

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 15 February 2021 at 6.30pm via Cisco Webex**

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, E Taylor & the Clerk

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

20/21 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

21/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs H Monaghan and D Rothery..

22/21 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this stage of the meeting.

23/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No matters were raised.

24/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2021

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 18 January be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25/21 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Planning application by West Cumbria Mining

Cllr Whiteside reported on the position with the application for a new deep mine. The planning application had been approved by CCC in the autumn and the government had confirmed that it was not their intention to call in the application. The Section 106 had been signed by all the parties involved and it had been hoped that the plans would finally be able to move ahead. However, solicitors acting for South Lakes Action on Climate Change had then written to CCC to challenge aspects of the Sec 106 agreement. The County Council had decided to refer the application back to the Development Committee for reconsideration. This was a frustrating development which would cause a further delay. Cllr Whiteside explained that on a personal basis he continued to support the proposed new mine which would provide coking coal for the steel industry. At present there was no realistic prospect of alternative methods of manufacturing steel. Domestic production of coking coal would not increase the carbon emissions in the UK, as it would replace coking coal currently being imported from countries across the globe.

Councillors expressed their disappointment at this further delay and were keen to ensure that the views of local people were heard when the planning application was reconsidered.

It was RESOLVED to write to CCC to reinforce the points made in the Parish Council's original submission.

(b) Highways Matters

Cllr Whiteside reported on a number of highways matters:

- A business case had been submitted for a digital demand responsive transport scheme which would allow residents to access transport to health appointments, education etc. St Bees/Egremont could be a pilot area. The County Council also had an Environment Fund to support the use of public transport.
- Road works outside the Oddfellows were now complete. The work had taken slightly longer than expected as a drain had required replacement. Councillors commented on the excellent job which had been done.
- Work was due to start that evening on resurfacing the section of the B5345 between the level crossing and the Priory. The work would take place overnight and the road would be closed

1300

until the end of the week. Repair work would also be done on the pavement near the Queens Hotel.

- Investigations were planned into the cause of the water draining on to the Linethwaite road. Once investigations were complete, repair works would be scheduled.
- There was no progress to report on the extension of the pavement on Outrigg or the improvements to the High House Rd/Fleatham Farm junction.

It was reported that the drains between the Queens Hotel and the station were blocked. Cllr Whiteside agreed to report this to Highways officers.

26/21 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Hailes reported that he had requested a supply of elasticated covers for recycling boxes after problems with litter being blown from boxes left out for collection. He was hoping that a suitable storage space could be found in the village until arrangements could be made to distribute them to householders. It was suggested that the Village Hall might be able to store them on a temporary basis.

Cllr Hailes pointed out that he and Cllr Whiteside had been asked to comment on local Facebook pages about the situation with the proposed mine. The Chairman confirmed that these were not managed by the Parish Council. It was suggested that anyone seeking a comment could be referred to the statement issued by the Parish Council some time ago.

As Young People's Champion Cllr Hailes was promoting stories of inspiring young people to be published in the Whitehaven News, one of which would feature a young person from St Bees.

Councillors noted that new posts had appeared at the beach area but their purpose was not clear. It was suggested that these were probably for waymarkers associated with the new coastal access route but Cllr Hailes agreed to check and report back.

Cllr Linton outlined the plans for new dog bag dispensers around the village as part of a campaign to tackle dog fouling and asked whether similar initiatives had been tried elsewhere in Copeland.

Cllr Hailes agreed to follow this up with CBC officers.

27/21 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Financial Report & Risk Review

The summary of accounts at 31 January was received and noted. The donation from Nuvia towards the Christmas tree had just been received and would be reflected in the February accounts.

The risk register was considered and it was agreed that no changes were required.

(b) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002723 CBC – annual costs of Rottington lights £292.00 + £58.40 VAT Total £350.40
- Chq 002724 YNH Ltd – domain name renewal Total £44.00
- Chq 002725 & 002726 J Donaldson – printer ink service £8.32+ £1.67 VAT, monthly Webex costs £12.50 + £2.50 VAT, salary Feb £549.52 Total £574.51
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd -toilet service Feb £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

The following payments made since last meeting were noted:

Chq 002721 Npower – electricity to beach toilets £23.74 +£1.19 VAT Total £24.93

Chq 002722 N Bettinson- reimbursement for plants £89.58 + £17.92 VAT £107.50

Answer 4-U – answering service (Feb) £9.99+ £2.00 VAT Total £11.99 (paid by DD)

28/21 ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Cllr Linton reported that she was working to set up a small group work to consider how the parish council could engage with younger members of the community and she hoped to set up an initial meeting shortly. She was making enquiries about whether DBS checks or safeguarding training would be necessary for those involved.

29/21 ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Cllr Kaldos outlined the process for listing sites of community value and explained that, if a listed site was put up for sale, the Parish Council would be given 6 months to raise the funds to acquire the site at market value. The site would have to be acquired for community benefit. The Chairman explained that as part of the draft Local Plan certain sites such as the Adams Ground were to be designated as green spaces. This designation would also be a means of protecting sites from development.

It was agreed to ask FRAG to consider the risks/benefits of listing such sites as assets of community value.

30/21 PROJECT REPORTS**(a) Beach Regeneration & Play Area**

The lengthsman would be asked to install the new 2 Minute Beach Clean Station shortly.

A quotation was still awaited for replacing the broken swing at the Outrigger play area. An update had been requested from CBC on the outstanding repair items at the beach play area. A new proforma had been prepared for inspection reports covering both play areas.

(b) Community Events

The Christmas tree and sponsorship banner had now been taken down.

(c) Station Car Park Extension/Cycle Track – the progress report circulated by Cllr Taylor was received and noted. CBC had promised a response to the Expression of Interest in a community asset transfer before the next meeting.

(d) Beach Bowl – additional information had been received from the proposers of the project. Councillors supported the idea of an arena at the beach and there was discussion of how best to take forward the proposal. Cllrs Argyle, Kaldos, Kennedy and Robson expressed interest in being involved. It was RESOLVED to set up a small working group of councillors and community volunteers to consider the practical, financial and legal issues involved and provide a report. FRAG would then consider any risks associated with the project before the Parish Council decided on the next steps.

(e) Other Projects – There were no progress reports on other ongoing projects. It was noted that Northern Rail had announced a fund for accessibility improvements at stations which could link with the Parish Council's plans for a transport hub. Designated disabled parking, a direct access to the south bound platform from the car park and a pedestrian link to Seacroft Drive would fall within the eligibility criteria.

It was RESOLVED that an application be made to Northern Rail for funding for these projects.

31/21 FOOTPATHS

Cllr Hale's report was received. It was noted that the group had now completed an initial survey of paths in the parish. The next step would be to continue a dialogue with CCC's Countryside Access team to identify what work they were able to do and what tasks could be done by local volunteers. It was also hoped to contact local landowners about permissive paths and to update the walks leaflets.

It was RESOLVED to accept the group's report and approve the action plan.

32/21 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) West Cumbria Site Stakeholders Group – Cllr Sim had recently attended a meeting of the Scrutiny Group when Hazel Blears, now working for the NDA, had given a talk on social value. The new Vision for Whitehaven had been launched and Jamie Reed had spoken about socio-economic funding.

(b) West Copeland Partnership – the parish representatives had met for the first time since early 2020. This had provided an opportunity to exchange news with other parishes. The main topic was the possible extension of the lengthsman scheme beyond March. Possibilities of grant funding were being explored and the Partnership would be meeting again shortly.

(c) Three Tier Meeting – the Chairman had attended the virtual meeting on 28 January. One of the main topics for discussion had been the GDF Working Group and the progression to a Community Partnership. This would be discussed further at the CALC Executive meeting later in the week.

(d) Village Hall Committee – Cllr Kennedy reported that the toilets had been refurbished at a cost of £4000. The Committee had also been awarded a lottery grant to install a Broadband connection to the Village Hall.

33/21 PLANNING

(a) New Planning Applications

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

- Ref 4/21/2025/0F1 Extension to general purpose/sheep buildings
Filed 0043, opposite Fairladies Farm, St Bees

It was RESOLVED there were no objections to this application.

(b) Decisions by CBC

The following decisions by CBC were noted:

4/20/2464/0F1 Extension to front to provide ground floor shower room, Old Police Station, Outrigg - APPROVED

4/20/2494/0F1 Prior approval for change of use of redundant calving sheds to single storey dwelling, Rottington Hall Estates - WITHDRAWN

(c) Other Planning Matters

The new Highways Network Manager for Copeland had indicated that he was happy to be kept informed of any planning applications on which the Parish Council had highways concerns.

34/21 CLERK'S REPORT

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

35/21 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Details had been received of the Dark Skies Festival organised by Friends of the Lake District in partnership with Cumbria Tourism, Forestry England and the Lake District National Park. The festival would run from 5 -21 February. Details were available on the Friends web-site. Noted.

(b) CALC had forwarded an appeal by CCC for lap tops to be donated to help local schools. Noted.

(c) Action for Health & Mental Health Provider Forum had forwarded a copy of their recent bulletins including information and events on a number of health- related topics. Noted.

(d) Information had been received from the NHS Counter Fraud Authority about current Covid-related scams, requesting help in raising public awareness of these scams. Noted.

(e) Information had been received from CBC on how residents could request sandbags in the event of heavy rain by emailing sandbags@copeland.gov.uk Noted.

(f) Cumbria Action for Sustainability had launched a campaign to recruit 20 volunteers across the county to deliver a programme to boost knowledge about climate science with the aim of inspiring people to take action in their own lives. The deadline for expressions of interest was 22 Feb. Further details were available from the Clerk. Details previously circulated to all councillors.

(g) CALC had circulated a link to the draft CCC Post Covid Recovery Plan on which CCC was seeking comments. Previously circulated by email.

(h) Cumbria Highways had launched an online survey to improve their service to residents. The link was available on the CCC web-site. Noted

(i) CALC had forwarded a copy of the Model Design Code published by the MHLG. Comments were invited to inform NALC's response to the consultation. Noted.

(j) Details had been received of how councillors could sign up to receive copies of the GDF group newsletters. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

NALC Chief Executive's Weekly Bulletins

NALC Coronavirus Update

Copeland Matters February

Cumbria Police -weekly Covid-19 updates

Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
GDF Working Party Newsletter 3
Cumbria Arts & Culture Network Newsletter
Northern Gas Networks stakeholder update
Open Spaces Society e-zine January 2021

36/21 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION /FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no matters raised.

37/21 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next Parish Council meeting would take place on MONDAY 15 MARCH 2021 at 6.30pm via Cisco Webex.

Signed.....

Date.....