

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 15 February 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs G Gilmour (in the Chair), N Bettinson, M Davies, J Haile, F Kennedy, J Mellor, D Millington, M Riley, C Robson and the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr I Hill, Ward Councillor, Copeland Borough Council
Cllr H Wormstrup, County Councillor Egremont North/St Bees
Mr M Guest, Chairman, Whitehaven Town Council

21/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Argyle, T Kelly, D Sim and N Smart.

22/16 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Cllr Gilmour welcomed Mr Guest as an observer at the meeting.

He also reported that Cllr Strong had submitted his resignation as a parish councillor. Councillors received the resignation with great regret and expressed the hope that Mr Strong would continue to work with the council on various projects.

It was RESOLVED to write to Mr Strong thanking him for his enormous contribution to the parish council and expressing the hope that he would continue to support the work of the council in a voluntary capacity.

23/16 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

24/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no issues raised.

25/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2016

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 18 January 2016 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

26/16 CCC ISSUES

Cllr Wormstrup explained that he would soon have a reply from CCC to the letter sent to the Leader on the subject of strategic traffic planning. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting. He had also attended a presentation on trees and had brought a copy of the information to pass on to the parish council.

Following a request from a member of the public he had sought a progress report on the fault with the street lights on Station Rd. Electricity North West had attended to sort out the supply fault but a further fault had been identified with the earthing which CCC had hoped to rectify last week. As it was reported that the lights were still not working, Cllr Wormstrup agreed to make further enquiries.

CCC officers had contacted the parish council with a proposal for a limited bus service to replace service no 6 which would be discontinued from 19 February. The proposal had come from a group of other parishes affected by the loss of the service and was based on estimated costings with contributions from each parish based on population. As there were only six users of the service from St Bees and they were making the shortest journey to Whitehaven, it was felt that it would be disproportionate for St Bees PC to meet 25% of the costs. However, it was recognised that the six regular users might be unable to use the alternative of travelling by rail.

It was RESOLVED to respond to CCC with an offer to contribute 4% of the costs which was believed to be a fair share based on notional passenger miles from each of the villages on the route. The offer would be conditional on obtaining more certainty on costs and would be subject to review after 1 year.

27/16 THE FUTURE OF LIBRARY SERVICES

CCC had decided to close the library at the end of March as it was uneconomic in view of the small number of users. A meeting had taken place with library managers and the Headteacher of the Village School to explore possible options. The Village School had offered to continue to provide a service to the community using volunteers but the library service would only be able to provide a small stock of 100 – 150 books and availability during school holidays would be a problem. It was noted that there was a more extensive stock of second-hand books at the Priory and at New College Hall which were available in return for a small donation. It was also noted that the library service operated a home delivery service for the housebound and would be prepared to hold events in the village to publicise their e-books & audio book service.

It was RESOLVED to ask the library service to publicise the home delivery service and other alternatives when closure notices were posted at the beginning of March.

It was further RESOLVED to ask the library service to consider the possibility of retaining the stock of local interest/history books at a suitable location in the parish.

Cllr Wormstrup then left the meeting.

28/016 CBC ISSUES

Cllr Hill explained that following the review of surplus land CBC was making representations to have part of the beach car park and adjoining grass bank designated as development land. It was understood that there would be an opportunity for public consultation. Councillors expressed some concern about the reduction in size of the car park and the impact this would have on parking in nearby streets on busy days as well as the adequacy of drains and sewers to cope with further development. The Clerk would contact the officers involved with the Local Plan and SHLAA to confirm the position and ascertain when public consultation would take place.

Health Watch would be holding a consultation at WCH on 19 February to allow local people to express a view on the future of local health services.

Cllr Hill reported that garden waste collections would resume with effect from 29 February and proposals to introduce a charge had been dropped.

29/16 TRAVELLERS

Travellers had returned to the beach car park since the last meeting. CBC had acted quickly to serve the statutory notice and the travellers had left without the need for further action. There had been some damage to the toilets as entry had been forced to the gents toilets which had been left in a poor state. The toilets had been closed on health and safety grounds but the contractor had managed to clean and reopen the toilets within a short time to keep minimise the inconvenience to the public.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter to Tom Milburn thanking him and his staff for their efforts to minimise the disruption to the public.

Cllr Hill then left the meeting.

30/16 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Financial Report

The notes of the meeting of the Finance & Risk Advisory Group on 27 January were received and noted together with a summary of income and expenditure at 31 January (copies attached to the minutes). FRAG had undertaken a detailed review of income/expenditure against budget as detailed in the notes and looked ahead to the likely position at the year end. Since the meeting several of the areas of uncertainty had been removed as the invoices for the repairs to the equipment and safety surfacing at the Outrigg play area had finally been received and CBC had indicated that the refund of NNDR would be paid shortly.

(b) Risk Management

The Finance & Risk Advisory Group had carried out a review of risks and the mitigation measures in place and no new risks had been identified.

The Group had also proposed changes to the format of the risk register and the values attached to the levels of risk to address the comments of the internal auditor and make it more user-friendly. It was RESOLVED to accept the proposed changes.

(c) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq no 002172 I McAndrew- hosting of web-site & weather station Total £130.00
- Chq no 002173 St Bees Priory PCC– room hire Total £125.00
- Chq no 002174 CPRE – annual subscription Total £36.00
- Chq no 002175 St Bees Parent & Toddler Group – donation (change of payee) Total £40.00
- Chq no 002176 CBC – Outrigger play equipment repairs £453.76 + £90.74 VAT Total £544.50
- Chq no 002177 CBC – wet pour surfacing, Outrigger play area £3634.07 + £726.81 VAT Total £4360.88
- Chq no 002178 J Donaldson – reimbursement for reference book Total £73.05
- Chq no 002179 J Donaldson – salary (net) Feb 2016- £614.55
- Chq no 002180 Harrison's Packaging – poop scoop bags £171.99 + £34.40 VAT Total £206.39
- Chq no 002181 P Preston – contribution to electricity cost for Christmas tree Total £30.00
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service Feb £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

Payments since last meeting to report

- Chq no 002169 Choiceshops Ltd – trees & shelters £226.49 + £45.30 VAT Total £271.79
- Chq no 002170 YNH Ltd – domain name renewal £34.00 + £6.80 VAT Total £40.80
- Chq no 002171 United Utilities Water – water charge, toilets (replacement of lost cheque) £365.29
- Answer 4 You – answering service £8.80 + £1.76 VAT Total £10.56 (paid by direct debit on 17/02/16)

31/16 ST BEES SCHOOL

No report was available from the governors of the School.

Correspondence had been received from the President of the Old St Beghians apologising for the lack of prior notice of the plans for Lonsdale Terrace. A response had been sent by the Parish Council Chairman welcoming the offer to have discussions with the Old St Beghians. Councillors fully endorsed the Chairman's view that it was important for the council to maintain regular communications with both the School governors and the Old St Beghians.

Cllr Gilmour reported that concerns had been raised by several local people about the state of outbuildings at Abbots Court. The matter had been drawn to the attention of the School governors.

32/16 ASSET MAINTENANCE

The repairs to the pulleys on both zip wires had been completed but a further problem had been identified with the chain holding the seat. Following discussions at FRAG the Clerk had authorised repairs (£194.18 + VAT) as an urgent repair and CBC had been asked to fit the parts as soon as possible. Some minor maintenance was needed to the swings and it was noted that one toddler seat had been damaged, possibly as a result of vandalism, and had been removed on safety grounds. CBC had been asked to quote for different types of seat.

It was noted that there were still problems with the feed to the well in Priory Paddock. A contractor had been asked to visit to advise and give an estimate of cost.

The annual inspection of assets was now due. It was agreed that the Clerk would distribute a list to each councillor.

33/16 COASTAL COMMUNITIES PROJECT

The 5 year economic plan was complete and copies had been circulated to all councillors. It included the St Bees - Whitehaven cycle track project as well as a number of other schemes in St Bees.

The project would now move into the implementation phase and there would be an opportunity for the parish council to be involved in the team leading implementation of the project.

34/16 PROJECT REPORTS

(a) Beach Regeneration

There had been no developments since the last meeting.

(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch

A reply had been sent to George Beveridge of Sellafield Ltd as agreed at the last meeting. A meeting of the Traffic Calming Committee was planned after Easter when CCC had completed their review of the various issues raised at the last meeting of the Committee.

It was noted that the Village School had contacted CCC about the possibility of having school crossing patrols on both entrances to help keep the children safe. It was RESOLVED to support the request by the Village School.

Speedwatch sessions were continuing and an article would be put into the parish magazine inviting new volunteers to join the Speedwatch scheme.

(c) Community Events

Cllr Robson outlined plans for an event for new residents to take place in April. The event would provide an opportunity for new residents to meet parish councillors and find out about the work of the parish council. A separate event would be organised in September when local groups and societies would be invited to put up displays to show the range of activities available in the parish.

(d) Tree Planting

Nu-Gen had made a promotional video publicising their Green Grants project which included Cllr Bettinson explaining plans for tree planting alongside the Adams Recreation Ground. The first phase of planting had now taken place and further trees would be planted by Village School children after half term. The main planting would take place in the autumn.

(e) Outrigg Play Area

It was noted that the final invoices had been received and the project was now complete with the play area looking much improved.

(f) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Path

A grant application had been submitted to Copeland Community Fund for 50% of the costs of the feasibility study. Whitehaven Town Council had confirmed their willingness to contribute £2000 to the costs. An invitation to tender had been sent out to a number of companies with a deadline of 7 March for submission of bids. The first newsletter had been sent out to more than 70 people and feedback had been encouraging with several people asking to join the circulation list.

35/16 NHS SUCCESS REGIME

Cllr Millington had obtained contact details for Sir Neil McKay, Chairman of West, North and East Cumbria Success Regime and it was agreed to write to him about the future of emergency services as agreed at a previous meeting.

36/16 PLANNING

(a) New planning applications

The Planning Advisory Committee reported on the following applications which had been received for comment:-

- Ref 4/16/2006/0F1 Extension to existing ground floor with second storey over; single storey extension to NW elevation
1 Solway Rise, St Bees.

It was RESOLVED that there was no objection to this application

- Ref 4/16/2016/0F1 & 2017/0L1 Subdivision of existing terrace: reinstatement of individual properties, together with associated external works
2-11 Lonsdale Terrace, St Bees

It was noted that the application covered plans to convert the Terrace back to individual properties but also referred to the possibility of a phase 2 development of two additional dwellings which would be the subject of a separate application. The Senior Planning Officer had confirmed that this information had been provided for illustrative purposes only and the decision on the current application would refer only to the subdivision of the Terrace to create separate properties and associated external works.

It was RESOLVED to support the plans to convert the Terrace to separate buildings but to ask CBC to consult Cumbria Highways on whether the access/egress on to Finkle Street could be improved in any way.

(b) Applications approved

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

- 4/15/2492/0F1 Erection of detached garden room, 53 Fairladies

37/16 MOORSIDE PROJECT

Cllrs Gilmour and Kennedy had attended meetings of the Planning Reference Groups for the Main Site and Egremont area. It was noted that a meeting was to be held on 23 February to discuss plans for replacing the access road to the Sellafield site from the Black Beck roundabout and the parish council had been invited to send a representative.

38/16 BEACH RD FOOTPATH

Copeland Community Fund had confirmed that they had received the revised costings and timetable and hoped to deal with this as a variation to the original approval.

39/16 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received. The following points were noted:

- Beach Toilets – The lengthsman had finished the external painting of the beach toilets. He had suggested that the ceilings should also be done, although they would need to be cleaned before painting.
- Sea Mill – The ramp by the bridge at Sea Mill was washed away from the bridge during recent storms leaving a dangerous drop. CCC had issued an emergency footpath closure order until the scheduled repair work could take place. Work would be brought forward if the contractor could accommodate it in his work programme. The state of the car park would be assessed once the storms had passed.
- Lonning behind Station Rd – Northern Gas Networks had asked permission to use the lonning to provide access to adjacent fields where they are carrying out work. Access would only be for approx 4 days and the lonning would only be used once each day to enter and leave.

40/16 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

The report from PCSO Lowerson was received and noted. There had been 11 logs during January including two instances of drink driving, four traffic collisions and three highways disruptions.

41/16 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Notification had been received of the designation of a further 23 Marine Conservation Zones including Allonby Bay. Noted.

(b) A progress report had been received on Cumbria Minerals & Waste Local Plan Reg 18 Supplementary Sites consultation. The comments received had been noted and the Outcomes Report with the council's responses was available on the CCC web-site. There would be a further period of consultation later this year. Noted.

- (c) A second communication received from Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd detailing arrangements for opting out of the new system. Noted.
- (d) Details had been received from CCC of grants available from their Community Waste Prevention Fund. Noted.
- (e) Information had been received from CALC and ACT on the campaign against the Government's proposals for rural funding. Noted
- (f) Correspondence had been received from CCC seeking comments on the EIA scoping report for West Cumbria Mining's proposed operations. In light of the short timescale to respond it was RESOLVED that the Clerk submit comments following discussions with Cllrs Gilmour and Bettinson.
- (g) Details had been received of a free workshop on war memorials being organised by Civic Voice in Cockermouth on 15 March. It was agreed that the information should be passed on to Mr Jopling.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Cumbria Wildlife Trust –eNewsletter Jan & Feb 2016
Connecting Cumbria Newsletter
CALC Circular Feb 2016
NW Coastal Access Project – Feb update

42/16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

(a)The next Arts Society Lecture on Japanese Prints would take place on Wed 24 February at 8pm in the Whitelaw Building at St Bees School.

43/16 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on Monday 21 March 2016 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....