

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on  
Monday 18 December 2017 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), N Bettinson, G Gilmour, F Kennedy, J Lockie,  
J Mellor, D Millington, C Robson, N Smart & the Clerk

In attendance: Mr M George, Chairman of Trustees, St Bees School

**183/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs P Argyle, J Haile, T Kelly, H Monaghan, M Riley

**184/17 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Bettinson and Millington declared an interest in the planning application for 4 Blythe Place, Cllr Bettinson as a close relative of the owner of the adjoining property and Cllr Millington as a near neighbour.

**185/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present.

**186/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2017**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 20 November be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**187/17 ST BEES SCHOOL**

The Chairman welcomed Mark George to the meeting.

Mr George gave a report on progress towards the reopening of the school, including recruitment of staff and pupils and the programme of work required to bring the buildings up to the standard required. Mr George explained that a further newsletter would be published shortly with full details.

The Chairman thanked Mr George for coming to update the Parish Council on progress and Mr George then left the meeting.

The Council then discussed the posting of placards in the village objecting to the possible development of land by the School. It was agreed that the Chairman & Vice Chairman would approach those thought to be responsible for the signs to seek to understand the background to their objections.

**188/17 CCC & HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

CCC had provided details of the proposed temporary Traffic Regulation Order which would prevent traffic from entering Beckermat other than via the road from the Blackbeck roundabout. CCC had agreed to an extension of the deadline to allow the Parish Council to comment.

It was noted that the consultation documents provided no information to suggest that any modelling had been done of the effects of the proposed changes on other local roads. Councillors believed that the changes would have effects beyond just the Beckermat area. There was likely to be an increase in the use of minor roads such as Nethertown Rd as Sellafeld traffic sought a route through Nethertown and Braystones to avoid using the A595. It was also considered that there was a risk of an increase in accidents at the junction of Morass Rd/A595 with more vehicles turning right on to the A595.

It was RESOLVED to submit these comments to CCC.

**189/17 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT****(a) Financial Report**

The summary of accounts at 30 November was received, together with the notes of the FRAG meeting on 12 December.

There was a predicted underspend on the Projects budget for the current year as it seemed unlikely that the allocation for Traffic Calming measures would be required before the end of this financial year. One of the projects for next year was the purchase of public access defibrillators and this could be brought forward to the current year.

It was RESOLVED to proceed with the purchase two public access defibrillators at a cost of £1595 each + VAT.

**(b) Budget 2018-2021**

A draft budget for 2018/2021 was considered. It was noted that the general reserves were sufficient to allow a contribution to be made to supplement the precept and other income in order to meet the expenditure planned for next year. It was agreed that a revised draft budget would be prepared for approval at the next meeting.

**(c) Grasscutting Contract**

2017/18 was the final year of the current contract. Arrangements for re-letting the contract were considered. It was agreed to contact all those who had previously expressed an interest to invite tenders for the new contract and also to advertise the arrangements on the website/Facebook.

**(d) Payments**

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002364 St Bees Playgroup– donation (agreed at last meeting) £100.00
- Chq 002365 K James – sweets for Santa Parade - £11.97
- Chq 002366 J Donaldson – reimbursement for trees, postage, stationery & antivirus renewal £129.94 + £24.64 VAT Total £154.58
- Chq 002367 J Donaldson– salary (net) Dec - £635.48
- Chq 002368 CPRE – annual subscription Total £36.00
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service (Dec) £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

**Payments since last meeting to report:**

- Answer4 You – answering service Dec £9.68 +£1.94 VAT Total £11.62 (paid by direct debit on 18/12/17)
- Chq 002352 YNH Ltd – hosting fee stbees.org £94.95
- Chq 002353 G Gilmour - reimbursement for Christmas tree £75.00
- Chq 002354 St Bees Priory PCC – donation to parish magazine £700.00
- Chq 002355 Village Hall Committee- donation to Village Hall £575.00
- Chq 002356 Royal British Legion – donation £100.00
- Chq 002357 Friends of St Bees Priory – donation £100.00
- Chq 002358 Calderwood House – donation £80.00
- Chq 002359 Furness Line Action Group – subscription and donation £50.00
- Chq 002360 Great North Air Ambulance – donation £80.00
- Chq 002361 YNH Ltd – domain name renewal £11.00
- Chq 002362 D Sim – reimbursement for tree lights £59.96 + £12.00 VAT Total £71.96
- Chq 002363 F Kennedy – contribution to costs of village pantomime £200.00

**190/17 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY**

The Health & Safety Policy adopted last year was now due for review.

It was RESOLVED that the policy required no amendment and would continue to be reviewed on an annual basis.

**191/17 STATION CAR PARK**

The Chairman reported that the Department for Transport had launched a consultation looking at how rail companies and local communities could work together. The theme of working together on projects to benefit local communities seemed at odds with the unhelpful response received from Network Rail to the proposal to extend the Station car park.

It was RESOLVED to write to Trudy Harrison MP to seek her help in securing an agreement with Network Rail.

**192/17 BOUNDARY COMMISSION CONSULTATION ON CBC WARD BOUNDARIES**

The Local Government Boundary Commission had completed the first stage of its review of Copeland Borough Council. Their decision was that the number of CBC councillors should be reduced to 31. The next stage of the review was to look at the ward boundaries and comments were being sought from parish councils and local residents.

It was agreed that ward boundaries should be drawn in such a way that parishes were not split between two CBC wards. In the case of St Bees parish the ward boundary should include the whole of the parish including Rottington.

It was RESOLVED to submit these comments to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

**193/17 CHANGES TO DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS**

It was noted that there would be changes in data protection requirements when the General Data Protection Regulations come into effect in May 2018. CALC had provided information on the steps needed to prepare for the changes and a course was being organised in March. Every local council would be required to appoint a Data Protection Officer. As most small councils did not have staff with the required qualifications, CALC was prepared to investigate the possibility of securing the services of an external DPO.

It was RESOLVED to express an interest in joining with other local councils to obtain the services of a DPO from an external source.

**194/17 PROJECT REPORTS****(a) Beach Regeneration**

The Chairman reported that he had been in correspondence with the RSPB Warden about possible new signage/interpretation boards at the main beach.

One of the projects suggested for next year was the creation of additional seating on the grassed area at the main beach. The Chairman would make enquiries about possible assistance from the DDP group of Sellafeld contractors.

**(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch**

Cllr Millington reported on a site meeting with a local resident who had expressed concerns about pedestrian safety on Abbey Rd. It was noted that there was no pavement and pedestrians, particularly with prams and pushchairs, were at risk of being struck by the mirrors of passing cars. Options for short and longer term solutions were discussed.

It was RESOLVED that in the first instance a letter be sent to St Bees School to ask that pedestrians without dogs be allowed to walk through the school grounds and that a letter be

sent to CCC asking for 'no footway' signs and consideration of a 20mph limit on Abbey Rd. In the longer term the construction of a safe footway should be a condition of any development in that area.

It was noted that following the discussion at the last meeting Mr Horn of Shepley Engineers had provided some information on the comparative journey times of vehicles travelling to Sellafield via the A595 and B5345. The results showed little difference in journey times. It was RESOLVED to write to Dr Weston of Sellafield Ltd to inform her of the helpful and constructive response received from Shepley Engineers to the council's concerns about contractors' vans travelling through the village.

**(c)Community Events**

The Santa Parade on 5 December had gone well. It was noted that Santa's sleigh was in need of some renovation before next year's event.

**(d) Tree Planting**

The final stage of the planting at the Adams Ground would take place shortly. 100 trees had been purchased and would be planted as soon as the weather permitted.

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

The Chairman reported on the current situation. Discussions were still taking place between CCC and West Cumbria Mining on various aspects of the planning application including how the company might help with the cycle way project.

**(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project**

It was reported that a contractor was still being sought to help with the work on the pond.

**195/17 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Chairman reported on the recent Sellafield Parish Liaison Forum when the company's plans for developments over the next ten years had been discussed. The statutory planning process only allowed for consultation with parishes in whose area the development was located so this discussion had been very useful, as the implications for traffic flows affected a much wider area. There had also been discussion of planning for flooding or accidents affecting the local road network and Sellafield Ltd had been encouraged to be more proactive in keeping the local population informed of traffic issues during the current strike action.

It was noted that KEPCO of South Korea was now the preferred bidder for Nu-Gen and this was a positive step towards bringing the Moorside development to fruition.

**196/17 PLANNING**

**(a)New Planning Applications**

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

Ref 4/17/2394/0F1 Variation of conditions 2 & 4 of approved planning application 4/17/2193  
(materials & windows)  
116A Main Street, St Bees

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

## 1106

Ref 4/17/2397/0F1 Retention of boundary fencing, retention of stairs to side/rear, construction of rear patio area, erection of garage to front of property with patio roof and garden store (alterations to prev approved scheme 4/16/2180/0F1) with amended site boundary (retrospective)

The Barn, 4 Blythe Place, St Bees

Concerns were expressed that the creation of a paved rear patio area and steps to the side of the property would lead to increased run-off of surface water. In recent years there had been incidents of flooding to properties on Sea Mill Lane as water flowed down from Nethertown Road during heavy rain. The developments proposed would worsen the situation and provide a direct route for water to flow down on to Sea Mill Lane. An assessment was required of the capacity of the storm drains to cope with the additional demand.

There was also concern about the fence alongside Nethertown Rd for which retrospective consent was being sought. The panels had been fixed to the post and rail fence erected by CCC following recent highways work and the height (2.2m) was very much higher than the original fence and was not in keeping with the height of the fence along the rest of the road. It was suggested that CCC should be asked to advise on whether this was acceptable.

It was noted that the size of the garage was very large and, if approved, there should be a restriction on any further development on the site.

It was RESOLVED that the above comments be forwarded to CBC.

### **(b) Applications approved:**

Ref 4/17/2341/TPO Works to six trees within conservation area – The Priory, St Bees

Ref 4/17/2318/0F1 Erect general purpose/sheep building extension – Field 0043, Outrigg Rd, St Bees

Ref 4/17/2361/0F1 Notification for prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to dwellinghouse – Barn adj to Bell House Farm, Sandwith

### **(c) Other Planning Matters**

(i) A further update was awaited from CBC on the current situation following the issue of the Planning Contravention Notice in respect of unauthorised work to the rear of 4 Blythe Place.

(ii) The comments on the Copeland Local Plan Issues & Options consultation had been submitted to CBC.

### **197/17 CLERK'S REPORT**

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

### **198/17 CBC MATTERS**

Cllr Hill had provided information on a number of issues which had been circulated to councillors including waste collection and recycling arrangements over the Christmas period.

### **199/17 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER**

No report had been received.

### **200/17 CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) A letter had been received from the Open Spaces Society seeking financial support for a campaign to register previously unregistered commons. Noted.

(b) Details had been received from Sellafeld Ltd of the schedule of beach monitoring for the coming year. As in recent years no routine monitoring would be scheduled during the main school holidays at Easter and in the summer. Noted.

- (c)CALC had provided further information on the changes to data protection legislation which would take effect next year and was encouraging parishes to begin to prepare for the changes. Noted.
- (d)CALC had provided a report of the AGM with copies of the slides of the presentation by the Police & Crime Commissioner. Noted.
- (e)Letters of thanks for the recent donations have been received from The Friends of the Priory, Royal British Legion, RNLI and the PCC. Noted
- (f)A letter had been received from the Friends of the Lake District urging councils to support their objections to the proposal to install eight zip wires on two routes spanning Thirlmere. Noted.
- (g)Email received from Stephen Sharp of Kells asking local councils to support the campaign to retain guards on local trains. Noted.
- (h)CBC had provided details of its Pride of Place survey which encouraged residents to say what makes them proud of their town/village and what problems need to be addressed. Noted.
- (i) An email had been received from a local resident about the overgrown state of the footpath from the Crofts towards Loughrigg and also drawing attention to a broken stile. The Clerk would report the stile to CCC and ask the lengthsman to cut back the undergrowth after Christmas.
- (j)Information had been received from Sellafeld Ltd about the site’s change of designation under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations. The site was previously classed as lower tier but would now be categorised as upper tier one. This was not due to any change in site operations but to a change in the categorisation of nitric acid. Noted.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- NW Coastal Access Update Nov 2017
- CALC Circular Dec/Jan
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust e-newsletter Dec 2017
- Copeland e-Matters Dec 17
- FLAG Newsletter Dec 17
- Countryside Voice (CPRE) Winter 2017
- Connecting Cumbria Christmas Newsletter

**201/17 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

It was noted that the exhibition in the Priory to mark 200 years since the founding of the Theological College in St Bees would continue throughout December.

**202/17 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2018 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....