

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 20 November 2017 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

In attendance: Mr A Horn, Shepley Engineers Ltd
Mr C Hoban, Strategic Planning Manager CBC
Cllr I Hill, CBC Ward Councillor
Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor for Egremont North/St Bees

Also present: 6 members of the public

164/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr H Monaghan.

165/17 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Kelly declared his interest as a newly appointed Trustee of St Bees School. Cllr Kennedy declared an interest in agenda item 11(c) Community Events as producer of the Village Pantomime.

166/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public indicated that they were interested in the discussions to take place on traffic issues and planning policy. One member of the public also wished to speak about a possible extension of the pavement on Outrigg. It was agreed to deal with this as part of the discussion of CCC matters.

167/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2017

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 16 October be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman subject to the addition of the following sentence to min 153/17(c): 'It was apparent from comments at the Open Evening that many residents did not know who their Parish Councillors were and it was therefore agreed to produce posters/flyers with photographs and contact details for councillors.'

168/17 TRAFFIC ISSUES

The Chairman welcomed Andy Horn, Transport Manager for Shepley Engineers Ltd who had offered to speak to councillors following concerns about the number of Shepley vans which travelled through the village.

Mr Horn explained that there was a national industry agreement which entitled all employees to use company vehicles for home to work travel. All the company's vans carried trackers so journeys could be monitored. Of the 10 or 11 vehicles using the B5345 most were picking up/dropping off in the village. The company recognised concerns of residents and was keen to work with parishes to reduce the impact. Larger vehicles capable of carrying more passengers were being introduced but not all employees held the appropriate licence to drive these. Mr Horn explained that recent changes to contracts at Sellafield would mean fewer Shepley vehicles would be coming through St Bees but there was likely to be an increase in other contractors' vehicles.

In response to questions about journey times Mr Horn agreed to investigate the difference in journey times for vehicles using the A595 and those using the B5345. It was noted that the Speedwatch team had seen a reduction in the number of vans travelling through the village and had not found any instances of speeding by Shepley drivers.

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It was suggested that the use of roads through villages might be an appropriate topic for the Contractors' Safety Group and that there could be some recognition for companies who adopted good practice in this respect. Mr Horn agreed to raise the issue at a meeting of the Group and the Chairman offered to speak to the Group about the traffic issues in local villages.

169/17 CCC & HIGHWAYS ISSUES

(a) A595 Issues

Cllr Whiteside reported that CCC had agreed to lobby for improvements to the road and rail network. Highways England would be in Copeland later in the week to discuss various improvement schemes. Consultation on the Whitehaven Major Traffic Scheme was expected to take place next year.

(b) Local Highways Issues

Cllr Whiteside reported that he had passed on to Kevin Cosgrove concerns about the poor condition of the road at Abbey Corner. Cllr Whiteside asked that any problems with gulleys be passed on to him so they could be resolved before the worst of the winter weather.

It was noted that some further work had been done to repair the pavement by Abbey House but this had not resolved the underlying problem of the collapsed man-hole. Cllr Whiteside said the Highways were aware of the issues.

It was reported that the footway lights on Station Rd were not working and a resident had raised an issue about a missing street light close to the Adams Recreation Ground. The Clerk would follow up these issues with CCC.

Cllr Whiteside also explained that CCC was beginning a further consultation with local residents and businesses in Beckermet about the proposal for a one-way scheme and details. It was noted that neighbouring parish councils were not being formally consulted but details of the consultation would be available on the CCC web-site.

(c) School bus issues

CCC officers had spoken to Stagecoach about the problems caused by the school bus blocking the exit from Fairladies. At the moment the bus was only waiting for a short time to allow the children to board and this was not causing undue inconvenience. However, if the problems recurred, Highways would be asked to look at the possibility of changing the layout of the turning circle.

(d) Outrigg pavement

A member of the public asked whether any progress had been made with requests from the local community for an extension of the pavement on Outrigg. The number of children living higher up the hill was increasing and they were forced to walk on the road to get to school and the centre of the village. Cllr Whiteside explained that he had asked Highways staff to consider including an extension of the pavement in the programme of works and he would report back in due course on whether the scheme would be included.

(e) Footpath along the golf course

Cllr Hill raised concerns about further erosion of the path alongside the golf course. It was noted that this was not a public right of way but a permissive path. Discussions had taken place between St Bees School and Natural England about the route of the coastal access path and it was thought that a safe route could be found without the need to divert the path further inland.

170/17 LOCAL PLAN - ISSUES & OPTIONS CONSULTATION

The Chairman welcomed Chris Hoban, CBC Strategic Planning Manager, and thanked him for coming to explain the background to the current consultation.

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Mr Hoban explained that CBC had been close to completing its site allocations plan but the background had changed with new government policies to increase housing supply and local changes such as delays in Nu-Gen's plans. Previously sites had been allocated for development but in many cases development had not taken place and CBC could no longer demonstrate a five year supply of deliverable housing sites. It was government policy that plans should be reviewed every 5 years and this had prompted the current review of the approved Local Plan. The aim of the review was to set baseline targets which would be deliverable and could potentially be exceeded. The consultation proposed various options including a possible move away from tightly defined settlement boundaries but there could be different approaches for larger settlements and smaller villages. For the moment, work on the site allocations plan had been paused and all areas were being considered, not simply those previously put forward. Once the responses to the consultation had been considered a revised plan with preferred options would be published.

In answer to questions Mr Hoban agreed that meeting the targets was dependant on developers taking up the site allocations but CBC was in discussion with companies who had shown interest in building in this area. It was pointed out that there was scope to bring existing properties into use as well as building new homes. Councillors asked whether the plan would specify the types of housing to be provided. Mr Hoban replied that at this stage the focus was on total numbers but it was hoped to work towards targets for particular types of housing. Councillors asked whether consideration was given to the adequacy of the infrastructure to cope with additional development. Mr Hoban stated that statutory undertakings were always consulted on such matters. Cllr Whiteside agreed that the infrastructure in the west of the county was already under pressure but pointed out that development could also bring positive benefits in terms of planning gain.

Mr Hoban explained that the Local Conservation Design Guide would shortly be put to full council for approval to guide development and renovation of properties in conservation areas. In conclusion Mr Hoban offered an extension of the deadline for response to the consultation to enable the Parish Council to submit its formal response. It was agreed that the formal response would be submitted within two weeks.

Mr Hoban and Cllr Whiteside then left the meeting.

171/17 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Financial Report

The summary of accounts at 31 October was received and noted. The Finance & Risk Management Group would be meeting shortly to prepare a draft budget for 2018/19. It was noted that the water charges for the beach toilets for the period June to September was higher than expected. Investigations had shown that this was due to someone having altered the valve which controlled the water flow to the urinals. The problem had been corrected and recent usage was in line with expectations.

(b) Quotations

(i) A quotation had been received from CBC for monthly play area inspections for 2018/19.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation in the sum of £1278 + VAT

(ii) A quotation had been received for repair of the cable on one of the zip wires. The new cable would cost £511.45 + VAT and CBC had quoted £118.23 + VAT for fitting.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation.

(c) Donations

Cllr Gilmour declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of St Bees PCC

It was RESOLVED to make the following donations to local organisations:

- St Bees Priory PCC - contribution to publication costs of parish magazine £700

- Village Hall Committee – contribution to running costs of Village Hall £575
- Parent & Toddler Group – contribution to cost of climbing frame £100
- Royal British Legion - £100
- Friends of the Priory – contribution to repair of Willis organ £100
- Calderwood House - £80
- Furness Line Action Group - £50 (to include annual subscription)
- Great North Air Ambulance -£80

(d) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002346 St Bees Priory PCC– printing annual report in parish magazine £50.00
- Chq 002347 Works 4 You Ltd – materials for repair of play area gate £27.40 + £5.48 VAT Total £32.88
- Chq 002348 Greenbarnes Ltd – noticeboard £540.41 + £108.08 VAT Total £648.49
- Chq 002349 G Hayes – grasscutting 2017 Total £ 2590.00
- Chq 002350 J Donaldson – salary (net) Nov - £635.28
- Chq 002351 CALC – course fee Total £45.00
- 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 002344 Water Plus Ltd water charges (beach toilets) Total £1064.94
- Chq 002345 VIB Petty Cash top-up £125.38
- Answer4 You -answering service Nov £8.80 + £1.76 VAT Total £10.56 (due to be paid by direct debit 17/11/17)

172/17 ST BEES SCHOOL – TRUSTEE BOARD REPORT

It was noted that Mark George, Chairman of the Trustees, was unable to attend due to a family bereavement. Cllr Kelly had been recently appointed as a Trustee and presented the report on behalf of the Trustees.

The recent Open Day had been very well attended and recruitment of pupils for Sept 2018 was continuing. A plan was being drawn up for the refurbishment of school buildings and it was hoped to use local firms wherever possible. The Trustees were currently reviewing their terms of reference in light of the changed structure for the management of the school and were focussing on securing the financial support required for the partnership with Shenzhen. At this stage all options were being considered and no decisions had been made.

Cllr Hill left the meeting.

173/17 PROPOSED FOOTPATH DIVERSION

A letter had been received from CCC seeking comments on the proposed changes to footpaths 423011 & 423012 when the new bridge at Sea Mill was in place. The proposals also included correcting an anomaly in the Definitive Map which showed the path crossing the railway in the wrong place.

It was noted that, whilst the changes were necessary to route the path over the new bridge, it would also mean that there would be no public right of way to the north side of the beck.

It was RESOLVED to respond to CCC pointing out that the new route would be less convenient in some respects and that it was important to ensure that a right of way was maintained to the beach on the north side.

174/17 PROJECT REPORTS**(a) Beach Regeneration**

The new noticeboard had now been fitted on the wall of the toilet block. A quotation had been obtained from AST Signs for a bespoke header for the board with the PC logo.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation in the sum of £75.25 + VAT.

(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch

Cllr Mellor reported that the speed gun would now be sent for recalibration.

He and Cllr Argyle had recently attended a meeting of the A595 Group. The group's future was uncertain as no-one had come forward to chair the group but efforts to find a Chairman were continuing.

(c) Community Events

- Arrangements were now in place for the Santa Parade on 5 December. It was hoped to put up the Christmas tree over the weekend of 2/3 December. Cllrs Kennedy and Sim would make arrangements for new tree lights to be available.
- Following the success of the pantomime last year, it was planned to stage a production of Aladdin in January in aid of Village Hall funds. It was RESOLVED to make a contribution of £200 towards costumes for the performance.
- Correspondence had been received from the Old St Beghians about the plans for a joint commemoration of the centenary of the end of WW1 next year. It was hoped to hold a meeting of representatives of the OSBs, Parish Council and Priory shortly. Cllr Kelly suggested that St Bees School might also wish to be involved.
- The RNLI had held a fireworks display at the beach earlier in the month. This had proved popular and the RNLI were interested in working with the Parish Council to make it a village event next year. There was general support for the idea of a village event and it was suggested that St Bees School might also be interested. It was agreed to ask the RNLI to come back with proposals to take this forward

(d) Tree Planting

An order for trees would be placed shortly to complete the planting at the Adams Recreation Ground.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track

There was no further progress to report.

(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project

Cllr Bettinson had met the lengthsman to discuss possible help with the next stage of the project but much of the work required was outside the scope of the lengthsman scheme. A contractor would need to be found to help with the work.

175/17 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Clerk's report on the recent West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group meeting was received and noted.

The Chairman reported on the Colourful Coast Spirit of Place meeting which he and Cllr Robson had attended. They had been able to share with other attendees some of the information already available on the attractions of St Bees. It was noted that there was a proposal to extend the Heritage Coast further north to Whitehaven.

176/17 PLANNING

(a) New Planning Applications

The Planning Advisory Group reported on the following applications which had been received for comment:-

Ref 4/172318/0F1 Erect general purpose/sheep building extension

Field 0043, Outrigg Road, St Bees

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

Ref 4/17/2341/TPO Works to six trees within a conservation area

The Priory, St Bees

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

Ref 4/17/2355/0L1 Listed building consent for installation of powered extractor fans on upper panes of two west facing windows

New College Hall, St Bees Priory, St Bees

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

Ref 4/17/2361/0F1 Notification for prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural Building to a dwelling house

Barn adj to Bell House Farm, Sandwith

(b) Applications approved/refused:

No new decisions had been published on the CBC web-site.

(c) Other Planning Matters

A letter had been sent to CBC following the concerns expressed at the last meeting about lack of enforcement of planning rules in connection with work being carried out at The Barn, 4 Blythe Place. CBC had confirmed that an application had now been received for various works at the property including amendments to the previous approved application. The Parish Council and members of the public would have the opportunity to submit comments in due course. The applicant had decided not to submit an application for access and hard standing at the rear of the property and appropriate steps were being taken to enforce the planning rules.

(d) Local Plan 2017-35 – Issues and Options Consultation

Cllr Kelly withdrew during discussion of this item as the Trustees of St Bees School were also submitting a response to the consultation.

Following the discussion earlier in the meeting Chris Hoban had agreed to a two week extension of the deadline for responding to the consultation. It was agreed that the Chairman would liaise with the Planning Advisory Group to produce a draft response based on the discussions at this and the previous meeting. This would then be circulated to all councillors for comment before submission to CBC.

177/17 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was received. It was noted that the United Utilities work at Rottington Common had now been postponed until early next year.

CALC was organising a course on play area inspection but this would be held at the other side of the county. It was agreed that Cllr Argyle would share with new volunteers the information from the course she attended.

178/17 CBC MATTERS

Cllr Hill had provided information on a number of issues which had been circulated to councillors including proposals for changes to parliamentary constituency boundaries.

179/17 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

No report had been received.

180/17 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) A volunteer was being sought to take on the role of co-ordinator of the Voluntary Car Scheme covering the Whitehaven/Egremont/Cleator Moor/Arlecdon areas. Details had been posted on the noticeboards.
- (b) An invitation had been received from Sophie Badrick, Colourful Coast Project Officer, to a workshop to begin the Spirit of Place process for the Colourful Coast. The Chairman had agreed to attend.
- (c) CALC had provided an update on the situation with Nu-Gen's plans and details of the revised timescales for the Copeland boundary review. Details had been circulated to councillors by email.
- (d) An email had been received from Planning Aid offering assistance with the production of a neighbourhood plan. Noted.
- (e) Details had been received of a drop-in event in Egremont to discuss flooding issues. Details had been circulated by email.
- (f) A letter had been received from HMRC about changes to payment arrangements. Employer's PAYE could no longer be paid at the Post Office from December 2017. Noted
- (g) Copies had been received of further correspondence between Arthur Millie and Highways England on the need for action to improve the A595. Noted.
- (h) CALC had provided copies of the agenda and papers for the AGM on Sat 18 Nov at Carlisle Racecourse. Noted.
- (i) CALC had forwarded details of a consultation on changes to constituency boundaries in Cumbria/Lancashire. Copies had been circulated to councillors by email.
- (j) CBC had launched its budget consultation for 2018/19. Full details were available on the CBC web-site and the consultation would close on 18 December. Noted.
- (k) An invitation had been received to an informal meeting of Friends of the Lake District. Noted.
- (l) An invitation had been received from West Cumbria Mining to their next public update event being held at the former Haig Museum on Wednesday 6th December between 3pm & 8pm and Thursday 7th December between 10am & 6pm. Noted.
- (m) Details had been received of a survey being conducted by the Police & Crime Commissioner on whether residents would be prepared to see an increase in precept to maintain police services. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Open Space – Autumn 2017

NW Coastal Access Update Oct 2017

ACT Gazette Autumn/Winter 2017

Connecting Cumbria Newsletter

Cumbria Wildlife Trust e-newsletter Nov 2017

181/17 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- (a) The next Arts Society meeting would take place on 22 November and would feature a lecture by Kevin Weaver, a local war artist. The meeting would be held in the Management Centre at 8pm.
- (b) An exhibition of work by local artists would be taking place in Old College Hall over the weekend of 25/26 November with a preview on Friday evening.
- (c) It was hoped to organise an exhibition in the Priory during December to mark 200 years since the founding of the Theological College in St Bees. Cllr Sim had agreed to provide information on the effects which this had on the development of the village.
- (d) A murder mystery evening would be held in the Village Hall on 15 December in aid of Village Hall funds. Ticket sales were going well with only a few tickets remaining.

182/17 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 18 DECEMBER 2017 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....