

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 18 June 2018 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

In attendance: Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor Egremont North/St Bees

100/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs H Monaghan, T Kelly, D Sim and N Smart.

101/18 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on matters on the agenda.

102/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no issues raised.

103/18 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 2018

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the annual meeting on 21 May 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

104/18 CCC & HIGHWAYS ISSUES

(a) Highways Issues

Cllr Whiteside explained that a site meeting had taken place on 24 May with the Area Highways Manager to look at the issue of pedestrian safety on Abbey Road and traffic issues elsewhere in the village. The County Council understood the issues raised in respect of pedestrian safety on Abbey Road and also at the junction of Abbey Vale and the B5345. The Highways Manager would look into the possibility of creating a footpath from Abbey Rd as part of the new development taking place there and would also look at whether/when funding might be available for further traffic calming measures on the B5345 and an extension to the pavement on Outrigg.

At the site meeting Cllr Millington had also raised the question of the road markings on Outrigg. The Highways Manager had agreed that the markings were not as previously agreed and he would arrange for the necessary work to be done. Parking around the Outrigg entrance to the Village School continued to be a problem. Vehicles were parking on the land adjacent to the Pinfold causing a danger to children using the school entrance. It had been suggested that 'no parking' signs could be erected, although the ownership of the land remained uncertain. It was also reported that parked vehicles at the entrance to Outrigg Close had prevented the refuse lorry reaching properties.

Cllr Whiteside reported that some additional funding was being made available by central government for pot-hole repairs. Whilst the increase was welcome it was not sufficient to have a substantial impact.

Councillors again raised the issue of the poor state of the road surface at Abbey Corner. Cllr Whiteside agreed to take up the matter again with Highways officers.

(b) Grass Fire

The Chairman referred to the recent grass fire on Tomlin which had involved a number of fire appliances and an all-terrain vehicle which had been brought from Appleby. The fire had taken a considerable time to extinguish with flare-ups still occurring two days later. It would be difficult to imagine a more inaccessible location and with no easy access to water and the response from the emergency services had been excellent.

It was noted that the CCC Rights of Way Team had provided regular updates on the status of the public footpath and had confirmed that the path was now safe to reopen with barriers due to be removed the next morning.

It was RESOLVED to write to Cumbria Fire Service, RNLI and the local farmer who had assisted to thank them for their work in putting out the fire and preventing further damage.

105/18 ST BEES SCHOOL – TRUSTEE BOARD REPORT

In Cllr Kelly's absence it had been hoped that Mark George would attend on behalf of the Trustees but unfortunately he had been delayed. However, Cllr Kelly had provided a short report for the meeting.

The press release issued by the School had confirmed that Jeremy Hallows would be leaving to take up another post. Gareth Seddon was now Acting Headmaster and he would be assisted by Mike Abrahams who had experience in marketing and as a Headmaster in the independent sector. The drive to reopen the School in September was continuing as planned with the focus on recruiting pupils to Year 7. The School was liaising with parents who had already committed to places for September and was continuing its marketing activities. The relationship with Full Circle remained unchanged and the refurbishment of the school buildings was continuing as planned.

Councillors welcomed the news that the reopening of the School would go ahead in September. It was noted that rumours had been circulating in the village before the press release had been issued and it was regrettable that the School had not been able to respond more quickly to confirm the position.

106/18 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Monthly Financial Report

The summary of accounts at 31 May was received and noted. It was hoped to organise a meeting of the Finance & Risk Management Group shortly to review the income and expenditure figures at the end of quarter 1 and consider the recommendations of the internal audit report.

A letter had been received from St Bees & District Garden Society asking whether the Parish Council would again make a financial contribution to the costs of staging the Annual Show in August.

It was RESOLVED to donate a sum of £150 towards the costs of hiring the hall for the Annual Show.

(b) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq no 002414 Water Plus Ltd– water charges (beach toilets) Total £418.31
- Chq no 002415 Water Plus Ltd – water charges (allotments) Total 13.41
- Chq no 002416 Works 4 You Ltd – grasscutting £289.00 + £57.80 Vat Total £346.80
- Chq no 002417 CBC – play area inspections Qtr 1 £319.50 + £63.90 Total £383.40
- Chq no 002418 Egremont Town Council -contribution to lengthsman scheme £1241.00
- Chq no 002419 Open Spaces Society – annual subscription Total £45.00
- Chq no 002420 J Donaldson – postage £9.64 & printer ink £6.66 + £1.33 VAT Total £17.63
- Chq no 002421 J Donaldson – Clerk salary Total £648.46
- Chq no 002422 HMRC – PAYE Qtr 1 Total £269.39
- Chq no 002423 Viking – stationery £73.65 + £14.73 VAT Total £88.38
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service (June) £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700 (to be paid by Standing Order)

Payments to report since last meeting

- Chq no 002413 Zurich Municipal – insurance premium Total £1097.59
- Answer 4 U – answering service £8.80 + £1.76 VAT Total £10.56 (paid by direct debit on 18/6/18)

107/18 DATA PROTECTION

A draft Privacy Statement for publication on the web-site had been circulated, together with draft Notices which could be issued as necessary to members of the public, staff and role holders. A draft Data Protection Policy and Document Retention & Disposal Policy were being prepared.

It was RESOLVED to approve the Privacy Statement and Privacy Notices.

108/18 PROJECT REPORTS

(a)Beach Regeneration

Three estimates had been received for external repainting of the beach toilets. It was agreed to consider prices for painting the inside of the toilets at a later date as this would need to be done out of season when the beach was less busy.

It was RESOLVED to accept the estimate from James Skelton, subject to confirmation that public liability insurance was in place.

It was noted that a few reports were still outstanding from volunteers on the play area inspection rota. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a reminder to volunteers at the start of the week their inspection was due.

Cllr Robson had repainted the anchor and the new photographs were now on display on the back wall of the shelter. It was noted that the roof of the shelter was in need of repair and the walls would need repainting next year. As the shelter was owned by CBC, the Clerk would discuss the work required with CBC officers.

(b)Traffic Calming/Speedwatch.

Speedwatch sessions were continuing on a regular basis and the police had confirmed the officer to whom the reports should be sent. Councillors expressed thanks to the team of volunteers who carried out the speed checks.

(c)Community Events

Planning was continuing for events to mark the centenary of the ending of WW1. The project group had met on 6 June and would be meeting again in September to finalise plans. The School Chapel would not be available during the school week but could be used on the Sunday.

The exhibition of old maps at the ‘Meet the Parish Council’ event last autumn had been very successful and it was suggested that a similar event could be held this autumn featuring an exhibition of various objects with historical significance for the village. Councillors welcomed the idea and a date in early October was suggested.

(d) Tree Planting

Preliminary discussions were taking place with St Bees School about the possibility of planting trees to mark the reopening of the School.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track

It was noted that it had been decided not to proceed with an expression of interest in the DEFRA funding programme to boost rural tourism, as the cycle track project was not sufficiently advanced to provide the level of detail required for an application and it was very unlikely that the project could be completed within the required timescales.

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An email had been sent to CCC Planning Officer as agreed at the last meeting to stress that any plans for diversion of the footpath should not compromise the plan for the cycle track.

(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project

Work was continuing to eradicate invasive species from the pond area.

(g) Public Access Defibrillators

There was no further progress to report at this stage.

(h) Station Car Park Extension

The Clerk had responded to the email from Network Rail but no reply had yet been received.

109/18 ALLOTMENTS

A visit had taken place to the allotments to assess the state of the plots. There were two plots which showed little or no sign of cultivation this season and letters had now been sent to both tenants. The plot which had been re-let from January was very overgrown and it was proposed that the parish council should offer to have the plot strimmed and sprayed to help the new tenant to bring the plot into reasonable condition. Many of the paths around and between the plots were very untidy and overgrown and it was proposed that the parish council should take responsibility for clearing the paths and maintaining them in reasonable condition to ensure that the field remained in a tidy state.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk investigate the costs of the work with Works 4 You Ltd and contact the new tenant to see if he wished to take up the offer of help.

110/18 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May were received and noted.

111/18 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There had been no meetings attended since the May meeting.

112/18 PLANNING

(a) New Planning Applications

The Planning Advisory Group reported on the following applications which had been received for consideration since the last meeting:

- Ref 4/18/2215/TPO Clean prune & reduce by 2m two cherry trees within the conservation area – The Vicarage, St Bees Priory
It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.
- Ref 4/18/2204/0F1 Change of use from B&B to one private dwelling, Ellerbeck Manor, Egremont
It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.
- Ref 4/18/2237/0F1 Change of use from guest house to residential Ghyll Farmhouse, Egremont
It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.

(b) Applications approved:

There had been no decisions on applications affecting the parish since the last meeting.

(c) Other Planning Matters

A letter had been sent to the Chairman of the Planning Panel expressing concern that allowing construction work to continue at 4 Blythe Place without a decision on the application undermined the credibility of the planning process. No reply had yet been received.

113/18 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received and noted. The Clerk had contacted CBC about the problem of refuse lorries not being able to reach properties in Outrigg Close because of parked vehicles. CBC had agreed to look at whether it was possible to change the times of collections to avoid the start and end of the school day when the traffic congestion was at its worst.

It was noted that the lengthsman scheme would end in March 2019 and parishes would need to consider over the next few months whether to support a continuation of the scheme. It was generally agreed that the scheme had been of benefit and in principle the council would support a continuation. The lengthsman scheme had been set up under the auspices of the West Copeland Partnership but it was noted that the Partnership had not met for some time, although it had been a useful arena for discussions with neighbouring parishes on strategic issues.

It was RESOLVED to write to Cllr McVeigh, the Chairman of the Partnership, to ask whether there were any plans for a Partnership meeting.

114/18 CBC ISSUES

At the last meeting a member of the public had reported that his brown bin had not been emptied as scheduled. On investigation it appeared that this was an isolated incident as other properties in the estate had not been affected.

Cllr Hill had provided a number of updates on CBC activities which had been circulated to councillors by email.

115/18 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

No report had been received.

116/18 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Details had been received of ACT's 70th birthday ceilidh to be held in Newbiggin Village Hall on 8 September. Noted.

(b) Details had been received of a course organised by ACT/CVS on supporting vulnerable people during emergencies. Noted.

(c) Details had been received from CCC of the charges for electricity to the beach toilets for the period 1/4/18 to 31/3/2019 under the contract with Npower. Noted.

(d) Correspondence had been received from a local resident about grasscutting and other maintenance issues on the Beach Rd-Abbotts Way footpath. The Clerk would discuss the grasscutting matter with the Manager of Works 4 You Ltd, the Parish Council's contractor, and suggest that other issues need to be taken up with CCC.

(e) Details had been received of the NALC Annual Conference to take place in Milton Keynes on 30/31 October. Noted.

(f) An invitation had been received for councillors to attend a wildflower identification event on 21 June organised by the National Trust and Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre. The Clerk would forward details to those interested.

(g) A letter had been received from Friends of the Lake District encouraging parish councils to respond to the LDNP's consultation on its Local Plan review. Noted

(h) An invitation had been received to the AGM of the Open Spaces Society to take place in London on 5 July. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Copeland Matters – June
NW Coastal Access Update May 2018
CALC Newsletter June 2018
NALC Newsletter
Trudy Harrison MP April/May Newsletter

117/18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Several local artists were opening their premises as part of an Arts Trail organised by Eden Valley Artistic Network. The event runs until 24 June and details had been posted on the noticeboards.

118/18 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 16 JULY 2018 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....