

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 18 March 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllr G Gilmour (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, C Hale, T Kelly, F Kennedy, J Lockie, J Mellor, H Monaghan & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr C Whiteside (County Councillor for Egremont North/St Bees)

42/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs D Sim, D Millington, C Robson & J Haile.

43/19 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Lockie declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 13(a) Planning Applications as the owner of a property adjacent to 116A Main Street.

44/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No issues were raised.

45/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 FEBRUARY 2019

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 18 February be approved and signed by the Chairman.

46/19 ST BEES SCHOOL – TRUSTEE BOARD REPORT

Cllr Kelly declared an interest as a Trustee of St Bees School.

Cllr Kelly reported that Roger Sinnett would be taking over as Headteacher of the school with Gareth Seddon continuing to oversee academic matters. Mr Sinnett was an experienced educationalist with experience in both British and international schools. He had been a key part of the Full Circle team which had worked with the Trustees to reopen the school.

In answer to questions Cllr Kelly stated that recruitment of pupils was continuing and he believed that the necessary permissions had been obtained to allow foreign students to study at St Bees. However, he reminded councillors that Full Circle was responsible for operational matters at the school and the role of the Trustees was to manage the assets and make a financial contribution to the school. Cllr Kelly reported that there had been some interest from prospective buyers since Grindal House was put on the market. He explained that the decision to sell the property was taken because the costs of bringing it up to the standard required to house boarders would have been uneconomic. The Trustees also owned a few small pockets of land which might also be sold as extensions to domestic gardens etc.

It was RESOLVED to invite Mr Sinnett to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 May.

47/19 CCC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Whiteside reported on a number of highways issues.

The consultation on a possible Whitehaven relief road had attracted over 800 responses. It was hoped that the scheme would be included in the road improvement programme with a possible completion date of 2027. At this stage it seemed that any relief road would stretch from Howgate to Westlakes but arguments had been put forward for extending it as far as Egremont.

Highways England had produced some provisional plans for improvements at the Linethwaite and Scalegill Rd junctions on the A595. The proposal was to widen the road and create a turning lane at both junctions to improve safety for turning vehicles. The next stage was detailed design and the plans would be the subject of consultation next year with a likely implementation date of 2021. The effect which the changes might have on traffic flows through villages would be a matter which could be considered during the consultation.

The Local Area Committee would be considering its programme for highways improvement schemes at its next meeting. Cllr Whiteside would press for the schemes for enhanced gateway features and possible extension of the pavement on Outrigg to be included.

Councillors commented that the resurfacing of the B5345 around Abbey Corner had been completed in a very efficient and timely manner. Cllr Whiteside agreed to pass on the Council's thanks to the highways staff involved.

Cllr Whiteside agreed to check the position with the extension of yellow lines around the Seacroft and Fleatham Croft junctions which had been the subject of consultation some time ago.

Cllr Whiteside reported that the planning application by West Cumbria Mining was due to be considered by CCC on 19 March. The officers' recommendation was that the application should be approved subject to a number of conditions and a Sec 106 agreement. Cllr Whiteside intended to speak in support of the application which he agreed would bring significant economic advantages to the local and national economy. He believed that the railway sidings would change the appearance of the valley but in his view the environmental impact was outweighed by the economic advantages for the area. Parish councillors expressed the view that West Cumbria was historically a mining area and they believed that WCM had done everything possible to work with the local community to mitigate the impact of the mine and railway sidings.

It was noted that the public hearing into the objection to the plan to divert the public footpath over the new bridge at Sea Mill would take place on 29 October at the Seacote Hotel.

48/19 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Finance Report

The summary of accounts at 28 February was received together with the notes of the FRAG meeting held on 6 March. Cllr Kelly explained that expenditure was likely to be below budget at the end of the financial year, mainly due to several projects not proceeding within the timescale anticipated for reasons outside the council's control. FRAG was recommending that the Projects budget be reviewed early in the new financial year to take account of up to date information. It was suggested that there were other projects which could be included next year if funds were available such as improvements to the Outrigger play area. Cllrs Monaghan and Kelly agreed to provide further information on what equipment and work would be needed.

The risk register had been reviewed by FRAG which was recommending a lowering of the risk rating in certain areas.

It was RESOLVED to accept the recommendations of the Finance & Risk Advisory Group.

A quotation had been received from CBC for monthly inspections of the play areas in 2019/20.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation in the sum of £1316.34 + VAT.

(b) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002510 CBC – annual contribution to Rottington street lights £252.00 + £50.40 VAT Total £302.40
- Chq 002511 P Argyle – reimbursement for paint £20.50.00 + £4.10 VAT Total £24.60
- Chq 002512 J Donaldson -reimbursement for printer ink charge £6.66 + £1.33 Total £7.99
- Chq 002513 J Donaldson– March salary Total £648.26
- Chq 002514 HMRC – PAYE Qtr 4 Total £269.60
- Chq 002515 Npower Ltd – electricity to beach toilets £39.66 + £1.98 VAT Total £41.64
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service March £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00
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Payments since last meeting to report

- Chq 002503 St Bees Village School – donation to Lego competition Total £250.00
- Chq 002504 Prodata Associates – sensor for weather station £50.00 + £8.75 VAT Total £58.75
- Chq 002505 Bleasdale & Co – work on Village Hall leases (advance payment) Total £620.00
- Chq 002506 R Mayow – hosting of defibrillator Total £100.00

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- Chq 002507 CBC – repairs to safety surface Outrigg play area £183.18 + £36.64 VAT Total £219.82
- Chq 002508 CBC – repairs at beach play area £1169.26 + £233.85 VAT Total £1403.11
- Chq 002509 CBC -repairs to Outrigg play area £177.09 +£35.42 VAT Total £212.51
- Answer 4 You – answering service £8.80 + £1.76 VAT Total £10.56 (paid by DD on 18 March)

49/19 DOG FOULING

It was reported that the situation seemed to have improved since the matter was discussed at a previous meeting, although it was noted that there were still problems with dog fouling on the Dandy Walk footpath. More poop scoop bags had been ordered and were available from the beach shop and Post Office. There had been further reports of vans using the Sea Mill car park and a large number of dogs being allowed to run free and foul the beach and adjoining land. The matter had been reported to the Enforcement Team at CBC.

It was RESOLVED to purchase appropriate signs for the gates on the Dandy Walk.

50/19 PROJECT REPORTS

(a)Beach Regeneration

The repainting of the interior of the toilets had begun. The metal gates would also be repainted as well as the external doors. It was noted that some work would also be required to the disabled toilet.

Cllr Hill had noted that some of the paving around the toilets and beach shelter was cracked and uneven. He was contacting the appropriate officers at CBC to request that repairs be carried out.

One of the zip wires was currently not working. CBC had been asked to ensure that it was taken out of service and to provide a quote for its repair.

It was reported that the groyne were continuing to deteriorate. The Clerk would contact the appropriate officer at CBC.

(b)Traffic Calming/Speedwatch

Cllr Mellor reported that two Speedwatch sessions had taken place and the new volunteer would shortly be undertaking his first session.

(c)Community Events

There were no events planned in the next few months. However, it was noted that this year would mark the 900th anniversary of the Priory. Cllr Kelly would forward information on the ideas being considered to mark the event, some of which might be of interest to the parish council.

(d) Tree Planting

The last stage of the planting for this year would be taking place in the next few days.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track

There was no further progress to report since the last meeting.

(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project

Cllr Bettinson was working with reception class children at the Village School who were visiting to see the tadpoles in the pond.

(g) Public Access Defibrillators

The third defibrillator had been installed in the telephone kiosk and a publicity event had been held attended by representatives of North West Ambulance Service. It was noted that this defibrillator did not require an access code. Training courses were being organised which would be free and open to any member of the public. There would be a maximum of 12-14 attendees at each event and places would need to be booked in advance. The first training event was due to take place on Monday 29 April in New College Hall.

(h) Station Car Park Extension

There had been no further progress.

51/19 VILLAGE IN BLOOM

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Village in Bloom Committee on 18 February were received and noted. The VIB volunteers had now drawn up a list of their requirements for a new base. Preliminary enquiries had been made of the Scout Committee about the site of the former scout hut. It was suggested that a location by the Village School might be possibility with the school children helping with the gardening activities. Cllr Kennedy agreed to discuss this with the Village School. Other possible sites in the centre of the village were discussed and Cllr Kelly agreed to investigate and report back.

52/19 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Clerk had attended a meeting of parishes involved in the Lengthsman Scheme to discuss the future of the scheme beyond 31 March. All parishes had indicated that they wished to continue for at least a two year period. West Copeland Partnership had already indicated its support and was able to fund a contribution for two years. Further funding would need to be found to continue beyond that period. The estimated cost to St Bees PC for 2019/20 was £1315.46.

53/19 PLANNING**(a) New Planning Applications**

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

- Ref 4/19/2054/0F1 Single storey rear extension with balcony above Ocean Croft, Sea Mill Lane, St Bees

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

- Ref 4/19/2082/0F1 Demolish existing semi-detached barn and build two bedroom dwelling with garage
116A Main Street, St Bees

It was noted that the existing building was in poor condition and there was no objection in principle to the demolition of the building and the building of a new dwelling. However, the position of the building on Main Street opposite the entrance to the Village School would make it difficult to carry out the work without causing enormous disruption to pedestrian and vehicular traffic. There was also no clear indication of where bins would be stored as the adjoining lane was in private ownership so there was no right of access to the yard at the rear.

(b) Applications approved by CBC

The following application had been approved by CBC:-

- Ref 4/19/2004/0F1 New garage & driveway, alterations to front & side elevations
Seefeld, Sea Mill Lane, St Bees

54/19 CLERK'S REPORT

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

CCC had confirmed that the small wooden footbridge on the footpath from Blythe Place to Sea Mill would be replaced early in the next financial year.

55/19 CBC ISSUES

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

56/19 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

No report had been received.

57/19 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) The North-West Coastal Forum was working with the Marine Management Organisation to increase the input from local communities into the shaping of the NW Marine Plan. The on-line consultation would run to 29 March. Noted.

(b) Details had been received of the Tour of Cumbria cycle event due to take place on 27 July. Details would be circulated to councillors.

(c) The latest Stakeholder Update had been received from Northern Gas Networks. Noted.

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(d)Correspondence had been received from a member of the Old St Beghians asking whether the PC would be prepared to lead a guided tour of the village for those attending Old St Beghians Day on 28 September. It was agreed to provide a guide for any Old St Beghians who wished to take part in a walk around the village.

(e)The Friends of the Lake District had provided information on the Great Cumbrian Litter Pick to take place over the weekend of 26/27 April. Noted.

(f)Highways England had provided an update on proposals to improve the A66 between Penrith and Scotch Corner. Noted.

(g)Mayfield School was consulting on proposals to create an additional 30 places at the school, bringing the total number to 160. The consultation would run until 15 April. Noted.

(h)Correspondence had been received from a resident of Main Street about inconsiderate parking outside his property preventing him getting in/out of his front gate. It was agreed that inconsiderate parking was a problem in several areas of the village. It was agreed to put an item in the parish magazine asking drivers not to park in such a way as to obstruct gates/driveways and junctions.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- NW Coastal Access Update February
- Copeland Matters March
- ACT Gazette Spring 2019
- Full Circle Newsletters
- Open Space Spring 2019
- CALC Newsletter March
- Update on health service developments in North Cumbria

58/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

(a)Nominations for the Mayoral, Borough and Parish elections would open on 25 March and close at 4pm on 3 April.

(b)The next meeting of the Arts Society would take place on 20 March in the Business Management Centre when there would be a talk by Christopher Donaldson on Furness Abbey.

59/19 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 15 APRIL 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....