £326.04
- Chq 002521 Prodata Associates Ltd – weather station sensor £50.00 + £10.00 VAT Total £60.00 (to replace lost cheque)
- Chq 002522 J Donaldson -reimbursement for printer ink, signs and postage £42.40 + £6.28 VAT Total £48.68
- Chq 002523 J Donaldson– April salary Total £659.82
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service April £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00

Payments since last meeting to report

- Water Plus – allotment water £0.22 (direct debit)
- Chq 002516 J Skelton – painting beach toilets Total £420.00
- Chq 002517 D Robinson- reimbursement for plants (VIB) £153.10 + £30.62 VAT Total £183.72
- Chq 002518 Petty Cash top-up – Total £98.89
- Answer 4 You – answering service £10.01 + £2.00 VAT Total £12.01 (to paid by DD on 17 April)

71/19 PROJECT REPORTS**(a) Beach Regeneration**

The repainting of the interior of the toilets had been completed. New splashbacks had been fitted behind the sinks and the general appearance of the toilets was much improved. Some work was still needed on the disabled toilet and this would be organised shortly.

A quotation had been received from CBC for the repair of the zip wire and wobbly bridge (total £231.97 + VAT). The part for the zip wire would be sourced from a different company at a much cheaper price. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman had authorised work to go ahead to ensure the equipment was back in operation as quickly as possible. CBC had also been asked to repair the gate to the toddler area as well as the gate at the Outrigg play area. A new volunteer had come forward to help with play area inspections as a result of the article in the parish magazine.

CBC would be inspecting the groynes shortly. They hoped to be able to repair/replace some of the damaged timbers but this would be simply from a safety perspective.

The school holidays and sunny weather had brought large numbers of people to the beach. Litter bins had been overflowing. CBC had sent a team to clear up and had promised that extra bins would be put out by the end of the month. The Clerk was asked to request that additional bins be available over the Easter weekend.

(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch

Cllr Mellor reported that Speedwatch sessions were continuing to take place.

(c) Community Events

Information on the ideas being considered to mark the 900th anniversary of the Priory had been circulated. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be willing to consider assistance with some of these events if the PCC made a formal request. It was noted that there would be no Village School fete this year as insufficient volunteers had come forward to help.

(d) Tree Planting

The last stage of the planting for this year had taken place. Suggestions of new sites would be welcome to continue the tree planting programme. It was suggested that a tree could be planted to commemorate the 900 years of the Priory. Cllrs Mellor and Argyle would follow up the suggestion with the Priory.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track

There was no further progress to report since the last meeting.

(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project

Cllr Bettinson reported that volunteers were continuing to work on clearing the pond.

(g) Public Access Defibrillators

The first training event was due to take place on Monday 29 April in New College Hall and was fully booked. A waiting list was being drawn up and a further course was planned.

(h) Station Car Park Extension

There had been no further progress since the last meeting. However, Cllr Hill had provided some information on a study being undertaken to look at parking in Whitehaven and Askham as part of an initiative to encourage use of the railway. Whilst this did not include St Bees, the aims of the study were in line with the Parish Council's plans to create additional parking at Station car park.

It was RESOLVED to contact the organisers of the study to see whether they could assist in progressing discussions with Network Rail.

72/19 VILLAGE IN BLOOM

No further response had been received from the Scout Committee about the site of the former scout hut. Cllr Kelly was contacting the Bursar at St Bees School to explore possibilities for a new base.

73/19 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Clerk reported on the recent Three Tier Meeting which she and Cllr Gilmour had attended. There had been updates from CBC on the successful bid for the Hidden Coast project and from CCC on various health issues. The main area of interest was the plan by CCC to develop written agreements with each parish on work to be undertaken by volunteers or lengthsman on/near the highway. CCC had agreed to provide additional information on how the scheme had worked in practice in trial areas but this had not yet been received.

74/19 PLANNING**(a) New Planning Applications**

The Planning Advisory Group reported on three applications received for comment:-

- Ref 4/19/2095/0F1 Single storey extension
5A Vale View, St Bees

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

- Ref 4/19/2094/TPO Cutting back of three overhanging branches of a sycamore tree protected by a TPO
1 The Crofts, St Bees

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

- Ref 4/19/2111/TPO Works to various trees situated in a conservation area
Woodland at Highcroft House, High House Rd, St Bees

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

(b) Applications approved by CBC

There had been no approvals of applications for the parish since the last meeting.

75/19 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received and noted. It was noted that there appeared to be less dog fouling since the publicity in the parish magazine. Signs had been ordered and would be in place shortly.

The owner of the vehicle thought to have been abandoned in station car park had come forward. It was noted that there were no regulations currently in place about use of the car park. It was suggested that railway by-laws might cover use of the car park. The Clerk would investigate the position and the matter would be discussed at a future meeting.

76/19 CBC ISSUES

Cllr Hill had provided a series of updates on CBC activities which had been circulated to councillors by email. It was noted that the proposal to extend the Heritage Coast had now been approved by CBC. It would now be known as the St Bees & Whitehaven Heritage Coast.

77/19 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

No report had been received. However, it was noted that there had recently been two burglaries and the theft of a motor vehicle in the village. It was agreed to ask that a police representative attend the meeting in May to provide an update.

78/19 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) A letter had been received from St Bees Village School thanking the parish council for its donation towards the cost of attending the Lego competition in Bristol. Noted.

(b) A copy had been received of the Egremont Spatial Framework document produced by CBC. This had been produced in consultation with Egremont Town Council and West Copeland Partnership. Noted.

(c) Cumbria Wildlife Trust had confirmed that they would be holding the annual Beached Art event at the main beach on Sat 10 August. Noted

(d) Guidance had been received from CALC on marking the death of a senior national figure. Noted.

(e) Details had been received of NALC's annual conference and exhibition to take place on 28/29 October in Milton Keynes. Noted.

(f) Copeland Public Health Report had been received and circulated to councillors by email.

(g) Details had been received from CBC of the successful funding bid for the Hidden Coast Project. Noted.

(h) An update had been received from CALC on HMRC's Making Tax Digital project. Local councils which reclaim VAT on form 126 would not be affected in 2019/20 and probably not in 2020/21. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

NW Coastal Access Update March

Copeland Matters April

Open Spaces ezine – Spring 2019

Cumbria Action for Health Network Bulletin 22/3 & 2/4/19

Full Circle Newsletters

NALC Newsletter

NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin

CBC Bereavement Services Bulletin

North Region Allotment Association – Spring Newsletter

79/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

(a) The next meeting of the Arts Society would take place on Wed 24 April at 8pm in the Business Management Centre at St Bees School. Steve Kershaw would be talking about the Elgin Marbles.

1199

(b) A recent episode of The Channel 4 programme 'Emergency Helicopter Medics' had featured coverage of the Great North Air Ambulance coming to the aid of a seriously injured paraglider who crashed into the cliff behind the beach café/Seacote Hotel last summer.

80/19 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the annual parish council meeting take place on MONDAY 20 MAY 2019 immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting which would take place at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....