

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 20 June 2016 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs G Gilmour (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, J Haile, T Kelly, F Kennedy, J Mellor, D Millington, H Monaghan, C Robson and the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr H Wormstrup, County Councillor Egremont North/St Bees
Mr K Melville, Area Highways Manager, CCC

Also present: 2 members of the public

110/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D Sim, M Riley and N Smart.

111/16 CHARMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman referred to the murder of Jo Cox MP who had been attacked whilst holding a surgery in her constituency. It was a reminder that all those who represent their communities at any level of government can be at risk of abuse and criticism. He then called on those present to observe a minute's silence in memory of Mrs Cox.

112/16 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Monaghan and Kelly declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application for 4 Blythe Place as close neighbours and indicated that they would take no part in the discussion of that item.

113/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No matters were raised at this stage but it was agreed to include issues about the Nu-Gen consultation during discussion of that agenda item.

114/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 MAY 2016

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the annual meeting on 16 May 2016 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

115/16 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

It was RESOLVED to bring forward this item on the agenda.

As no election had been requested following the resignation of Mike Davies, the parish council had been asked to fill the vacancy by co-option.

It was RESOLVED that Mr James Lockie be co-opted as a parish councillor to serve until the next election in 2019.

Mr Lockie then signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

116/16 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

The Chairman welcomed Mr Melville to the meeting. Mr Melville explained his role as Highways Manager for Allerdale & Copeland and outlined the challenges his department faced in maintaining standards of service with a much reduced budget. He went on to answer questions on several issues raised by parish councillors.

The problems of pedestrian safety on Outrigg were discussed and Mr Melville explained the technical and funding issues involved in extending the pavement. As the funding for highways improvements was very limited, it would be important to build up evidence to support the case. He assured councillors that the Traffic Engineer would discuss this fully at the Traffic Calming Committee meeting scheduled for 30 June.

It was noted that there had again been problems with the school bus blocking the exit from Fairladies in the morning and Mr Melville agreed to follow this up with the bus company.

Councillors expressed concern that with several large projects in prospect for the area there was little sign of a co-ordinated approach to addressing the highways issues. Mr Melville explained that the Nuclear Transport Group was to establish a new sub-group to develop a co-ordinated strategy and it was important that the parish council worked closely with Cllr Wormstrup to feed in local issues and concerns.

The highways issues associated with the Moorside development were discussed. Cllr Wormstrup had provided local households with details of the limited improvements planned to the A595 junctions serving Linethwaite and Moor Row. The County Council was in discussion with Nu-Gen as the company's proposals were only for minor improvements which would do nothing to tackle the real issues. There was still an opportunity for local residents to respond to the Nu-Gen consultation before the closing date of 31 July.

It was also noted that Highways England was seeking evidence for major road improvements to be included in the 2020 – 2025 programme. Mr Melville encouraged the parish council to respond to the consultation and to send a copy of its submission to Cllr Wormstrup.

The Chairman thanked Mr Melville for his attendance and Mr Melville then left the meeting.

117/16 NU-GEN MOORSIDE PROJECT

The Chairman explained that the parish council needed to consider what should be included in its formal response to the stage 2 consultation. A local resident, Ian Marr, had provided the council with a copy of his own submission and was present at the meeting. The Chairman invited Mr Marr to outline his concerns to the council.

Mr Marr explained that the stage 2 consultation document provided very limited information about the proposals to extend the passing loop on the railway. It was noted that this had not featured at all in the stage 1 consultation. The loop was planned to be immediately behind residential properties on Seacroft Drive but Nu-Gen staff at the public events had been unable to provide any data to show why this was preferred to the option of locating the loop on the other side of the line. The plans were apparently already at the detailed design stage which suggested that this was not a genuine consultation and Mr Marr questioned whether the consultation met the legal requirements of the Planning Act. Cllr Wormstrup informed the council that he had already taken up Mr Marr's concerns at a high level in the County Council.

Councillors fully endorsed Mr Marr's view about the lack of information provided both in the consultation documents and at the public events which made it impossible to evaluate the full impact on local people.

It was **RESOLVED** to write to Nu-Gen to support Mr Marr's comments and to send copies to the Mayor, the Leader and Chief Executive of Cumbria County Council, and Jamie Reed MP. It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** to ask Nu-Gen to send representatives to the next parish council meeting to answer some of the legal and technical points raised.

Mr Marr thanked councillors for their support.

It was agreed that councillors would send suggestions for inclusion in the parish council's formal response to the Clerk and a small working group of councillors would prepare a draft submission for approval at the next meeting.

118/16 COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

Cllr Wormstrup reported that a meeting had taken place on site to look at possible plans to replace the damaged bridge at Sea Mill. He had now received a letter from CCC officers confirming that it was proposed to relocate the bridge further upstream to reduce the risk of future storm damage. This would also be the crossing for the coastal path. Planning permission would be required as well as an order to alter the line of the right of way and the opportunity would be taken to correct the mapping anomaly to reflect the current crossing point of the railway line. Planning was at an early stage and it would be subject to funding being secured.

Councillors thanked Cllr Wormstrup for his report and asked him to make further enquiries about possible timescales.

119/16 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**(a) Finance Report**

A summary of income and expenditure to 31 May was received and noted, together with notes of the meeting of the Finance & Risk Advisory Group on 8 June (copy attached to the minutes). It was noted that the precept had been received in full and there had also been a refund of non-domestic rates following a backdated award of small business relief on the liability for Station car park.

The updated risk register was considered and no new risks were identified.

It was noted that the national pay award for local government staff had been agreed and was effective from 1 April 2016.

(b) Donations

Cllrs Bettinson, Kennedy and Mellor declared a non-pecuniary interest in the donation to the Village Hall Committee.

It had been noted at the last meeting that a donation had been received from Mr D Brownrigg. In making the donation he had asked that £300 be used to support the Village Hall.

It was RESOLVED that a donation of £300 be made to the Village Hall Committee.

A request had been received from St Bees & District Garden Society for a donation towards the cost of the annual show.

It was RESOLVED that a donation of £150 be made to the Garden Society.

(c) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002206 Npower – electricity to beach toilets £88.67 + £4.43 VAT Total £93.10
- Chq 002207 Open Spaces Society –annual subscription Total £45.00
- Chq 002208 J Donaldson – reimbursement for postage £6.45 & grass seed £7.49 +£1.50 VAT Total £15.44
- Chq 002209 J Donaldson – salary (net) June 2016 incl backdated salary award £526.07
- Chq 002210 United Utilities Water – allotment water Total £27.40
- Chq 002211 United Utilities Water – water/wastewater to beach toilets Total £519.42
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service June £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

Payments since last meeting to report:

- Chq 002204 Glasdon UK Ltd – memorial seat £472.63 + £94.52 VAT Total £567.15
- Chq 002205 CBC –play area inspections Qtr1 £101.08 + £20.22 VAT Total £121.30
- Answer 4 You – answering service £9.76 + £1.95 VAT Total £11.71 (paid by direct debit on 17/06/16)

120/16 ST BEES SCHOOL

Cllr Kelly declared an interest in this item as Clerk to the Governors of St Bees School

Cllr Kelly reported that an educationalist had been appointed to the Board and a sub-group was now looking at possible options. The buildings and grounds were being maintained in reasonable order and the facilities were being let on a short term basis to help to meet the costs. Grindal House, part of Lonsdale Terrace, classrooms and sports facilities would be let to a large group of children from London for two weeks in August. It was also hoped to attract touring groups etc to use the facilities. The possibility of a nursery being opened in the Prep area was being explored.

The management of the swimming pool was being taken back in house and it was hoped to continue to make the pool available for use by the public and local schools.

An event to mark the centenary of the battle of the Somme would be taking place in the chapel on 1 July.

It was understood that work would start in the autumn to create the car parking area on Lonsdale Terrace as a preliminary to the sub-division of the terrace to individual properties.

121/16 PROJECT REPORTS**(a) Beach Regeneration**

The lengthsman had carried out an urgent repair at the play area. He had also put in the concrete footings for the memorial seat and it was expected that the seat would be installed in the next few days.

(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch

A rota had been drawn up for Speedwatch sessions over the summer months. It was agreed that the gun would be recalibrated in the autumn.

(c) Community Events

Cllr Robson outlined his ideas for an event when local organisations could promote their activities to local people. It was agreed that the event would be called ‘ St Bees – What goes on’ and it would take place on Sat 24 September 2 – 6pm in the Memorial Hall. Cllrs Robson and Kennedy would invite local groups to take part and the event would be publicised in the parish magazine and via posters and flyers.

(d) Tree Planting

Cllrs Bettinson and Kennedy had attended a Brunch event on 3 June organised to publicise Nu-Gen’s Green Grant programme.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Path

The grant acceptance forms had been signed by the Vice-Chairman and the contract to carry out the feasibility study had been agreed with Sustrans. An initial meeting had taken place with Sustrans and the study was now underway.

(f) Station car park extension

The Clerk was attempting to follow up the earlier correspondence with Network Rail about a possible easement but no reply had yet been received.

122/16 ALLOTMENTS

It was noted that the vacant plot was in very poor condition and was not fit to let in its current state, although there was a waiting list for plots. It was noted that some of the common areas were also untidy.

It was RESOLVED that a contractor be brought in to carry out remedial work and that existing tenants be offered the opportunity to have work carried out on their plots to help them return the plots to a well-maintained state.

123/16 NORTH COPELAND COASTAL COMMUNITIES TEAM

A meeting of the team had taken place on 12 June. CBC had agreed to submit a bid to the Coastal Communities Fund on behalf of the two coastal teams in Copeland and the St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track would be one of the projects to be included. It was agreed that two other projects which had been suggested at the public consultation – beach huts and retail booths – were not yet at a sufficiently advanced stage to be included.

124/16 WEST COPELAND PARTNERSHIP

The meeting which was to be held on 7 June had been postponed and would now take place on 30 June. Cllr Gilmour would represent the council.

125/16 CLERK’S REPORT

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

- Beach Rd footpath – the reinstatement of the grassed edges was in hand, using volunteers. A number of emails had been received from local residents expressing appreciation of the work.
- Accounts 2015/16 – the accounts and annual governance statement had been posted on the web-site as required by the new audit regulations. The date for public inspection of the accounts began on 6 June and would run to 15 July.
- CBC Litter bin policy – CBC had adopted a new policy on provision and replacement of litter bins. Existing bins which suffered vandalism on more than one occasion would not be replaced and any bins which were under-used might also be removed.
- Beach huts- The Joanna Scott Foundation runs a national competition for architecture students. CBC had suggested a design for a beach hut, one of the suggestions put forward during the coastal communities consultation. The idea had been chosen and a team from the Foundation would be coming to St Bees shortly to work on the brief for the competition.

126/16 PLANNING

(a) New planning applications

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

- Ref 4/16/2141/0F1 Rear dormer extension & conversion of attic space to 3rd bedroom
26 Main Street, St Bees

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

- Ref 4/16/2146/0F1 Erection of sheep/general purpose building
Moor Platt Farm, Egremont

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

- Ref 4/16/2167/0F1 Replacement dwelling type
4 Fleatham Gardens, High House Rd, St Bees

It was noted that it would have been preferable to have plans for the original design for comparison but no specific issues were noted with the revised plans.

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

- Ref 4/16/2180/0F1 Erection of garage with patio roof & garden store
4 Blythe Place, Sea Mill Lane, 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 4/16/2016/0F1 & 2017/0L1 Subdivision of terrace to provide separate dwellings –
Lonsdale Terrace, St Bees
- Ref 4/16/2084/0F1 Conversion of former barn/workshop to dwelling with rear extension –
Newtown Barn, Sandwith

127/16 CBC MATTERS

Cllr Hill's written report was received and noted. It was also noted that CBC had published a new leaflet on planning issues, aimed particularly at those who live in conservation areas. The leaflet was available through the CBC web-site.

128/16 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 eight incidents of anti-social behaviour. Police had been called to the beach area on the day of the school fete and had dispersed a group of youths and confiscated a substantial amount of alcohol.

129/16 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) An email had been received from a resident of Seascale, drawing attention to a lack of information in the Nu-Gen consultation document about the proposed Marine Offloading Facility. A copy had been circulated to councillors by email.
- (b) Information had been forwarded by CALC about a consultation by Highways England to inform their strategy for 2020-2025 Road Investment Period. The deadline for submissions was the end of June. Noted.
- (c) Correspondence had been received from Aqua Splash giving notice that they would not be offering public swimming at St Bees School pool in future because of contractual issues. Noted.
- (d) CCC had confirmed that the Scoping Opinion for the West Cumbria Mining project had been adopted. Noted.
- (e) Information had been received from CBC about a public consultation on Whitehaven's market. Noted.
- (f) Millom Without PC had forwarded notes of their meeting with Jamie Reed MP to discuss National Grid's plans for large pylons as part of the North West Coast Connection Project. Noted.
- (g) Notification had been received that United Utilities Water were forming a new company with Severn Trent Water specifically for business customers. There would be no change to charges or billing arrangements. Noted.
- (h) CCC was inviting comments on the Publication Version of the draft Cumbria Minerals & Waste Local Plan which had been prepared for submission to the Secretary of State. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Cumbria Wildlife Trust –eNewsletter June 2016
 CALC Circular June 2016
 Open Spaces Newsletter & Annual Report 2015
 Connecting Cumbria Newsletter
 North West Coastal Access Monthly Update June
 FLAG Newsletter April 2016

130/16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- (a) There would be an event to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July at 7.30pm in St Bees School Chapel.
- (b) It was noted that the Village School Family Day had been very successful and had raised more than £5000 before expenses. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the organisers congratulating them on the event.
- (c) It was noted that the Mayor and Chairman of the Lake District National Park would be attending the September meeting to discuss National Grid's plans for the North-West Connections Project.

131/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 18 JULY 2016 at 6.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....