

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

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

**In attendance:** Cllr J Hailes, CBC Ward Councillor

Cllr C Whiteside. County Councillor, Egremont North/St Bees

**Also present:** 1 member of the public

**36/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Bowler & Monaghan

**37/22 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Sim, Argyle, Bettinson and Mellor declared non-pecuniary interests in the matter of proposed parking restrictions as residents within the areas concerned.

**38/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No matters were raised.

**39/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2022**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 21 February 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**40/22 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

**(a) Proposed changes to parking restrictions**

Residents in some parts of Main Street and Finkle Street had received letters from Cumbria County Council seeking views on proposed changes to parking restrictions in three areas of the village. Councillors expressed concern that these letters had gone out without any prior consultation with the Parish Council and it was only later that the Parish Council had been invited to submit comments. Cllr Whiteside explained that this was a preliminary consultation and all comments received would be taken into account before any decisions were made on whether to take forward these proposals.

The three proposed changes were considered in turn:

- Proposal 1 – to keep the existing time limited parking restriction in Main Street but to make this a disc zone.  
Whilst this would make enforcement easier, it was not clear what benefit this would bring for the village. Although not mentioned in the consultation letter, it was speculated that it might be possible to introduce residents' parking permits but it was felt this could be a bureaucratic system and would not necessarily meet the needs of residents  
It was RESOLVED to oppose the proposal and instead to support the removal of time limited parking restrictions in the centre of the village whilst leaving the zig zag markings outside the village school as a no parking area.
- Proposal 2 – to introduce additional 'no parking at any time' restrictions in Finkle Street.  
It was pointed out that this would do nothing to address the issue of parking on the existing double yellow lines in the evenings and would exacerbate parking problems in areas such as The Crofts.  
It was RESOLVED to oppose the proposed changes and to press for better enforcement of the current restrictions in Finkle Street.
- Proposal 3 – to introduce 'no parking at any time' restrictions on Main Street at the junction with Sea Mill Lane.  
This would help to keep the junction clear for vehicles turning in or out of Sea Mill Lane but it was important that the restrictions should also prevent parking near the wall within the splay.  
It was RESOLVED to support the proposal but to request that the restriction also cover the area within the splay.

**(b) Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)**

Cllr Whiteside provided information on how the funding had been allocated within Cumbria. A sum of £400,000 had been allocated to the Copeland area and had been spent on various projects, although there might be a small shortfall to be carried over to the new financial year. There would be a new Environment Fund available from April and bids could be made via the CCC Community Team. Councillors commented that the funding had not been well advertised to allow bids to be submitted. Cllr Whiteside agreed to check how this had been done. The Parish Council would watch for advertisement of these funds.

**(c) Nethertown Road Development**

Cllr Whiteside had been in contact with Highways officers and would try to organise a meeting with Parish Council representatives.

**(d) Other Outstanding Matters**

- The officer concerned with the LCWIP at CCC had requested details of possible dates for a meeting with Parish Council representatives. Cllr Taylor would follow this up.
- Highways officers had said that it was proving difficult to design new signage for the entrance to Sea Mill Lane which would meet the legal requirements. However, they would continue to work on this. Councillors stressed the importance of warnings of the low bridge and restricted turning space.
- Some work had been done on gateway traffic calming features at the northern entrance to the village. However, this did not include the granite setts which had been agreed at the site meeting in August 2019 nor did work appear to have been done at the southern entrance to the village. Cllr Whiteside agreed to follow this up with the Highways Area Manager.

**(e) Beach Road**

It was suggested that a short gap could be created in the wall alongside Beach Rd to allow pedestrians to cross safely to/from the footpath leading to the Beach estate. Cllr Whiteside would take up the suggestion with Highways officers.

It was reported that the speed humps on Beach Road were in very poor condition and in need of repair. It was suggested that the opportunity could be taken to make the humps more cycle friendly.

**41/22 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS**

Cllr Hailes reported on the following matters:

- New LED fittings had been installed on the lights in the beach car park. It was hoped that these would be operational shortly. CBC had requested a quote from CCC for repainting the lamp posts.
- The bin by the entrance to the caravan park had still not been replaced but an update had been requested from officers. CBC Officers had previously given an assurance that the bins would be put out on the promenade by Easter and Cllr Hailes had asked for a firm date.
- Arrangements were in hand for repairs to the faulty light on the footpath to the Beach estate.
- CBC officers had confirmed that new lifebelts were on order for the promenade.

**42/22 PLATINUM JUBILEE**

A small group of councillors had met to discuss plans for events to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in June. A number of events were planned. It was proposed to hold a street party on Cross Hill and to enlist the help of local groups to help with the organisation. It had proved impractical to have a beacon on the Head but instead a group with torches would walk up and create a light display on Tomlin. A series of Jubilee walks was planned and an event was being organised by Cllr Robson at the Priory focusing on each decade of the Queen's reign. It was hoped that groups or individuals would agree to take on responsibility for a particular decade. It was also planned to provide two new seats/benches on the Abbey Wood walk. It was agreed that the working group of councillors involved with these events would provide information for the Parish Council's Facebook page.

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It was RESOLVED that a road closure order be sought for Cross Hill and a budget of £500 be approved for expenditure on the street party.

It was further RESOLVED that two seats/benches be purchased within a maximum budget of £800.

### 43/22 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

#### (a) Financial Report

(i) A summary of the accounts at 28 February was received and noted. The internal auditor had completed his audit for 2021/22 and his report would be available shortly.

(ii) A quotation had been received from CBC for monthly play area inspections in 2022/23.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation in the sum of £1391.40 + VAT

(iii) CBC had provided quotations for replacing some mild steel components of the play equipment with stainless steel (£1517.94 + VAT) and for repairs to the surf board at the beach play area (£1,379.24 +vat)

It was RESOLVED to accept both quotations

(iii) More bags were required for the dog bag dispensers. The Clerk would place an order for a further supply.

#### (b) Future of the Lengthsman Scheme

The current scheme would end on 31 March. It was hoped to continue with a new three year scheme but the costs to the participating parishes would be higher as West Copeland Partnership was no longer able to make a financial contribution.

It was RESOLVED to continue to participate in the scheme with a contribution of £2000 in 2022/23.

#### (c) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

Chq 002826 N Bettinson -reimbursement for plants £40.90 + £8.18 VAT Total £49.08

Chq 002827 Women Out West - donation Total £200.00

Chq 002828 P Braithwaite Agricultural Services– gate repair £161.00 + £32.20 VAT Total £193.20

Chq 002829 Glasdon UK Ltd– seats (2) £1614.52 + £322.91 VAT Total £1937.43

Chq 002830–reimbursement for Webex costs £12.50 + £2.50 VAT, printer ink charge £8.32+ £1.67 VAT Total £24.99

Chq 002831 J Donaldson – salary March (incl backdated salary award) Total £627.51

Chq 002832 HMRC – PAYE Qtr 4 Total £953.28

Chq 002833 P Argyle -reimb for paint £81.75 + £16.35 VAT Total £98.10

Chq 002834 J Mellor – reimb for batteries for speed gun £5.00 + £1.00 VAT Total £6.00

Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service (March) £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (SO)

Npower –electricity to toilets (Sept – Feb) £127.75 + £6.39 VAT Total £134.14 (direct debit 31/03/22)

The following payments made since the last meeting were noted:

Chq 002824 D Robinson – reimb for VIB plants £291.21 + £58.25 VAT Total £349.46

Chq 002825 B Nesbitt – reimb for planter (VIB) £75.87 + £13.98 Total £89.85

Water Plus – water to allotments £66.99 (paid by direct debit 04/03/22)

Answer4-U– answering service £ 10.50 + £2.10 VAT Total £12.60 (direct debit 17/03/22)

### 44/22 DEFIBRILLATOR

Correspondence had been received from the Captain of the Golf Club about plans to provide a defibrillator at the Golf Club. It was suggested that it could be available for public use should an emergency occur whilst walking the cliff path. The club was asking whether the Parish Council would be willing to make a financial contribution.

It was agreed that an additional defibrillator would be welcome and the Clerk would liaise with the Club about the contribution that they would be seeking from the Parish Council.

**45/22 ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

Cllr Linton reported that discussions had taken place with St Bees School about the facilities which they could offer for activities/meeting space. A meeting with some of the young people would be organised shortly and it was agreed that Cllr Linton would represent the Parish Council.

**46/22 LITTER PICKING**

Cllr Linton had circulated details of a proposal to make litter pickers available by the noticeboard on Main Street and at Sea Mill to encourage residents to pick up litter as they walk.

It was RESOLVED to proceed with the scheme subject to confirmation that the siting of the equipment would not conflict with Village in Bloom displays.

**47/22 PROJECT REPORTS****(a) Beach & Play Areas**

(i) The play area repairs approved at the last meeting were now in hand. A proposal was put forward to allow CBC staff to go ahead with minor repairs without first seeking Parish Council approval in order to avoid unnecessary delays.

It was RESOLVED that CBC be given authority to proceed with repairs below £200 without prior approval up to a maximum spend of £1000 in the year.

(ii) It was noted that the RNLI volunteers had put the anchor back in place on the Wainwright Wall and it was now securely fixed.

It was RESOLVED to write to the RNLI to thank them for their help in taking care of the anchor in recent months and refixing it in place.

(iii) Cllr Argyle reported on work at the beach toilets. An estimate had been obtained for deep cleaning which was anticipated to take two days. The work could be funded from the maintenance budget and the Chairman had authorised the expenditure to allow the work to be carried out before Easter. The work was now underway and plans were in hand for repainting of the doors etc by volunteers once the cleaning was finished. A price had also been received for refurbishing the disabled toilet at a cost of £436 + VAT.

It was RESOLVED to proceed with the refurbishment of the disabled toilet.

It was noted that the donation boxes at the toilets had raised over £65 in the first six weeks.

**(b) Upgrading of Outrigg Play Area**

Cllr Kaldos reported that the information forwarded by CCC suggested that it might be possible to secure a lease on the land, although there was a formal procedure to follow.

It was RESOLVED to hold further discussions with the Village School before proceeding.

**(c) Beach Bowl**

CBC's position on the project remained unclear and it was agreed that at the moment it was not possible to continue to devote councillor time to this project.

**(d) Station car park/transport hub**

A report on progress had been circulated. After Cllr Haile's intervention a meeting had taken place with a CBC officer to discuss the proposed asset transfer. It was hoped to maintain regular contact with CBC as the project progresses. The application to Northern Rail's Seedcorn Fund had been successful and a grant of £4750 had been awarded to help with the initial costs.

**(e) Valley Link Cycle Track**

Cllr Whiteside drew attention to a consultation on a strategic cycle route as part of the Borderlands project. Two possible routes were being considered between Mirehouse and Beckermest, one of which ran through St Bees. The consultation would run from 1 - 22 April.

**(f) Priory Paddock**

With Cllr Ritson's help further tree pruning had been done. A supplier had been found for some of the plants required.

**(g) Interpretation Boards**

Designs had been agreed for interpretation boards for the Heritage Trail. The boards would be funded from the EU funding being managed by CBC but there would be some costs associated with the installation of the board in Stonehouse garden. The EU funding would also cover the replacement of the out of date sign by the level crossing. A new interpretation board was also being designed for Priory Paddock to be funded from the 2022/23 Projects budget.

It was RESOLVED to authorise expenditure of £500 for the installation of the heritage sign and purchase of new interpretation boards.

**48/22 PLANNING****(a) New Applications**

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

- Ref 4/21/2486/0F1 Change of use of ground floor to children's day nursery with two new openings in wall to front garden, new vehicle exit & internal alterations (Amended & additional details)  
Grindal House, St Bees
- Ref 4/21/2487/0L1 Listed building application for above works  
Grindal House, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to these amended applications.

- Ref 4/22/2072/0L1 Listed building consent for the installation of fencing and retrospective consent for the reorientated staircase at signal box (amended details)  
St Bees Station, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to the amended details.

**(b) Other Planning Matters – Nethertown Rd Development**

A reply was sent to CBC following the discussion at the last meeting. CBC had asked the applicant's agent to respond to the concerns raised and had passed on his comments to allow the Parish Council to put forward any further observations. Whilst the reply from the agent included some positive points, including putting in place a traffic management plan during the construction phase, there was still little detail.

It was RESOLVED to reply to CBC outlining the continuing concerns about drainage and highways issues

**(c) Applications approved by CBC**

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

4/21/2556/0F1 Installation of domestic oil heating tank, bike store, screen hedge & fence- Moorleys, Egremont

4/22/2003/0L1 Listed building consent for above works

**49/22 SOCIAL MEDIA GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

Draft guidelines for councillors on the use of social media had been circulated for comment. It was agreed that comments should be sent to Cllr Linton as soon as possible to allow a final version to be considered for adoption at the next meeting.

**50/22 FOOTPATHS**

A report on footpaths matters was received and noted.

**51/22 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Linton's report on a recent meeting of the Adams Recreation Ground Committee was received and noted.

Cllr Gilmour reported that he would be attending the Copeland Open for Business event later in the week.

**52/22 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report was received and noted. The Environmental Health Dept had not raised any concerns about the location of the bin at the Post Office.

**53/22 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) CCC had provided updates on preparations for the move to two unitary authorities. Noted.
- (b) Hospice at Home West Cumbria had sent a letter of thanks for the recent donation. Noted.
- (c) Correspondence had been received from Copeland Area Support explaining that a Joint Member Coastal Working Group had been set up looking at coastal erosion and shoreline management plans. Parish Councils were invited to nominate a member to join the group. Noted.
- (d) Details had been received of the national pay award for Clerks effective from 1 April 2021. Noted.
- (e) An invitation had been received to the Copeland Health & Wellbeing Forum on 7 April to look at local government reorganisation and health & housing issues. Noted.
- (f) The first edition of CALC's new newsletter had been issued, featuring an article on St Bees. A copy had been circulated to councillors.
- (g) A complaint had been received from a visitor to the beach about the state of the gents toilets. A reply had been sent by the Clerk.
- (h) The Environment Agency had begun a consultation on an application for a variation to the environmental permit for Barrow shipyards. Noted.
- (i) CBC had launched a consultation on its draft revised statement of licensing policy under the Gambling Act 2005. Noted.
- (j) Electricity North-West had forwarded its quarterly briefing. Noted.
- (k) CALC had forwarded details of a Teams meeting to take place on 15 March at 7pm when parishes would be briefed on the current situation with local government reorganisation including the May elections. Details had been forwarded to councillors.
- (l) Natural England had posted a video to celebrate the opening of the coastal access route. The video was available from 2 March. Details had been circulated.
- (m) CALC had circulated information on the latest consultation on the boundaries for parliamentary constituencies. The consultation would run to 4 April. Noted.
- (n) A letter had been received from Natural England explaining that the government had asked them to progress proposals to designate the Coast to Coast walk as a national trail. Noted.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- NALC Chief Executive's Weekly Bulletins
- NALC Newsletter
- Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
- Trudy Harrison MP – Newsletter
- Cumbria Police bulletin Egremont, Cleator Moor & Rural
- North West Coastal Access Update
- FLAG newsletter April
- Northern Gas stakeholder update
- Copeland Nuclear Newsletter (via Trudy Harrison)

**54/22 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- (a) Representatives of Sellafield Ltd would be coming to the April meeting to speak about the company's Travel & Transport Plan.
- (b) Cllr Robson would be giving talks on St Bees Man & the history of the Priory on Fridays at 5pm as part of the Copeland Out & About Project being organised by the Beacon. It was hoped to include a short organ recital.
- (c) The Borrow Box' of beach toys would be put out again shortly at the main beach.
- (d) Speedwatch sessions were beginning again with a volunteer rota in place until June.
- (e) St Bees School was holding a Black Tie dinner on 25 June which was open to all. Tickets (£50) were available from the school.
- (f) A corrugated sheet had been blown on to the footpath by Primose Valley. Cllr Ritson would try to remove it.

**55/22 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 25 APRIL at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date .....