

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 16 November 2015 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

In attendance: Cllr H Wormstrup, County Councillor Egremont North/St Bees
Mr S Kelso, Director, St Bees School

192/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Davies.

193/15 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

194/15 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2015

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 19 October 2015 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

195/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no issues raised.

196/15 CCC ISSUES

Cllr Wormstrup reported that Sellafield Ltd had withdrawn the Transport & Movement Plan as a supporting document to the planning application for the Shielded Box Store. A letter from George Beveridge, Deputy Managing Director of Sellafield Ltd, explained that the application would not result in increased numbers of employees and the Plan was therefore not relevant to the application. However, the letter also stated that Sellafield Ltd now intended to produce a co-ordinated and overarching transport plan based on a review of all activities within their Life Time Plan for the site. Cllr Wormstrup reported that Nu-Gen was holding a further meeting on 17 November to discuss their plans for the Whitehaven/Mirehouse area. The Chairman pointed out that St Bees Parish Council had received invitations to events in Egremont but had not been invited to the South Whitehaven meetings.

It was RESOLVED to write to Nu-Gen to ask whether it would be appropriate for a PC representative to attend future S Whitehaven meetings as the parish boundary bordered the Mirehouse area.

It was noted that there had been an article in the local press about the delegation of funds from central government to Cumbria. Cllr Wormstrup indicated that there had not yet been final agreement on this. Councillors noted that the arrangements seemed to involve an added layer of bureaucracy and the sums mentioned would not be sufficient for major infrastructure improvements.

It was noted that there had been some flooding in the Rottington area in recent days as a result of drainage problems but there had been no flooding in St Bees itself.

Cllr Wormstrup then left the meeting.

197/15 CBC ISSUES

Cllr Hill had followed up the possible disposal of land near the beach car park. CBC staff were still discussing with planners possible uses of surplus land across the borough and no decisions would be made until this review was complete.

198/15 ST BEES SCHOOL

The Chairman invited Mr Kelso to give a report on current developments.

Mr Kelso provided councillors with a copy of the Board's vision, mission statement, and objectives which would shortly be made public. The Board was focussing on finding a model for a school which would be sustainable and would offer the all-round education for which the former school had been

renowned. The Board would work with all interested parties including the Old St Beghians, members of the rescue groups and local community to achieve this. Mr Kelso stressed that the opening of a new school remained the favoured option and no other options would be considered at this stage. School facilities were available for letting but this would only be done on short term licences to ensure it did not compromise future plans.

The Board had identified some skills gaps among its members and they would shortly be advertising for those with the requisite skills to express an interest in joining the Board. They hoped that all the required skills could be found locally.

Councillors welcomed the Board's statement of aims and objectives and it was agreed that the document would be publicised via the parish web-site and Facebook page.

Councillors emphasised the importance of maintaining communication with the local community, as the poor communication at the time of the announcement of the school closure had resulted in mistrust and suspicion. It was suggested that the Board might consider holding a public meeting. Mr Kelso acknowledged that the Board needed to rebuild trust with stakeholders and he hoped that this would be achieved by concentrating on the way ahead for re-establishing a school on the site. He accepted the need for openness and transparency and agreed that an open meeting might be appropriate once the new Board members were in place.

Mr Kelso then left the meeting.

199/15 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Financial Report

A summary of income and expenditure at 31 October was received and noted. It was reported that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, had authorised emergency repairs to the toilet block after guttering came down in heavy rain.

(b) Budget 2016/17

FRAG was now working on the draft budget with a view to presenting a budget for discussion and approval at the next meeting. Feasibility studies for the extension of Station car park and the cycle track had been suggested for inclusion in the budget. It was also suggested that the neighbourhood plan project should be considered for inclusion.

(c) Donations

It was RESOLVED that the following donations be made:

- St Bees Village Hall Committee £550.00
- St Bees PCC (contribution to publication costs of the parish magazine) £675.00
- Royal British Legion £125.00
- Friends of St Bees Priory £50.00
- Furness Line Action Group £25.00

(d) Review of Financial Regulations

Draft amendments to the financial regulations had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the amendments be approved.

(e) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq no 002135 CBC – NNDR Beach toilets 2015/16 9th instalment £153.00
- Chq no 002136 CBC – NNDR Station car park 2015/16 9th instalment £77.00
- Chq no 002137 C S Lewis – donation to RNLI Christmas carol concert Total £100.00
- Chq no 002138 G Hayes– grasscutting 2015 Total £2650.00
- Chq no 002139 Thomas Milburn Property Ltd –repairs to beach toilet building £134.51 +£26.90 VAT Total £161.41
- Chq no 002140 J Donaldson – reimbursement for postage £10.26
- Chq no 002141 J Donaldson – salary (net) Nov 2015 - £614.55

- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service Nov £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

Payments since last meeting to report

- Chq no 002132 – XL Displays – banners for cycle track consultation £204.50 +£40.90 VAT Total £245.40
- Chq no 002133 Petty cash top-up Total £134.33
- Chq no 002134 XL Displays –banners for Coastal Communities consultation £307.00 + £61.40 VAT Total £368.40 (to be reimbursed from Coastal Communities budget held by CBC)
- Answer 4 You – answering service £8.88 + £1.78 VAT Total £10.66 (paid by direct debit on 17/11/15)

200/15 PRESENTATION OF BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL

It was noted that the time of the presentation on 30 November had been changed to 6.30pm at the request of the Lord Lieutenant. Detailed arrangements were discussed and it was noted that posters were on the noticeboards inviting local residents to contact the Clerk if you wished to attend. It was RESOLVED that a budget of £250 be approved for the event, to be met from the Community Events budget.

201/15 COASTAL COMMUNITIES PROJECT

Cllr Strong reported that consultation events were taking place across the area and in St Bees this would be combined with consultation on the St Bees-Whitehaven cycle track. A drop in session would take place on 19 November at Old College Hall with leaflets/suggestion forms available through the Village School, parish web-site and Facebook. All ideas for projects which could be considered for inclusion in the economic plan would be welcome.

202/15 PROPOSED MINING PROJECT

It was noted that a number of councillors had attended the event organised by West Cumbria Mining over the weekend of 6/7 November. Two options were being considered- one for a mine head located near Bell House, the other using the former anhydrite mine. It was also noted that the necessary planning application was likely to be delayed until the autumn of 2016.

203/15 PROJECT REPORTS

(a)Beach Regeneration

CBC officers were awaiting a decision from the Planning Dept on whether planning consent would be necessary for the creation of additional seating.

The Village School had agreed that the children could paint panels for the back of the beach shelter.

(b)Traffic Calming/Speedwatch

Four further Speedwatch sessions had taken place with more planned in the coming weeks. A number of cars had been recorded breaking the speed limit and had been reported to the police

A meeting of the Traffic Calming Committee would take place on 24 November at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. All councillors and members of the public would be welcome.

The problems associated with Sellafeld traffic would also be discussed at the 3 Tier Meeting later this month.

(c)Community Events

It was hoped that the village Christmas tree would arrive in time to be put up over the weekend of 28/29 November. Arrangements were in hand for the Santa parade on 1 December.

(d)Tree Planting

The parish council had been invited to submit full applications for both projects submitted to the Nu-Gen Green Grants programme – one major project at Priory Paddock and a second smaller scheme to plant trees around the Adams Recreation Ground.

(e) Outrigger Play Area

The equipment repairs had been completed but the invoice had not yet been received. The quotation for the wet pour had been accepted and CBC was making the necessary arrangements with the contractor.

(f) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Path

The new display materials had been used at the West Cumbria Mining event. Whitehaven Town Council had nominated three of their councillors to join the project team and it was hoped to have a meeting of the enlarged team in the near future. Sustrans had been asked to give a price for updating the initial feasibility study.

Public consultation on the project would take place at the Coastal Communities drop-in event on 19 November.

204/15 NUCLEAR ISSUES**(a) Moorside Project**

Cllr Gilmour reported on the meeting with Nu-Gen on 10 November. The suggestion was that Egremont would be a transport hub. The emphasis was on the use of rail transport where possible but this could potentially create parking issues in towns and villages on the railway line. There was no clear information yet on short term and long term accommodation requirements. With other large developments taking place in the area it would be important that there was a clear plan for co-ordination.

(b) Draft National Geological Screening Guidance

Cllr Smart reported on the meeting in Carlisle to discuss the draft National Geological Screening guidance. It was proposed that the National Geological Survey (an independent body) should undertake a UK wide survey (excluding Scotland) to determine areas which might be suitable for a geological disposal facility for highly active nuclear waste. Differing levels of data were available for different areas but the study would be based on science and not political considerations.

A draft response to the consultation had been prepared.

It was RESOLVED to approve the response and to provide a copy to CALC.

205/15 BEACH RD FOOTPATH

CCC had confirmed that they had received two quotations for the work but it appeared that work was not likely to take place until the spring. The Clerk was seeking further information from CCC officers in order to keep Copeland Community Fund informed of progress.

206/15 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received. The following points were noted:

- Street lighting – the three lights on Coach Rd (Station Rd) were still not working. They had been reported again and an explanation had been requested from Highways.
- Lengthsman scheme – A Christmas wreath-making course would take place on 7 December (10am to 1pm) in the Village Hall. Places were limited and priority would be given to those who had not attended other courses. A poster advertising the event was on the noticeboards.
- Daffodils – The daffodil bulbs ordered via CBC had arrived. It was hoped that the Village School and local volunteers would help with planting. .
- Change of email address- the email address for the Clerk had been changed to pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk. The old address (pc_clerk) would continue to work.
- Allotments – There would be a small plot available from January. An advert will be placed on the noticeboards.

207/15 PLANNING**(a) New planning applications**

There had been no new planning applications since the last meeting.

(b) Applications approved/refused/withdrawn

No recent decision had been published on the CBC web-site.

(c) Planning Seminar

Members of the Planning Advisory Group reported on the seminar on 12 November led by senior planners from CBC and the Lake District National Park. The event had been interesting and informative. The advantages of having an approved Neighbourhood Plan were clear as the plan would carry considerable weight when decisions were being made about developments within the parish.

208/15 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

The report from PCSO Kane was received and noted. There had been one incident of anti-social behaviour involving youngsters but this had been quickly dealt with. Police had responded to a burglar alarm which seemed to have been a false alarm and had also responded with other emergency services to a report of a casualty falling from the cliff.

209/15 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Correspondence had been received from CALC about proposed cuts to Cumbria Police budget including a copy of a letter which Windermere Town Council had sent to the Minister. Noted.

(b) Details had been received of CCC budget consultation (circulated to councillors by email). Noted.

(c) A Letter had been received from members of the Fire Brigade Union at Frizington Fire Station urging the council to oppose the closure of the station which was proposed as part of CCC budget consultation. Noted.

(d) The results of the Walney Extension Community Fund on-line survey had been published. Further consultation would take place before the end of December to share views on how the fund should be used and who should benefit. Noted.

(e) A consultation had been launched on maternity services in West, East and North Cumbria. Views were being sought from those with experience of the service in the last five years and the consultation would run throughout November. The Clerk had sent a copy of the information to the Mother & Toddler Group.

(f) A consultation had taken place on the Cumbria Health & Wellbeing Strategy. Details had been circulated by email as the deadline was 13 November. Noted.

(g) Details had been received of the new telephone number for CBC – 01946 598300 (standard local rate). Noted.

(h) Details had been received of new ACAS Grievance Procedure guidance. Noted

(i) The timetable for the no 6 bus service operated by Reays would be amended from 4 Jan. The Clerk would post a copy on the noticeboard.

(j) Details had been received of the National Plant Monitoring Scheme for which volunteers were being sought. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

CALC Newsletter – November 2015

ACT Gazette Winter 2015

CALC Annual Report

210/15 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

(a) The Annual Arts & Crafts exhibition would be taking place over the weekend of 28/29 November at New College Hall. It was hoped that as many people as possible would attend.

(b) Bob Jopling would be giving the second of his talks entitled 'The War and Before' on 17 November in the Whitelaw Building.

(c) The History Group had invited Mark Kirkbride from West Cumbria Mining to give a talk on the history of coal. This was likely to be in February and more details would be available nearer the time.

(d) There would be a coffee morning in support of the NSPCC on Wed 18 November in the Village Hall.

211/15 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on Monday 21 DECEMBER 2015 at 6.30pm

Signed.....

Date.....