

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 19 April 2021 at 6.50pm via Cisco Webex**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, G Gilmour, C Hale, A Kaldos,
A Linton, D Millington, H Monaghan, C Robson, E Taylor & the Clerk

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

Also present: 1 member of the public

59/21 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the protocol for speaking at the meeting.

He informed councillors that he had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Rothery who felt that his other commitments prevented him from giving the time he would have wished to Parish Council matters. He had, however, offered to continue to provide practical help with Parish Council activities. The Chairman had written to Cllr Rothery expressing his thanks for the contribution he had made during his time as a Parish Councillor.

60/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Mellor.

61/21 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this stage of the meeting.

62/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No issues were raised.

63/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2021

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 15 March be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

64/21 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a)Outrigg Pavement

The Highways Manager was looking at the costings for the extension of the pavement and had pointed out that the costings would not be sufficient to provide a pavement along the full length of the road. He was seeking views on whether there was a wish to proceed with a shorter length of pavement or whether to wait until funding might be available for a longer length.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council supported the proposal to go ahead with the shorter extension of the pavement rather than delay the entire project.

(b)Priory Car Park

There had been reports at the previous meeting that spare tarmac had been spread in the Priory car park during recent highways work. Cllr Whiteside had taken up the issue with highways officers who had explained that contractors often used spare tarmac to fill potholes etc but this should not have happened without the landowner's consent. The question now was how best to remedy the matter without causing further damage. It was agreed that this was a matter for agreement between Highways and the Parochial Church Council and Cllr Whiteside would liaise with Cllr Gilmour about the appropriate channels of communication.

(c)High House Rd/Fleatham Croft Junction

Cllr Whiteside reported that he had received correspondence from a local resident expressing concern that the new road markings intended to deter parking close to the junction could not be enforced. It was noted that the markings had not been completed because of parked vehicles. It was agreed that the Parish Council would try to ensure that the area was clear of parked vehicles, if Highways were able to specify a date to complete the work

(d) Linethwaite Rd

Work would be taking place later in the year to improve the road surface and drainage on Linethwaite Rd.

(e) Air Pollution Near Schools

A local resident had raised concerns about drivers parking near the Village School and leaving engines running while waiting to collect their children. Cllr Whiteside was investigating what powers were available to councils to deal with this.

(f) Sea Mill Lane

Cllr Millington raised several issues affecting Sea Mill Lane. The junction with Main Street was regularly obstructed by vehicles parking close to and around the junction. This affected the visibility for vehicles entering/exiting Sea Mill Lane and prevented the refuse lorry from getting down the lane. Cllr Whiteside agreed to follow up with Highways officers what restrictions might be appropriate.

Residents were also concerned about the speed of traffic along part of Sea Mill Lane, It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the request for some speed monitoring and Cllr Millington offered to provide information on suitable locations.

Cllr Whiteside was also asked to check whether there was any progress with the request some months ago for signage to warn of the narrow road width and low bridge.

(g) Other Parking Issues

Cllr Hale raised the issue of cars parking opposite the lych gate which made it difficult for pedestrians walking along this section of the road. It was not clear whether this land was part of the highway and Cllrs Millington & Hale agreed to look at the problem and report back to the next meeting.

(h) West Cumbria Mining

It was noted that the Inquiry into the proposals for the new mine was due to take place later this year. As an interested party the Parish Council was entitled to apply to the Planning Inspectorate for Rule 6 status which would allow the Parish Council to present evidence formally and to cross examine witnesses.

It was RESOLVED to apply for Rule 6 status.

65/21 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Hailes reported on a number of on-going matters:

- The bin near Stonehouse Farm was to be refixed by Highways contractors.
- CBC staff would be carrying out repairs to the beach shelter.
- The old footway light at 97 Main Street was to be removed as a safety issue.
- Pavement stencils were to be repainted to deter dog fouling.
- There had been problems with the refuse vehicle getting down Sea Mill Lane due to residents parking vehicles in such a way that the lorry could not pass.
- Recycling collections had been delayed by vehicle problems and because the volume of recycling had increased significantly over the lock down period. Residents were being asked to leave recycling boxes out and they would be collected as soon as possible.
- There had been issues with litter over the Easter weekend when the bins at the main beach area were overflowing. CBC had said that the additional bins could not go out until May due to financial constraints. It was noted that Cllr Millington had emailed the Mayor to stress the need for more bins and to ask for bins of a different design to prevent seagulls spreading the rubbish across the area. It was agreed that the Parish Council write formally to CBC to support the request for more action to reduce litter problems.
- Cllr Linton had suggested more signage at the beach areas to encourage people to take rubbish home. As there were a number of different signs in place around the beach area, it was agreed that an audit of signage be carried out with a report to the next meeting.
- CBC had some funding for a Welcome Back campaign to encourage visitors back to coastal areas. Cllr Sim had been in contact with the officer leading the project to suggest that brown tourist signs would be of benefit in attracting tourists to St Bees.
- As pubs reopened for outdoor service last week, Cllr Hailes had liaised with the police to monitor any effects on anti-social behaviour. British Transport Police had provided two officers on Saturday evening. They had visited the local pubs to check the numbers intending to catch

the train to Whitehaven and had prevented travellers from taking drinks on to the train and smoking on the station. Cumbria Constabulary officers had also patrolled the village.

66/21 PLANNING

(a) Approval of Nethertown Rd Development

The Chairman and a representative of the Planning Advisory Group had taken part in a remote meeting with CBC Head of Planning and two Planning Officers to discuss the current position with planning policy in light of the recent approval of a development outside the settlement boundary. As the old Local Plan was out of date and the new Local Plan was still in draft form, these plans now carried limited weight. This was not a problem unique to Copeland, as the regular changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and the lengthy process involved in preparing a Local Plan meant that most Local Plans were out of date in some respects. Until the new Local Plan was submitted for approval, there was a presumption in favour of development unless there were specific factors which outweighed that. This would need to be taken into consideration when responding to new applications.

(b) New Applications

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

- 4/21/2115/0F1 Erection of a four stable block
Land adj to Baruth Cottage, Sandwith

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

- 4/21/2154/0F1 Reinstatement of cottage & extension into attached barn to form a new dwelling and creation of a new access
4/21/2155/0L1 Listed building approval for above works
Moorleys, Egremont

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to these applications as the property was in a very poor state and the proposed work appeared to be in keeping with its traditional character.

(c) Applications approved by CBC

4/21/2014/0F1 Single storey kitchen extension – 43 Fairladies

4/20/2516/0F1 3 bedroomed dwelling – Plot 1 Fleatham Farm, High House Rd

67/21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Government consultation on the reorganisation of local government in Cumbria was due to close just before midnight. Information had been circulated on the various proposals for councillors to consider in advance of the meeting. The responses received from parish councillors suggested that the majority favoured a single unitary authority on the grounds that it would offer the greatest opportunities for achieving cost savings and service improvements, although it was recognised that there would be challenges in ensuring that it would be responsive to the differing interests of areas of the county.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council respond to the consultation and express support for a single unitary authority for Cumbria.

68/21 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Financial Report & Risk Review

The summary of accounts at 31 March was received and noted. Income for 2020/21 was £49108.28, very close to the expected figure. Expenditure for the year was £51126.76. The annual governance statement and annual accounting statements would be ready for approval at the annual meeting in May. The risk register had been circulated for review but no additional risk issues were identified.

It was noted that additional memory was needed for the web-site. The annual cost would be £199.

It was RESOLVED that the costs of the additional memory be approved.

(b) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002735 CBC -play area inspections qtr 1 £341.04 + £68.21 VAT Total £409.25
- Chq 002736 Egremont Town Council – contribution to lengthsman scheme Total £1354.92

1312

- Chq 002737 CALC – annual subscription Total £306.76
- Chq 002738 & 002739 J Donaldson – printer ink service £2.91 + £0.58 VAT, monthly Webex costs £12.50 + £2.50 VAT, postage £15.84, salary April £612.52 Total £646.85
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd -toilet service April £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

The following payments made since last meeting were noted:

Npower – electricity to beach toilets £22.28 +£1.11 VAT (paid by DD)

Chq 002733 D Robinson– reimbursement for VIB plants £188.18 + £37.64 VAT Total £225.82

Chq 002734 Petty cash top-up - £71.15

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

69/21 CASUAL VACANCY

The vacancy created by the death of Gus Kennedy had been advertised. No election had been requested and the Parish Council was now able to fill the vacancy by co-option. The new vacancy created by the resignation of Dave Rothery would be notified CBC and would have to be advertised in the usual way. It was RESOLVED to seek expressions of interest with a view to co-opting a new councillor at the next meeting.

70/21 BAG IT/BIN IT CAMPAIGN

Cllr Linton outlined plans for the campaign to tackle dog fouling. It was hoped to organise a Responsible Dog Walkers Scheme inviting people to make a commitment to cleaning up after their dogs, keeping their dogs on leads where required and offering a bag to others who may have gone out unprepared. Posters were being designed and the new bag dispensers were being ordered. CBC was also having new stickers printed for their bins to ensure everyone was aware that bags could be put into ordinary litter bins. It was hoped that the new campaign would encourage people to take bags to the nearest bin and not simply leave them in hedgerows.

71/21 ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Cllr Linton reported that she was advertising for a young person to help the group consider how the parish council could engage with younger members of the community. A progress report would be provided for the next meeting.

NALC was organising an online event on 26 May to discuss how younger people could be encouraged to join local councils. Cllr Linton was interested in attending and the cost would be approximately £40. It was RESOLVED that the costs of Cllr Linton's attendance at the online event be approved.

72/21 PROJECT REPORTS

(a)Beach Regeneration & Play Area

There had been a report of metal protruding from a rope on the galleon. The rope had been removed and the Clerk would follow up the position with this and other repairs. It was noted that repairs were taking some time to complete. It was agreed to discuss the position with CBC and to consider other contractors.

(b)Beach Bowl

There was little progress to report and there were still a number of matters which required clarification including planning issues and responsibility for management and maintenance.

(c) Station car park extension/transport hub

The report by Cllr Taylor was received and noted. CBC had requested further information on progress with discussions with Network Rail and stakeholders and this had now been sent.

(d)Other Projects

- The delivery of the new shed for the Village in Bloom Group had been delayed but it was now expected to be delivered in the next few days.
- Speedwatch sessions were set to resume this week.

- Volunteers had done a lot of work in Priory Paddock and a group of young people had made an excellent job of clearing the ground around the well. Some timber on the board walk was in need of replacement. It was agreed that Cllr Bettinson/Clerk would check whether this could be done by the lengthsman.

73/21 FOOTPATHS

Cllr Hale's report was received and noted.

74/21 MEMORIAL TO US WARTIME PILOT

Correspondence had been received from a local resident proposing that there should be a memorial to commemorate the death of a US pilot, who was killed when his plane crashed on Tomlin in March 1941. The exact site of the crash was still to be clarified but was probably on private land. It was agreed that it would be more appropriate to place a memorial close to the footpath, possibly at the old Coastguard look-out point on Tomlin. The Parish Council's funds were limited but it was suggested that the Parish Council might be able to make a contribution to a community project to create a memorial plaque. The Clerk would discuss this further with the member of the public who raised the matter.

75/21 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No meetings had been attended.

76/21 CLERK'S REPORT

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

77/21 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) A local resident had provided a copy of an email sent to CCC criticising the new road markings at the Fleatham Croft/High House Rd junction. He believed that the new markings would be ineffective in deterring parking close to the junction. Noted.
- (b) Information had been received from the Leaders of Eden District Council and Carlisle City Council to support their proposal for two unitary authorities. Noted.
- (c) An email had been received from a local resident encouraging more tree planting. A reply had been sent pointing out that the Parish Council actively supported tree planting initiatives but had no power to plant trees on private land without agreement from the landowner.
- (d) Correspondence had been received from Keep Britain Tidy encouraging communities to carry out spring cleaning initiatives in their area. Noted.
- (e) Information had been received from ACT on arrangements for the reopening of village halls. Noted.
- (f) CALC had forwarded details of a call for evidence by central government on the experience of holding meetings remotely during the pandemic. Noted.
- (g) The Environment Agency had forwarded an update on conditions to be added to Sellafield Ltd's Radioactive Substances Permit. Noted.
- (h) CBC had launched a call for possible sites for a gypsy and travellers site in Copeland. Noted.
- (i) NALC had issued a new edition of the Practitioner's Guide (the official guidance manual on financial procedures and audit). A copy had been sent to the Internal Auditor for his information.
- (j) CALC had issued a Position Statement on behalf of Copeland District Association which clarified that local CALC reps on the GDF working group took an entirely neutral view of the GDF process. Noted.
- (k) St Bees School had circulated news of the appointment of a new Headmaster (Robin Silk) following the decision that Roger Sinnett would now take a wider role overseeing all their sites. Noted.
- (l) A letter had been received from the Village School acknowledging the donation sent following the last meeting and promising to update the Parish Council in due course on their plans for a suitable project in memory of Gus Kennedy.
- (m) Correspondence had been received from a local resident asking the Parish Council to consider renovating the old cast iron finger posts as part of the area's heritage. Cllr Gilmour volunteered to work with the correspondent to look at what work would be required and the likely costs.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- NALC Chief Executive's Weekly Bulletins
- NW Coastal Access Update
- Cumbria Arts & Culture Network Newsletter
- Copeland Matters April 2021
- Cumbria Police -weekly Covid-19 updates
- Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
- ACT News Update 2021
- Open Spaces Society Spring 2021
- Allerdale & Copeland Joint Covid 19 Updates
- FLAG Newsletter
- Northern Gas Networks Stakeholder Update

78/21 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION /FUTURE AGENDAS

No items were raised.

79/21 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Council meeting would take place on MONDAY 17 MAY at 6.30pm. Unless there was any change to the timetable for easing Covid restrictions, the meeting would take place in the Village Hall with appropriate Covid precautions in place.

Signed.....

Date.....