

1005

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on  
Monday 18 July 2016 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, G Gilmour, J Haile, T Kelly, F Kennedy,  
J Lockie, H Monaghan, C Robson, N Smart and the Clerk

**In attendance:** Cllr H Wormstrup, County Councillor Egremont North/St Bees  
Ms Catherine Booth & Mr G Amos, Nu-Gen

Also present: 1 member of the public

**132/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs N Bettinson, J Mellor, D Millington, M Riley

**133/16 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**134/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Amos and Ms Booth from Nu-Gen who had accepted the council's invitation to attend following the points raised by Mr Marr at the last meeting.

Mr Amos explained the background to the Stage 2 consultation process which was the last formal opportunity for the public to comment on plans before planning consents were sought. He explained that the focus would be on rail and sea to transport people and materials and the extension of the passing loop in St Bees was essential to the plan. The company had replied to Mr Marr but believed it was not appropriate to respond on specific issues until all comments had been received and considered at the end of the consultation process.

The Chairman invited Mr Marr to comment and he reiterated his view that the consultation might not meet the legal criteria as proposals for the railway improvements had not been included in the Stage 1 consultation and the Stage 2 consultation gave insufficient information about the options considered and the rationale for the chosen option. Mr Amos stated that only one consultation was required by law and the company had fulfilled that requirement and that the sections quoted by Mr Marr were from the Guidance to the Act rather than the Planning Act itself and therefore did not have the status of law. He stated that the Planning Inspectorate would be the final arbiter of the adequacy of the consultation process.

Mr Amos also stated that if significant changes were made to the plans as a result of responses to the consultation, then further consultation would take place. In answer to a question about what would constitute a significant change, he explained that a new site or major changes to environmental considerations might be regarded as a significant change. The company would continue to have regular discussions with CBC and CCC throughout the project.

Mr Marr asked for information on the likely volume and frequency of rail traffic. Mr Amos was unable to provide details and said the company would try to address requests for specific information in due course. Councillors pointed out that there was broad support for the nuclear industry in this area but it was difficult to offer informed comment on the proposals if the company did not provide details of the options considered and the basis for their decisions. Whilst 'guidance' might not imply a legal duty it would generally be regarded as best practice which councillors would have liked to see adopted by Nu-Gen.

In reply Mr Amos stated that a planning statement would be required for each site which would explain the background to design decisions but the company was not obliged to provide the best scheme.

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The Chairman asked how Nu-Gen was working with CCC/LEP on likely impacts on the highways network. Mr Amos replied that the company wanted to leave a legacy for the area in terms of rail improvements and other infrastructure improvements. Modelling was taking place on junction improvements on the A595 which the company had identified as necessary.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council would be discussing its formal response to the consultation later in the meeting and thanked Mr Amos and Ms Booth for their attendance.

Mr Amos, Ms Booth and Mr Marr then left the meeting.

### **135/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2016**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 20 June 2016 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **136/16 CCC & HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

Cllr Wormstrup provided an update on various highways matters. He reported that there had been reports of problems in the Outrigg area where parked vehicles had prevented the bin lorry from accessing properties in Outrigg Close. The problems of congestion in the Outrigg area were long-standing and, although the Traffic Engineer was working with the Traffic Calming Committee to look at possible options for improvement, there was no obvious solution. In the circumstances it was agreed to ask Ian Hill as borough councillor to investigate whether the timing of the bin collection could be changed to avoid peak times.

It was noted that the Pre-School had raised some concerns about the current review of traffic problems on Outrigg. These concerns had been passed on to the Chairman of the Traffic Calming Committee. It was stressed that no decisions had been taken on possible options for Outrigg and the next meeting of the Traffic Calming Committee in September would be open to everyone to attend.

It was noted that the B5345 around the junction with Wood Lane would be closed for up to 5 days from 8 August for work by Electricity North West. Councillors expressed concern about the inadequate diversion arrangements, particularly for heavy vehicles. There would also be overnight closures of the level crossing from 25 – 29 July for signalling work.

Cllr Wormstrup explained that he was continuing to be involved in discussions about strategic highways planning and undertook to provide a briefing at the next meeting.

**Cllr Wormstrup then left the meeting.**

### **137/16 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**

#### **(a) Finance Report**

The details of income and expenditure to the end of Qtr 1 were received and Cllr Kelly presented a report on variance from the budget (copy attached to the minutes). It was expected that income would exceed the budget figure for 2016/17 due to a refund of rates on Station car park and higher than anticipated income from grants and VAT reclaim. It was noted that expenditure in Qtr 1 was in line with expectations at this stage in the year with several large payments being due in Qtr 2 and 3.

#### **(b) Contract for beach toilets**

It was noted that the current contract was due to end on 30 September.

It was RESOLVED that, in view of the exceptional service which had been provided under the current contract in terms of standard of service, responsiveness and value for money, the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to hold discussions with the current contractor about a new 3 year contract to commence in October 2016.

**(c) Payments**

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Cheque no 002215 CBC– emptying bins, play areas Qtr 2 Total £247.00
- Cheque no 002216 CBC – emptying bin Fairladies qtr 2 Total £24.70
- Cheque no 002217 CBC – play area inspections qtr 2 £101.08 + £ 20.22 VAT Total £121.30
- Cheque no 002218 CCC – contribution to Beach Rd footpath improvement project Total £500.00
- Cheque no 002219 J Donaldson – reimbursement for postage Total £8.83
- Cheque no 002220 J Donaldson – salary (net) July 2016 Total £941.39
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service July £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)
- **Payments since last meeting to report**
- Chq 002212 -St Bees Village Hall Committee – £300.00 (donation agreed at last meeting)
- Chq 002213– St Bees & District Garden Society - £150.00 (donation agreed at last meeting)
- Chq 002214 – Post Office Ltd (for HMRC) PAYE Qtr 1 £607.86 (due before next meeting)
- Answer4 You – answering service £8.80 +£1.76 VAT Total £10.56 ( paid by direct debit on 18/07/16)

**138/16 ST BEES SCHOOL**

**Cllr Kelly declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as Clerk to the Governors of St Bees School**

Cllr Kelly reported that the swimming pool was now being managed by the School and a timetable of public sessions had been published. Plans for a nursery on the site were moving forward. A further newsletter was to be published shortly.

The Old St Beghians were to hold a meeting at the school on 24 September and an Open Day was being organised on the same day when members of the public would be welcome to come and look around the school. This would provide an opportunity to consult local residents and Old St Beghians on ideas for how the buildings could be used in the short term.

**139/16 NU-GEN MOORSIDE PROJECT**

A draft response to the Stage 2 consultation had been circulated with the agenda.

It was RESOLVED that the draft be approved and submitted as the council's formal response to the Stage 2 consultation.

**140/16 LAND ISSUES**

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had met an officer from CCC to discuss outline plans to site a new bridge on land owned by the parish council at Sea Mill. The plan was to locate the bridge further away from the beach to reduce the risk of storm damage. The parish council was being consulted as an affected landowner and plans were still subject to funding being available and the necessary planning consents being obtained. It was also planned to formally change the route of the right of way to align with the route which was actually used. No timescale for the work was available at this stage as it was still subject to approval by CCC Local Committee. In the short term CCC would carry out some work to allow the old bridge to be used.

It was RESOLVED that there was no objection to the siting of the bridge on land owned by the parish council.

## **141/16 PROJECT REPORTS**

### **(a) Beach Regeneration**

The new memorial seat was now in place in the play area. The recent CBC inspection of the play equipment had identified a number of minor repairs and prices were being obtained for the parts required. One piece of equipment in the toddler area had been taken out of use until the repair was carried out. It was noted that adults were often seen on the equipment and this could be contributing to the wear and tear. It was also reported that the dog fouling stencils needed to be repainted. It was RESOLVED to put up additional signage in the toddler area asking adults not to use the equipment and to ask CBC to renew the dog fouling stencils.

### **(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch**

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Traffic Calming Committee on 30 June were received. It was noted that the Committee had recommended that a letter be sent to our MP to enlist his help in lobbying for improvements to the A595 to reduce the volume of traffic using the B5345. It was RESOLVED that a letter be sent to Jamie Reed MP on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **(c) Community Events**

Cllrs Robson & Kennedy would be sending out letters to local groups and societies inviting them to attend the ‘What goes on in St Bees’ event on 24 September from 2-6pm in the Memorial Hall. The event would be publicised in the parish magazine and via posters. The NSPCC group had offered to organise refreshments.

### **(d) Tree Planting**

The next phase of planting at the Adams Recreation Ground was planned for the autumn.

### **(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Path**

Sustrans were now working on the feasibility study and a mid-project meeting was being arranged. It had been anticipated that the cycle track project would form part of a bid to the Coastal Communities Fund to be submitted by CBC on behalf of the Coastal Communities Team. However, following discussions with the Fund it had become clear that the bid would need to come from the parish council. With help from CBC staff a stage 1 application had been submitted. If successful, a stage 2 application would be required in November. A preliminary enquiry had also been submitted to Copeland Community Fund for assistance with the costs of staff to manage the project. It was RESOLVED to proceed with a full application to Copeland Community Fund if this was required before the next meeting and to ask Cllr Wormstrup to organise a meeting with Mr Melville to discuss long term maintenance arrangements.

### **(f) Station car park extension**

There had been no response yet from Network Rail.

## **142/16 ‘SEE MORE’ PROJECT**

Details had been received of a project aimed at encouraging tourists to see more of Cumbria by creating travel links to the west coast. The project’s aims fitted well with the proposed cycle track and the parish council’s long-standing ambition to increase the number of visitors coming to St Bees. A consultation was being carried out with stakeholders and a draft response had been prepared. It was noted that a meeting with stakeholders was to take place on 21 July. It was RESOLVED that the response to the consultation be approved.

### **143/16 WEST COPELAND PARTNERSHIP**

A meeting of the Partnership had been held on 30 June to consider the legacy which members of the partnership wanted to see from the Moorside project. The notes of the meeting were received and noted.

It was also noted that Chairman had drawn up six principles to guide engagement by the three tiers of local government on the legacy issue. These points had been discussed and agreed at the recent Three Tier meeting.

### **144/16 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report was received and the following points were noted:

- Donation of memorial seat – The lengthsman had now fitted the seat in the play area.
- Beach Rd footpath – the final report had now been submitted to Copeland Community Fund. Cllr Kennedy had arranged to re-seed parts of the verges adjoining the path with help from young volunteers from the Village School.
- Allotments – the Allotment Committee would be meeting at the allotment field next week to agree the work required. All allotment holders were being invited.
- Beach huts- The Joanna Scott Foundation, which was running a national competition for architecture students to design a beach hut, visited St Bees recently to work on the brief for the competition.

### **145/16 PLANNING**

#### **(a) New planning applications**

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

- Ref 4/16/2219/0F1 Erection of a detached dwelling  
Plot 1, Fleatham Farm, High House Rd, St Bees

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

#### **(b) Applications approved**

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

- Ref 4/16/2085/0F1 Erection of two storey extension – Horse Shoe Cottage, 4 Ellerbeck Barns, Egremont
- Ref 4/16/2146/0F1 Erection of sheep/general purpose building – Moor Platt Farm

### **146/16 CBC MATTERS**

Cllr Hill's written report was received. The report gave an update on various CBC matters including planning issues. It was also noted that some reports had been received that the new offices at the Market Hall were not easily accessible for those with mobility problems. Cllr Hill would be pleased to hear from anyone experiencing problems.

### **147/16 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER**

A written report had been received from PCSO Watson. It was noted that there had been several reports since the last meeting including one assault, one traffic collision and one incident of anti-social behaviour. There had also been several reports of highways disruptions. The Clerk would seek further information on the highways incidents reported.

It was noted that a local resident had reported finding a syringe and needles at the Sea Mill car park. The Clerk would ask the police to make additional visits to the area.

**148/16 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) NALC had published two revised Legal Topic Notes (available on their web-site) dealing with the responsibilities of councils as landowners and the publication of planning documents by local councils. Noted.
- (b) Correspondence had been received about a project by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission inviting parish councils to join in a project to ensure that war graves are visited and recognised during the commemoration of WW1. A copy had been forwarded to Bob Jopling.
- (c) An email had been received from the Success Regime explaining that the period of public engagement on the way forward for local health services has been extended over the summer. A series of stakeholder updates were planned. Noted.
- (d) Guidance had been received from AON on the implications of the Insurance Act which would come into force on 12 August. Noted.
- (e) A letter had been received from Rishi Sunak, MP for Richmond, N Yorks, seeking support for his petition to have the Coast to Coast Walk designated as a national trail. It was RESOLVED to support the petition.
- (f) Notification had been received of planned resurfacing work on the A595. Work would take place on the section from Parton to the Pelican Garage from 21 July for 7 days and on the section from Westlakes to Bigrigg from 28 July. Work would take place overnight to minimise disruption. Noted.
- (g) United Utilities were launching a Reservoir Safety Campaign and were offering materials to promote the campaign.
- (h) National Grid had provided information on the results of the surveys of Morecambe Bay. Noted.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- Cumbria Wildlife Trust –eNewsletter July 2016
- Nu-gen News
- ACT Gazette Summer 2016
- North West Cumbria Coastal Access Monthly Report
- CALC Circular July/August

**149/16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- (a) The event to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July in St Bees School Chapel had been well received and £160 in donations had been passed to Help for Heroes. Discussions were taking place about a further event to mark the centenary of the first shooting down of a Zeppelin in WW1 for which Lieutenant William Leefe Robinson, educated at St Bees School, was awarded the Victoria Cross.
- (b) It was noted that Tony Robinson and a film crew had been in the village making a programme for Channel 5. Chris and Charm Robson had been interviewed outside the Priory, and the Priory bell ringers had been filmed in action.
- (c) Cllr Kelly reported that he had recently visited Swanage and had collected information on beach huts which might be useful when considering future beach projects.

**150/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2016 at 6.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....