

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 19 July 2021 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), D Bowler, G Gilmour, C Hale, A Kaldos, J Mellor,
D Millington, C Robson, E Taylor & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor - Egremont North/St Bees

Also present: Mr S Ritson

122/21 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Simon Ritson, a candidate for co-option to the Parish Council.

123/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Argyle, N Bettinson, A Linton & H Monaghan. Apologies were also received from Cllr J Hailes, CBC Ward Councillor, who was unable to attend because of work commitments.

124/21 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this stage in the meeting.

125/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No issues were raised.

126/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2021

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

127/21 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

The vacancy created by the resignation of Dave Rothery had been advertised in the parish magazine. An expression of interest had been received from Simon Ritson.

It was RESOLVED that Simon Ritson be co-opted to serve as a parish councillor until the next election in 2023.

Mr Ritson then signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

128/21 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a)St Bees- Whitehaven Cycle Path (Valley Link)

The Chairman reported on a virtual meeting he had attended with Cllrs Whiteside and Hailes to discuss a report which was being commissioned by CCC on possible schemes to promote walking and cycling routes in the Whitehaven area. The meeting had provided the opportunity to explain the Parish Council's project for a cycle path linking St Bees and Whitehaven and it had been clearly stated that St Bees was within the study area. Since the meeting took place, a document had been published for public consultation with a deadline of 6 August for comments. However, councillors were dismayed to find that the Whitehaven/St Bees scheme was not mentioned in the text or on the maps which only covered the Whitehaven parish area. It was pointed out that local groups and individuals were very unlikely to respond to the consultation when there was no mention of the Valley Link and its omission from the report seriously undermined the Parish Council's efforts to promote the project with other stakeholders. It was noted that there had been discussions with Whitehaven Town Council over a number of years and they were fully supportive of the project and had contributed to the cost of the feasibility study.

It was RESOLVED to press for the consultation document to be amended and reissued and to ask Cllr Whiteside to contact the relevant officers at CCC as a matter of urgency.

It was Further RESOLVED to continue discussions with neighbouring parishes which would benefit from the project.

(b)Highways Matters

- Cllr Whiteside reported that Main Street south of the Outrigg junction would be closed for 3 days from 26 July for gas works. Egremont Road would be closed for 3 days from 29 July for footway repairs.
- Pot hole repairs had been completed on Abbey Road.
- It was hoped that the markings on the Fleatham Croft/High House Rd junction would be finished shortly.
- It was expected that the litter bin would be re-fixed in place near Stonehouse Farm in the next two weeks.
- There had been no further progress with the request for improved signage at the top of Sea Mill Lane to warn drivers of the narrow width and low bridge. Cllr Millington agreed to contact Cllr Whiteside with details of what was required and how the signage could be rationalised.
- The wall alongside Beach Road had been damaged by a vehicle a few days ago. Cllr Linton had reported this to Cumbria Highways but the wall had not yet been repaired. It was agreed that Cllr Whiteside would follow this up, if the Clerk was able to pass on the tracking reference number.

(c) A595 Junction Improvement Schemes

There was still no clear timetable for the junction improvement schemes on the A595 at Scalegill Road end and the Linethwaite junction. Egremont Town Council had written to Highways England about the delay and Trudy Harrison MP would be meeting Highways England to press for the schemes to move ahead.

(d) West Cumbria Mining

Cllr Whiteside explained that he and a group of other councillors had called for a meeting of the full County Council to be convened to instruct the Development Control Panel to state its position on the application for a new mine before the public Inquiry takes place.

(e)Local Government Reorganisation

The government's decision on the proposal to create one or more unitary authorities in Cumbria was expected shortly.

129/21 BROWN TOURIST SIGNS

Cllr Gilmour reported on concerns about the lack of signage to attract visitors to the Priory, RSPB reserve etc. This resulted in opportunities for tourism being missed. There had been unsuccessful attempts in previous years to get better signage and yet there were signs around the area which were out of date and inaccurate. Cllr Whiteside agreed to investigate how best the request for signage could be taken forward.

130/21 OUTRIGG PLAY AREA

Cumbria County Council had stated that they were unable to grant a lease or licence on the land on which the play equipment stands and had suggested that the upgrading of the equipment could be a joint project with the Village School. The Village School was supportive of the project but the lack of a formal lease was likely to make it difficult for the Parish Council to obtain grant funding. Cllr Whiteside agreed to discuss the situation with CCC officers to see whether any other avenues were available. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with representatives of the Village School to discuss the project.

131/21 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Hailes had provided a written report covering the following issues:

- There continued to be problems with recycling collections due to operational issues and there would be no brown bin collections for two weeks. CBC staff were working very hard to maintain the service but Covid-related staff shortages were causing major problems.
- Discussions were taking place with officers at CBC about scheduling refuse collections to avoid school start/finish times.

1331

- The Enforcement Team had been asked to follow up the report of a vehicle which appeared to have been abandoned at Station car park.
- CBC had agreed to allow 30 mins free parking at the beach car park for PC volunteers carrying out play area inspections provided that an official notice was displayed on the windscreen.

132/21 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Financial Report & Qtr 1 Review

The notes of the FRAG meeting on 12 July were received and noted. The meeting had reviewed the 2020/21 outturn, the scope of internal audit for 2021/2 and risk management issues. The income and expenditure figures for Qtr 1 were generally in line with the budget. It was noted that the testing/repair of the street lights by Fairladies footpath had not been completed last year due to difficulties in finding a contractor. CCC had offered to undertake the work at a cost of £634.46 for the testing and would also undertake the repair/replacement of the faulty light.

It was RESOLVED to accept the recommendations in the FRAG report and to accept the quotation from CCC for the testing and repair of the lights.

(b) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002758 Works 4 You Ltd – grasscutting June £398.68 + £79.74 VAT Total £478.42
- Chq 002759 CALC –course fee Total £30.00
- Chq 002760 CBC – play area inspections Qtr 2 £341.04 + £68.21 Total £409.25
- Chq 002761 & 002762 J Donaldson – Webex costs £12.50 + £2.50 VAT, printer ink £4.57 + £0.92 VAT & salary July £491.12 Total £511.61
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service July £583.33 + £116.67 Total £700.00

The following payments made since last meeting were noted:

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

Npower – electricity to toilets April £22.53 + £1.13 VAT Total £23.66 (paid by DD)

Npower- electricity to beach toilets May £24.36 + £1.22 VAT Total £25.58 (paid by DD)

Chq 002756 Blomfields – filling planters (VIB) £224.00+ £44.80 VAT Total £268.80

Chq 002757 A Linton – reimbursement for printing Total £19.00

133/21 ALLOTMENTS

(Cllr Sim took no part in the discussion or voting on this item as a family member of an allotment holder.)

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Allotment Committee on 20 June were received and noted. It was possible for the allotment tenants to become members of the national association as a group with a membership fee of £3 per tenant and the costs could be met from the annual rent.

It was RESOLVED that the costs of group membership of the National Society of Allotment Holders and Leisure Gardeners be met by the Parish Council.

134/21 ST BEES BASH

Plans were going ahead to hold the event on 31 July at the Adams Recreation Ground. Posters had been placed on the parish noticeboards.

135/21 PROJECT REPORTS

(a) Beach & Play Areas

The swings at the beach play area had been repaired and new stainless steel fixings had been used. CBC hoped to complete the other outstanding repairs in time for the main holiday period. The Clerk would follow up progress with repairs to the swings at Outrigg,

It had been suggested that a ‘Borrow Box’ could be sited at the play area which could be used for spades, sand toys etc left on the beach. This would reduce waste and the toys could then be used by other children.

It was RESOLVED to approve the proposal.

(ii) Beach Litter

The meeting scheduled to take place on 1 July with CBC officers to discuss the possibility of changing the designs of bins at the beach area to make them less attractive to seagulls had been postponed due to CBC officers being unavailable. However, CBC had offered to provide details of alternative designs as a basis for discussion. It was agreed to write to CBC, thanking them for their help to date and looking forward to finding a solution to the continuing problems of seagulls spreading litter.

(iii) Donation Box

Cllr Argyle had circulated details of possible models for a donation box to be sited at the beach toilets. However, the exact siting of the box and the procedures for collection and banking of the cash needed to be finalised. It was agreed that a project evaluation form should be completed to ensure that all issues were resolved before purchasing a donation box.

(iv) Dog Watering Station

It was suggested that during the hot weather it would be useful to provide drinking water for dogs close to the beach toilets. Cllr Millington agreed to speak to Cllr Linton about whether this could be organised at the same time as the beach litter picking equipment was put out.

(b) Beach Bowl

There was no progress to report, as further information was still awaited from CBC officers.

(c) Station car park extension/transport hub

Cllr Taylor had provided a written report on progress. Formal instruction had now been given to the design contractor to proceed. This would include preparation of drawings and supporting documentation to submit to CBC for outline planning permission. Discussions had taken place with the Community Rail Partnership which had identified a possible source of funding (Northern Rail Seed Corn Fund) which might cover the initial design costs. A further meeting with the Partnership would be taking place early in August to progress a funding application.

(d) Valley Link Cycle Track

The issues concerning the consultation document issued by CCC had been discussed earlier in the meeting. Cllr Taylor stressed the importance of continuing to work with elected members of district and county councils and with Whitehaven Town Council to ensure a co-ordinated approach. The cycle path was not simply a project for St Bees but it would have significant benefit to other parishes.

136/21 ANNUAL REVIEW OF CLERK'S SALARY & OBJECTIVES

The review which had been postponed last year because of the Covid situation had now been completed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman. It was recommended that the objectives remained unchanged for the coming year with no changes to the hours or scale point.

137/21 FOOTPATHS

The report prepared by Cllr Hale was received and noted. The 'Bull in field' notices on the route of the coastal path appeared to have been removed.

138/21 PLANNING**(a) New Applications**

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

- Ref 4/21/2295/0F1 Proposed side/rear extensions to provide larger living accommodation.
Proposed front extension and alterations to increase roof height of existing dwelling
8 The Crofts, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application

(b) Applications approved by CBC

The following decisions by CBC were noted:-

4/21/2154/0F1 Reinstatement of cottage & extension into attached barn – Moorleys, Egremont

4/21/2155/OL1 Listed building consent for above works – Moorleys, Egremont
4/21/205/DOC Discharge of conditions 7 & 8 of approval 4/20/2516/0F1 -Plot 1, Fleatham Farm

139/21 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting of Sellafield Parish Liaison Forum where it had been pointed out that not all parishes were being kept informed about planning applications by Sellafield Ltd as had been agreed some time ago.

140/21 CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk’s report on on-going matters was received and noted. The contractor who had been approached to replace the field gate by Beck Edge Garden had not provided a quote and the Clerk would be looking for alternative contractors willing to do the work. The Clerk would contact CBC about a suitable hooded bin to replace the damaged bin by the Post Office.

141/21 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) CALC had forwarded an analysis of local council precepts for 2021/22 covering all local councils in England. Noted.
- (b)Information had been received on the Lake District Landscape Grants Fund. Noted.
- (c)Correspondence had been received from a local resident who witnessed dog fouling near the main beach and spoke to the owners of the dog who refused to pick up the mess. A reply had been sent by the Clerk, thanking the resident for her actions in challenging the owners and suggesting that she forward the information to CBC Enforcement Team.
- (d)Electricity North West had provided details of its draft Future Business Plan which was available to view at www.enwl.co.uk/businessplan. Noted.
- (e)Notice had been received of a planned road closure on Main Street (south of the Outrigg junction) from 26 July for 3 days to enable Northern Gas Network to carry out essential work. Noted.
- (f)Information had been received from the Clinical Commissioning Group urging the public to keep following infection prevention measures when accessing health & care services once Coronavirus restrictions were eased. Noted
- (g)CALC had forwarded details of a survey by DCMS & DEFRA on mobile coverage in rural areas. The link to the survey was available from the Clerk. Noted.
- (h) The GDF Working Group had provided details of pop up events across the district including at St Nicholas Gardens, Whitehaven on 30 July, The Meeting Place, Egremont on 5 August and the former Belvoir shop, King St, Whitehaven on 24 August. Noted.
- (i) The Environment Agency had provided details of a variation to the radio-active substances permit for Lillyhall Landfill site. Noted.
- (j) The notes of the Three Tier Meeting on 20 May had been received. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- NALC Chief Executive’s Weekly Bulletins
- NALC Newsletter
- Cumbria Police Update -Egremont, Cleator Moor & Rural
- Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
- ACT News Update & Gazette
- Copeland Matters
- CALC Newsletter July/August

142/21 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION /FUTURE AGENDAS

If central government announced its decision on the future shape of local government in Cumbria over the summer, this would be an item for discussion at the September meeting.

143/21 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on Monday 20 September at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....