

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on  
Monday 20 January 2020 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllr D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, G Gilmour, C Hale, A Kaldos,  
F Kennedy, A Linton, D Millington, C Robson, D Rothery, E Taylor & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr J Hailes (CBC Ward Councillor)

Cllr C Whiteside (County Councillor Egremont North/St Bees)

Also present : 4 members of the public

**01/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs H Monaghan and J Mellor.

**02/20 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Gilmour declared an interest in the planning application for tree work at St Bees Priory as a member of the PCC.

**03/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public asked for updates on the following three items – (a) the application for outline planning permission to demolish the garages on Outrigg and replace with residential development, (b) problems with the state of the bridleway at Green Lonning and (c) the uneven state of the pavement between the Queens Hotel and Stonehouse Farm.

**(a) Outline Planning Application – Outrigg Yard**

Members of the public reiterated the concerns expressed at the last meeting about the loss of off-street parking and the additional pressures this would cause on parking throughout the village. Concerns were also expressed about two storey houses being built amongst existing single storey properties. The Chairman explained that the council would be considering its response to the planning application later in the meeting and he agreed to bring the item forward on the agenda in view of the public interest in the matter.

**(b) Bridleway at Green Lonning**

The Chairman explained that the state of the bridleway had been reported to CCC who, as Highways authority, had responsibility for the surface of the bridleway. An officer from the Countryside Access Team would be visiting the site in the next few days to assess the situation. It was agreed that a representative of the Parish Council would attend the site visit. Once the officer's report was available, the next steps could be agreed with interested parties.

**(c) Uneven Pavement**

An accident had occurred a few weeks ago when someone had fallen on the pavement between the Queens Hotel and Stonehouse Farm. The pavement at this point is narrow and uneven and the area is poorly lit. An update was requested on what action CCC was going to take. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up this matter with Highways.

**04/20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2019**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 16 December be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**05/20 OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION – OUTRIGG YARD**

The Chairman explained that the application was for outline consent to demolish the garages and build new dwellings on the site and, if approved, there would need to be a further application to deal with the detailed design. The access to the properties on Outrigg Close was a private road and issues of rights of access, responsibility for repairs etc were matters which would need to be agreed by the parties concerned.

Councillors agreed that the garages were a valuable amenity for the village. Whilst acknowledging that the land owner was under no obligation to continue to rent out garages, councillors believed that the demolition of the garages would result in increased pressure on parking in the village which was already totally inadequate to deal with the number of vehicles. The Outrigg area was one of the most congested areas in the village, particularly around the entrance to the school. It was also suggested that the drains and sewers might not be adequate to deal with further residential development.

However, it was pointed out that the application proposed a new footpath linking the site to the Fairladies estate which would be a major gain for the village and would provide a short, level route from the estate to the village school. Alterations to the entrance from the public highway would also raise the possibility of the work being done to highways standards and being adopted by CCC.

It was RESOLVED to oppose the application for outline permission to demolish the garages and erect residential properties but to request that, if the application was approved by CBC, there should be a requirement for a pedestrian link to Fairladies to be included in a Section 106 agreement and for work on the entrance from Outrigg to be done to highways standards and adopted by CCC.

### **06/20 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

Cllr Whiteside provided a report on a number of on-going issues:

- Fleatham Croft/High House Rd junction – the decision not to proceed with a short section of double yellow lines had been referred back to officers for reconsideration. The Area Highways Manager was proposing a meeting with Parish Council representatives to look at the possible options. Cllr Whiteside would confirm the date and time.
- Outrigg pavement – CCC acknowledged the offer of a financial contribution from the parish Council if the scheme went ahead. The schemes put forward for next year exceeded the budget available for highways improvements but the Area Highways Manager would discuss this with council representatives at the meeting which was being arranged .
- Time limited parking from Station Rd junction to the Priory – Cllr Whiteside had raised this suggestion with highways officers. This was a measure which had been successful in other areas and the Area Highways Manager was happy to discuss this further.
- Yellow lines at Main Street/Seacroft Drive junction – the TRO had been approved. Cllr Whiteside would confirm the timescales for implementation with officers.
- West Cumbria Mining Section 106 agreement – Cllr Whiteside reported that some changes had been agreed to the Section 106 agreement but he would confirm with officers that facilitation of the cycle track was still included.
- LED Lighting – the programme to change all CCC lights to LED was almost complete.

Councillors reported that there were on-going problems with parking on Outrigg, particularly around the junction with Hillside at school drop off/pick up times. Cllr Whiteside agreed to request attendance by enforcement officers. The shortage of parking space was an issue throughout the village and the Chairman requested CCC's help in getting Network Rail to engage in meaningful negotiations about the plan to extend Station car park.

### **07/20 FOOTWAY LIGHTING**

A letter had been received just before Christmas from the Elected Mayor, stating that CBC proposed to stop providing footway lights across the borough and asking parish & town councils to accept full responsibility for the lights and their running/maintenance costs. There had been no prior consultation and the costs which would fall on parishes were considerable. It was noted that the burden would fall disproportionately on rural parishes where there was a higher proportion of footway lights. The Chairman explained that there was no logic as to why certain areas had lights provided by CCC and others had footway lights owned by CBC and this was largely a matter of historical accident.

The issue had been raised at the recent Three Tier Meeting and CBC officers had accepted that the timescales proposed were unrealistic and had undertaken to provide further information. As the issue was complex and affected all parishes, it was agreed that it was more appropriate for CALC to hold discussions with CBC rather than for parish councils to enter into individual discussions with CBC at this stage.

*Cllr Whiteside then left the meeting.*

**08/20 CBC MATTERS**

Cllr Hailes reported on a number of issues:-

- he had asked for more dog fouling stencils to be painted in Main Street but it appeared that these had not yet been done. He would follow this up with the appropriate officers and suggest that they liaise with Cllr Argyle to identify the most appropriate locations.
- it was hoped that repairs to the lifeboat ramp would take place in the coming weeks. In the meantime the bottom of the ramp was very slippery and a notice would be posted asking the public not to use the ramp.
- Cllr Hailes was to meet the Mayor on 6 February when it was hoped to progress discussions with West Cumbria Mining about support for the cycle track project.
- the cast iron guttering which had been hanging off the front of the Manor had been repaired after the intervention of CBC officers.
- the telephone kiosk at the main beach was in poor condition. Cllr Hailes suggested that it could be removed and a telephone for emergency use only could be sited at the toilet block or near the lifeboat station. It was agreed that the Clerk would take this up with BT.
- Cllr Hailes would be seeking the help of Trudy Harrison MP to progress discussions with Network Rail on the plan to extend Station car park.

CBC had prepared a licence agreement between CBC and the Parish Council which would allow CBC to install 30m of rock armour in front of the properties and car park at Sea Mill and give them the right to inspect and maintain the defences over the coming 50 years. It was also hoped that the defences could be extended the full length of the car park using existing rock armour.

It was RESOLVED that the Chairman & Vice-Chairman be authorised to sign the licence on behalf of the Parish Council.

**09/19 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT****(a) Finance Report**

The summary of the accounts at 31 December was received and noted. FRAG would be meeting shortly to review the Qtr 3 figures and review the risk register.

**(b) Payments**

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002604 CBC–play area inspections Qtr 4 £329.00 + £65.82 VAT Total £394.91
- Chq 002605 CBC– emptying bins Qtr 4 Total £296.40
- Chq 002606 CPRE – annual membership subscription - Total £36.00
- Chq 002607 K James – reimbursement for sweets for Santa Parade Total £8.98
- Chq 002608 Network Rail – annual rent for Station car park £400.00 + £80.00 VAT Total £480.00
- Chq 002609 CALC -course fees Total £180.00
- Chq 002610 J Donaldson -reimbursement for stationery, printer ink ,postage & contribution to Broadband costs £69.72 + £2.48 VAT Total £72.20
- Chq 002611 J Donaldson – salary January £565.42
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service January £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

Payments since last meeting to report:

- Chq 002603 D Robinson – reimbursement for removal of shed (V-I-B) £150.00
- Answer 4-U – answering service £9.99 + £2.00 VAT Total £11.99 (paid by DD)

**10/20 COPELAND LOCAL PLAN**

Cllrs Sim, Gilmour and Argyle had met to consider a response to the consultation on the draft Issues & Options document.

It was RESOLVED to accept the group's recommendations and submit the response to CBC.

**11/20 RIGHTS OF WAY**

The decision of the Planning Inspector on the proposed diversion of the footpath to Sea Mill had now been received. The diversion of footpath FP 423012 to cross the new bridge had been approved. CCC would now be carrying out some work on the route before it was officially opened.

The correction of the Definitive Map to show the location of the crossing of the railway would need to be dealt with by a separate Modification Order.

**12/20 PROJECT REPORTS****(a) Beach Regeneration**

It was reported that the spinner and zip wire were now back in service at the play area. A new self closing mechanism had been ordered for one of the gates to the toddler area. A quote was being sought for refurbishing the equipment where rust had been noted and also for work to repair worn ground surfaces.

The possibility of providing cycle stands as part of CBC's Hidden Coast project had been put to the project board. It had been accepted that this would fit well with the project's aims. If there was underspending on other parts of the project it would be considered alongside any bids from other parishes.

It was noted that the dog toilet was overgrown and was not being maintained. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact CBC and ask that the dog toilet area be removed if it was no longer to be maintained.

**(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch**

There was no progress report. The speed gun had been sent for recalibration.

**(c) Community Events**

The Christmas tree had been taken down and the lights put into storage. Thanks were expressed to all the volunteers who had been involved. The experience of planning this year's event would be used in identifying any changes or improvements for this year's event.

The local resident who had allowed his electricity supply to be used for the Christmas tree lights had stated that he did not wish to accept any payment. The Chairman proposed that the sum allocated in the budget should be used to make a donation to charity.

It was RESOLVED that a donation of £30 be made to Hospice at Home.

**(d) Tree Planting**

A local resident had offered a number of young trees. It was hoped to plant some at the allotment field and to carry out further planting at the Adams Recreation Ground.

It was noted that there had been a significant number of trees felled in recent months. Whilst in some cases the trees were diseased or in very poor condition and felling was the only option, it was important that the tree stock was maintained across the parish. It was suggested that this could be done by identifying mature trees which could be protected by Tree Preservation Orders and by pressing for new trees to be planted to replace trees lost. It was agreed that Cllrs Argyle & Bettinson would begin to identify trees which might be suitable for TPOs.

**(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track**

The involvement of the Mayor and CBC in promoting this project in their discussions with WCM was welcomed.

**(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project**

The Lengthsman had carried out some work on the trees in the Paddock.

**(g) Station Car Park Extension**

There had been no further progress.

**(h) Village in Bloom – New Base**

The old shed at Stonehouse Farm had been dismantled and removed. A planning application was being prepared to erect a new shed in the grounds of St Bees School. The Trustees and the School had been notified that the application would be submitted shortly.

It was RESOLVED to approve the sum of £117 to cover the fee required.

**13/20 HEATH & SAFETY POLICY**

The policy was due for annual review.

It was RESOLVED that the policy be re-approved without amendment.

**14/20 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Taylor reported on the Sellafield Parish Liaison Forum. Sellafield representatives had outlined a number of planned developments on the site and there had been discussion of changes to the NDA's plan for site end state. Cllr Taylor had raised the issue of traffic as the number of contractors' vans travelling through the village in the afternoon was still high. Sellafield Ltd had agreed to provide a copy of the latest Travel & Transport Plan. He had also raised the subject of the possible extension of Station car park and SL representatives had offered to provide contact details for a member of staff who might be able to help with discussions with Network Rail.

**15/20 PLANNING****(a) New Planning Applications**

The Planning Advisory Group reported on new applications received for comment:-

Ref 4/19/2427/0F1 Double storey extension to front & new raised terrace with balustrade  
9 The Crofts, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there was no objection to the extension itself but the timber cladding was not in keeping with the red brick used on other properties.

Ref 4/20/2004/TPO Felling of beech tree situated in a conservation area  
Khandallah House, High House Rd, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application as the tree was in very poor condition.

Ref 4/20/2015/TPO Remedial work to various trees with a conservation area  
St Bees Priory Church, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would be content to rely on the advice of CBC's arboricultural adviser as to what works were necessary.

**(b) Applications approved by CBC**

The following applications had been approved by CBC:

- 4/19/2392/0F1 Concreting of existing farm yard – Green Lonning Farm, Outrigg Rd
- 4/19/2405/0F1 Front extension to building – 4 The Crofts, St Bees

**16/20 CLERK'S REPORT**

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

**17/20 POLICE REPORT**

Sgt Ashbridge of British Transport Police had reported that his officers had patrolled the station area over the period before Christmas. There had been a large number of people leaving the pubs to board the train and a police officer had travelled on some of the busier trains. No crime issues had been reported. Sgt Ashbridge intended to attend a number of Parish Council meetings throughout the coming year.

**18/20 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Information had been received about the launch of #PassTheBaton challenge, a challenge running throughout January to encourage people to take up one new activity to improve their health & wellbeing. The challenge was being organised by North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust. Noted
- (b) Minutes had been received of the Colourful Coast partners meeting on 5 December. Noted.
- (c) CALC had published its programme of training for Jan -Jun 2020. Noted.
- (d) An invitation had been received to an event organised by ACT to celebrate the achievements and learning of their Rebuilding Together programme. Noted.
- (e) An open letter had been received from the NALC Chairman on the theme of Working Together to Build Stronger Communities. This had been circulated to councillors.
- (f) An email had been received from CALC inviting nominations for past Chairmen to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Noted.
- (g) Details had been received of a consultation by the Marine Management Organisation on the draft NW Marine Plan. Noted.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- NALC Chief Executive’s Bulletins 20/12/19 & 10/01/20
- Copeland Matters January
- Northern Gas Networks Stakeholder Update
- North West Coastal Access Update January
- Cumbria CVS E-bulletin 9 January
- Cumbria Arts & Culture Network Newsletter
- Friends of the Lake District Newsletter
- Cumbria Action for Health & Mental Health Provider Forum update

**19/20 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/FUTURE AGENDAS**

- (a) St Bees School was holding an event on the afternoon of Friday 24 January to mark the Chinese New Year. There would be a number of activities including cookery and calligraphy demonstrations. Members of the public were invited to attend.
- (b) The Chairman asked that the next agenda should include consideration of an approach to CBC for a financial contribution to the costs of maintaining the beach toilets and play area. CBC was keen to encourage tourism to the area and the facilities at the beach were heavily used by tourists. At present the costs were being borne entirely by residents of St Bees parish.

**20/20 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was RESOLVED that the next Parish Council meeting take place on MONDAY 17 FERUARY 2020 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. Representatives from ACT would be giving a short presentation on Community-led Housing projects.

Signed.....

Date.....