

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 21 February 2022 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, C Hale, A Kaldos, A Linton, D Millington,
H Monaghan, S Ritson, E Taylor & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr J Hailes, CBC Ward Councillor
Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor, Egremont North/St Bees (latter part of
the meeting only)

Also present: 1 member of the public

17/22 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Cllr Whiteside would be joining the meeting later. The CCC agenda item would be deferred until Cllr Whiteside was present.

18/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Bettinson, Bowler, Gilmour, Mellor and Robson.

19/22 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ritson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 8c as a supporter of the charity Women Out West.

20/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The member of the public present expressed an interest in the discussion of the planning application for Nethertown Rd. It was agreed to bring forward this item on the agenda.

21/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2022

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 17 January 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22/22 NETHERTOWN RD DEVELOPMENT

It was noted that the reserved matters application for the three properties given outline consent some months ago had now been amended and there was now a further 21 day consultation period. It was noted that the properties were now to be sandstone rather than the slate finish originally proposed.

The main concerns were around drainage and highways issues. Whilst a comprehensive drainage report had been provided, it did not conclusively show that the proposed drainage system would be effective. It was also based on an assumption that the remaining land would remain in its current state as grassland but a separate outline application had already been submitted for a further two properties.

The Design & Access Statement indicated that the access to the site would create a space for vehicles to pass but the drawings gave no clear information on what was planned. The original concern about the width of the road remained valid. The width of the road was only 2.5m with no pavement and the Fire Service had confirmed that their vehicles were 2.5 m wide. It was unclear how large vehicles such as refuse lorries & delivery lorries would be able to turn. The next road junction was at Couderton some distance further on and without space to turn it was likely that drivers would try to reverse back along Nethertown Rd and attempt to turn at the cul de sac, a small residential street often lined with parked cars. Residents were particularly concerned about the situation with construction vehicles trying to access the site.

Councillors believed that it was not acceptable for the development to proceed without these highways issues being resolved.

It was RESOLVED to make a further request to Cumbria Highways to meet parish council representatives to advise on what could be done to address these concerns.

It was further RESOLVED to send a response to CBC reiterating the Parish Council's concerns about the drainage and highways issues and pressing for a site visit by the Planning Panel.

23/22 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Hailes reported on the following matters:

- Repairs had been carried out on the lighting at the beach car park but the damaged lamp post was still in situ. Cllr Hailes agreed to check when the lighting would be operational.
- CBC had promised that the additional bins would be put in place on the promenade at the beginning of April. New bird proof bins were being ordered but it would require a different vehicle to empty them and this would not arrive until late in the summer.
- The bin by the entrance to the caravan park had still not been replaced. Cllr Hailes would follow this up with CBC officers.
- The Enforcement Team had been asked to make additional visits to the beach area to tackle dog fouling. It was suggested that a hook should be put on the wall of the toilets so dogs could be tied up whilst owners used the facilities. Cllr Argyle agreed to organise this.
- The potholes which had been reported on Sea Mill Lane had now been repaired.
- Concerns about parking on the Crofts had been passed on to the relevant authorities.

Councillors reported that some of lifebelts were missing from the promenade. Cllr Hailes agreed to follow this up with CBC officers.

24/22 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**(a) Financial Report**

The notes of the FRAG meeting on 15 February were received and noted together with a summary of accounts at 31 January.

The risk register had been reviewed and a number of minor changes had been recommended. It had been suggested that it would be useful to have a communications policy and good practice guidelines for the use of social media by parish councillors. This would be an additional mitigation measure against reputational damage. Cllr Linton agreed to draft a document for consideration by the Parish Council at a future meeting.

The contractor had agreed to continue the grass cutting for a further year and had provided a quotation for the costs in 2022/23 which included a small increase to cover inflation.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation for grasscutting in the sum of £2941.40 + VAT

It was further RESOLVED to approve the changes to the risk register.

(b) Review of Risk Management and Health & Safety Policies

Both policies were due for annual review.

It was RESOLVED that the policies be approved without amendment.

(c) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002818 R Mayow -hosting of defibrillator Total £100.00
- Chq 002819 Hospice at Home West Cumbria - donation Total £30.00
- Chq 002820 CBC – play area inspections Qtr 4 £341.04 + 68.21VAT Total £409.25
- Chq 002821 I McAndrew – reimb for Astra Pro renewal Total £45.01
- Chq 002822–reimbursement for Webex costs £12.50 + £2.50 VAT, printer ink charge £8.32+ £1.67 VAT, postage £7.92, domain name renewal £44.00 Total £76.91
- Chq 002823 J Donaldson – salary February Total £491.12
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service (Feb) £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (SO)
- Water Plus – water/wastewater to toilets Total £1049.22 (direct debit 04/03/22)

The following payments made since the last meeting were noted:

- Chq 002817 Unipar Services – recalibration of speed gun £253.00 + £50.60 VAT Total £303.60
- Answer4-U– answering service £ 11.60 + £2.32 VAT Total £13.92 (direct debit 17/02/22)

(d) Donations

There remained a small balance in the Donations budget. It was proposed that this be used to make a donation to Women Out West to assist with their work in the local community.

It was RESOLVED to make a donation of £200 to Women Out West.

25/22 ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The results of the online questionnaire had been circulated to councillors. There had been an excellent response from young people in the village and a number of ideas and suggestions had been put forward. Some of these would require significant capital investment whilst others might be more achievable in the short term. It was agreed that Cllr Linton would rank the suggestions to reflect their popularity and achievability for consideration at a future meeting. The results of the survey would be shared on Facebook and in the parish magazine and discussed with local organisations which might be able to help to deliver some of the activities which had been suggested.

26/22 CCC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Whiteside reported on the following on-going matters:

- The Local Committee had been considering the Highways input to the draft Copeland Local Plan. It was important that the Plan took into account the need for more school places and highways improvements resulting from the planned developments. This was essential to ensure that Section 106 agreements could be incorporated into planning approvals. Whilst the Plan supported the need for a Whitehaven relief road, a proposed route needed to be identified to ensure that it was safeguarded from development.
- CCC had now set its final budget before the change to two unitary authorities. A further £200k was to be allocated for road maintenance in Copeland and consideration was being given to how the funding could be used most effectively.
- The consultation on the Local Cycling & Walking Improvement Plan was now underway. Cllr Whiteside explained that the officer dealing with this at CCC was currently off sick so he had been unable to follow up the request for a meeting.

Councillors asked Cllr Whiteside for his help to secure a meeting with Highways officers to discuss the concerns about the Nethertown Rd development. Whilst Highways had not raised objections to the original outline application, their advice was urgently needed on measures to mitigate the effects on highways safety. Cllr Whiteside stated that he understood the concerns and shared the frustration felt by the Parish Council that Highways officers had not been prepared to attend a site meeting. He agreed to take the matter up again with the appropriate officers.

Councillors raised a number of outstanding matters including the need for better signage at the entrance to Sea Mill Lane, the outstanding work on road markings at Fleatham Croft and information on the use of the COMF funding. Cllr Whiteside undertook to follow up matters and report back.

27/22 PROJECT REPORTS**(a) Beach & Play Areas**

Cllr Kaldos and the Clerk had met the new CBC Play Area Inspector to review repair and maintenance issues. A quotation had been received from CBC for a number of outstanding repairs. Some additional repairs had been identified at the meeting and a further quotation was awaited.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation in the sum of £2009 + VAT.

Cllr Argyle reported on her recent inspection of the toilets. It was suggested that the toilets should be deep cleaned before the start of the season and a price was being obtained from an industrial cleaning company. The disabled toilet was in urgent need of renovation and it was agreed to investigate the costs of materials.

It was RESOLVED to go ahead with renovation of the disabled toilet within a budget of £500.

(b) Upgrading of Outrigg Play Area

Following the discussion at the last meeting CCC officers had provided information on the process for obtaining Dept for Education approval of sale/lease of land. They had cautioned that the process was lengthy and unlikely to be completed before CCC ceased to exist. Cllr Whiteside agreed to have further discussions with CCC officers.

(c) Beach Bowl

CBC officers had asked for further information on progress in light of the advice of planning officers. Whilst CBC was supportive of the project, they had given no clear commitment to take the project forward or contribute to the costs. The Parish Council had not budgeted for these preparatory costs and did not own the land. It was agreed that these issues needed to be clarified with CBC as soon as possible.

(d) Station car park/transport hub

A report on progress had been circulated. The next step was to commission the detailed design work needed to apply for planning permission. Possible options for surfacing were being investigated. It was hoped to progress discussions with CBC about the community asset transfer of the land but the officer dealing with this had left CBC. Cllr Hailes offered to press CBC officers to move ahead with the discussions. The Community Rail Partnership continued to be supportive and had suggested a grant application to Northern Rail.

It was RESOLVED to proceed with detailed design work at a cost of £2975 + VAT and to submit a grant application to Northern Rail Seedcorn Fund.

(e) Valley Link Cycle Track

It was hoped that as many local people as possible would respond to the LCWIP consultation via the CCC website to support the proposed link between St Bees and Whitehaven. A presentation of the proposals was to take place on 24 February at Whitehaven Library.

(f) Community Events

Platinum Jubilee – Cllr Monaghan reported on planning for events to mark the Jubilee weekend in June. Discussions had taken place with representatives of various groups. The possibility of providing a beacon had been investigated but the costs were high. It was agreed that a group of parish councillors would meet shortly to progress plans.

(g) Priory Paddock

Some work had been carried out by the lengthsman and volunteers.

28/22 COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Cllr Bettinson had proposed the creation of a community orchard in the village if a suitable site could be found. One possible site was the Pinfold. However, this was registered common land and it would be necessary to confirm that this was permissible before proceeding.

It was RESOLVED to support the idea of a community orchard subject to a suitable site being found.

29/22 PLANNING**(a) New Applications**

The Planning Advisory Committee reported on the following applications received for comment:

- Ref 4/22/2042/0F1 Siting of four glamping pods with small decking areas, construction of parking area comprising 4 spaces, footways and drainage & minor works to regrade land levels
5 Ellerbeck Barns, Egremont

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

- Ref 4/22/2066/0F1 First floor extension creating a gable at the front of property
53 The Crofts, St Bees

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

1366

- Ref 4/22/2072/OL1 Listed building consent for installation of fencing & reorientated staircase
Signal box, St Bees Station
It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to the application.

(b) Other Planning Matters

- It was noted that the consultation period on the Publication Draft of the Copeland Plan had been extended to 18 March.
- An appeal had been lodged by the applicant against CBC's refusal of the application for a stable block adjacent to Baruth Cottage, Hardmoor Lane, Sandwith.

(c) Applications approved by CBC

It was noted that the following applications had been approved by CBC:

- 4/21/2509/TPO Reduce height of sycamores & remove overhanging branches of chestnut
2 Seacroft Drive
- 4/21/2349/OF1 Conversion of calving sheds to dwelling with parking space
Rottington Hall Estates, Rottington
- 4/21/2497/OF1 Internal alterations to form ground floor flat, storeroom & WC in shop with
landscaping to create garden & amenity space – St Bees Post Office
- 4/21/2544/OF1 Increase in height & installation of new roof on garage, installation of pergola
and decking at front entrance – Snaefell, Sea Mill Lane

30/22 FOOTPATHS

A report on footpaths matters was received and noted. Cllr Hale reported on the Copeland Out & About Project organised by the Beacon which was designed to provide walks & talks on local heritage across the area. The Parish Council had offered suitable sites and volunteers and further information was awaited. The Outdoor Partnership was planning to launch their Tales & Trails initiative with an event in St Bees during the Easter holidays.

It was noted that the wire fence alongside the old quarry on the Pitman's Trod path was broken. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the landowner to make him aware of the problem.

31/22 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

It was noted that Cllr Taylor had attended the Sellafeld Parish Liaison Forum and the Clerk had deputised for the Chairman at the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group.

32/22 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was received and noted.

33/22 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Updates had been received from CCC on preparations for the move to two unitary authorities. Noted.
- (b) Information had been received from ACT about the Cumbria Master Compost Programme run by Garden Organic. Volunteers were being sought to publicise the programme. Noted.
- (c) CALC had forwarded information on the approval of plans for the second phase of the redevelopment of West Cumberland Hospital. Noted.
- (d) Cumbria Highways had provided further information on their new reporting system and was asking parishes to promote the reporting system on their websites and social media. A direct link to the reporting form would be available on the CCC website. Noted.
- (e) Electricity North-West would be holding a virtual event (Powering Up the North) on Fri 4 March at 10.30am which would be open to all parish councillors. Joining details were available from the Clerk.
- (f) An invitation had been received to the next Health & Wellbeing Forum on 3 March at 2pm via Teams. Noted
- (g) An approach had been received from a group called the Outdoor Partnership which was working with the Colourful Coast to produce a series of 6 Tale Trails along the Cumbrian coast. The launch of the first one was due to take place in St Bees in April to coincide with the start of the school Easter holidays. Cllr Hale was following this up with the organiser.

(h) Information had been received about the Anne Robson Trust which provides support and companionship to those nearing the end of their life, both in person or via a helpline. Noted

(i) Further information had been received from CBC about the ‘Copeland Out & About Project’ led by the Beacon. Cllr Hale was liaising with CBC on this.

(j) Correspondence had been received from three local residents about different parking issues, one relating to overnight parking on double yellow lines opposite the Queen’s Hotel, the second to inconsiderate parking and obstruction of the pavement on the Crofts and the third to Network vehicles parking at the junction of Station Rd. The Clerk would contact Network Rail to discuss parking issues.

(k) Information had been received from CALC on their new communications strategy which would include a new style newsletter with a focus on a different parish each month. St Bees was scheduled to be the first. Noted.

(l) CALC was organising a virtual Nature Recovery event for councillors in Copeland and Allerdale. This would take place on Thurs 24 Feb at 6.45pm and would be led by Paul Evans of Cumbria Local Nature Partnership. Joining details would be passed to Cllr Ritson and any other councillor interested in attending.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- NALC Chief Executive’s Weekly Bulletins
- NALC Newsletter
- Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
- Trudy Harrison MP – Newsletter
- Connecting Cumbria Newsletter
- Open Spaces News Jan 22
- Northern Gas Network Stakeholder Update
- Cumbria Police bulletin Egremont, Cleator Moor & Rural
- ACT News Update
- North West Coastal Access Update
- Action for Health & Mental Health Provider Forum bulletin

34/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDA

Speedwatch sessions would resume in March and a rota had been prepared for the period to June.

35/22 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 21 MARCH at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

It was further RESOLVED that the April meeting take place on MONDAY 25 APRIL to avoid the Easter Bank Holiday.

Signed.....

Date