

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 19 November 2018 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

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

180/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs J Mellor and T Kelly.

181/18 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

182/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No issues were raised.

183/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2018

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 15 October be approved and signed by the Chairman.

184/18 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR

The Chairman reported that Neil Smart had resigned from the parish council due to work commitments but had offered to continue to advise the council on nuclear issues. Councillors thanked Dr Smart for his contribution to the council and welcomed his offer to help the council on nuclear issues. As the vacancy was within six months of the next elections, a poll could not be requested but it was possible for the Parish Council to co-opt a new councillor to serve until the election.

It was RESOLVED to advertise the vacancy in the next edition of the parish magazine.

185/18 HIGHWAYS ENGLAND CONSULTATION

All households in the area had received details of a consultation on proposals for improvements to the A595. The proposals included a relief road to the east of Whitehaven beginning close to the Moresby roundabout and ending by Westlakes Science Park. Many of the traffic problems in St Bees were linked to drivers avoiding congestion on the A595 and the Parish Council had a considerable amount of evidence which could be used to support a response from the council. It was suggested that Highways England staff could be invited to visit St Bees to see the extent of the problems for themselves. It was also agreed to encourage as many residents as possible to respond to the consultation.

It was RESOLVED to submit a response on behalf of the Parish Council, with suggestions for inclusion in the response being sent to the Chairman of the Traffic Calming Committee by 7 December.

It was further RESOLVED to invite Highways England staff to visit St Bees whilst in the area for consultation events.

186/18 WEST CUMBRIA MINING

The Chairman explained that a new period of consultation was to take place on a revised planning application by West Cumbria Mining as a result of changes to aspects of the original plan. Kevin Murphy of West Cumbria Mining had offered to come to speak at the December meeting to explain the changes so that the Parish Council was able to respond within the consultation period.

187/18 ST BEES SCHOOL

Cllr Kelly had provided a written report on recent developments. Ofsted inspectors had visited the school and had rated it as a 'good school'. An Open Day would be taking place on 24 November with a view to recruiting pupils for entry to years 7,8,9 and 12 as well as the Golf Academy and IGCSE/A level individual studies programmes. The School had also commemorated its first remembrance service since 2015 at the school war memorial. It was planned to hold a short Carol Service in the Chapel at which local residents would be welcome.

Councillors congratulated the School on the result of the recent Ofsted inspection.

188/18 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**(a) Finance Report**

The summary of accounts at 31 October was received and noted. The Chairman reported that there had been progress with the new leases for the Village Hall and it was anticipated that the expenditure would fall within the current financial year.

(b) Budget 2019/2020 – 2021/22

Preparation of the budget for the coming year would begin shortly with a draft budget being available for discussion at the December meeting. The review of the Clerk's objectives had been carried out by the Chairman & Vice Chairman so that any financial implications could be considered as part of the budget setting process. All objectives for last year had been met or exceeded and no changes were proposed to hours or scale point. Objectives had been agreed for the coming year.

(c) Donations

It was RESOLVED that the following donations be approved:

Village Hall Committee - £575.00

Contribution to Parish Magazine - £700

Royal British Legion - £150

(d) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq no 002467 Glasdon UK Ltd – plaque £72.22 + £14.44 VAT Total 86.66
- Chq no 002468 CBC – repairs to galleon £272.78 + £54.56 VAT Total £327.34
- Chq no 002469 Works 4 You Ltd – grass cutting £289.00 + £57.80 VAT Total £346.80
- Chq no 002470 J Donaldson – printer ink/postage £14.96 + £1.33 VAT Total £16.29
- Chq no 002471 J Donaldson – salary (net) £648.26
- Chq no 002472 Furness Line Action Group – donation/subscription £50.00
- Chq no 002473 CBC – replacement for chq 002447 -lost in post £74.45
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service Nov £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700 (to be paid by SO)

Payments since last meeting to report

- Chq no 002463 St Bees Over 60s – donation £100.00 (agreed at last meeting)
- Chq no 002464 Great North Air Ambulance – donation £100.00 (agreed at last meeting)
- Chq no 002465 Friends of the Priory – donation £50.00 (agreed at last meeting)
- Chq no 002466 St Bees RNLI – donation £100.00 (agreed at last meeting)
- Answer 4 -U – answering service £8.80 + £1.76 VAT Total £10.56 (paid by direct debit on 19 November)

189/18 CCC & HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Cllr Whiteside reported that central government had made available further money for repair of pot-holes, of which £12 million had been allocated to Cumbria. He would be pressing for some of this to be spent in the St Bees/ Egremont North division.

Cllr Whiteside explained that the proposals for improvement to the A595 were not dependant on the Moorside scheme and he encouraged as many people as possible to respond to the consultation. Whilst the proposals included a relief road from Moresby to Westlakes it might be possible to argue a case for it to be extended. There was every hope that the scheme would go ahead in the Highways England programme for 2022-27.

The warning signs for Abbey Rd had been ordered and should be in place shortly. It was possible that repairs to the road surface around Abbey Corner could be done as part of the additional funding made available by central government. In answer to questions, Cllr Whiteside agreed to follow up the timescales for the yellow lines on Main St/Seacroft Drive and Fleatham Croft/High House Rd and also to clarify the position with contingency plans for diverting traffic off the A595.

It was noted that the street lights on Station Rd were now back in operation. Councillors drew attention to problems with emergency service vehicles and couriers having difficulty in identifying properties on Station Rd. The recently constructed houses were named Rowan Terrace but had similar numbers to the older houses further along Station Rd. Better signage was needed to help drivers identify the correct property. Cllr Whiteside agreed to take this up with the relevant department.

Councillor Whiteside explained his view on the current situation with Nu-Gen and the Moorside project. He was disappointed by the recent decision by Toshiba which put the Moorside project in jeopardy. He, along with all other Conservative and Labour County Councillors, had voted in support of a motion to ask the government to back the project to construct a new power station at Moorside and councillors were lobbying the County's MPs to press for government support. He agreed with the view put forward by parish councillors that the project was not only vital for the local economy but also for the country's energy policy.

Cllr Whiteside then left the meeting.

190/18 PROJECT REPORTS

(a) Beach Regeneration

The new plaque had been fitted to the seat which had been donated and was now installed at the play area. CBC had repaired the roof of the shelter. CBC had provided a quotation for carrying out the remedial work recommended in the recent RoSPA reports on the two play areas.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation in the sum of £1169.26 + VAT for the beach play area and £177.09 + VAT for the Outrigger play area.

Work to refurbish and repaint the inside of the toilets was discussed. It was suggested that splashbacks could be fitted in the ladies toilets to prevent damage to the plaster behind the sinks and some thought needed to be given to whether the ceiling needed to be repainted. Cllr Argyle and members of the 'Privy Council' would investigate and report back on the extent of the work required.

(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch

Cllr Millington explained that PC Turnbull had contacted the parish council about plans to deal with speeding traffic in St Bees. Cllr Millington would contact PC Turnbull to explain the work done to date by the Traffic Calming Committee and Speedwatch volunteers and offer the Parish Council's support for his project.

(c) Community Events

There had been a series of events organised to mark the centenary of the ending of WW1, all of which had been very well supported by local residents. There had been a performance of a play written by Gus Kennedy, lectures by Antony Payne and Charm Robson and readings in the Priory organised by Jon Mellor. The crosses lining the approach to the Priory had been decorated by the children of the Village School and the traditional wreath laying and Service of Remembrance on Sunday 11 November had been well attended. The Chairman had laid a wreath at both the war memorial by the level crossing and the memorial in the churchyard. The notices on properties linked to those who died in WW1 as well as in the Priory had attracted a lot of interest. The names of the dead had been read out in the bell tower and the bell had been rung in memory of each of the dead. A commemoration had also taken place at the beach with the names of the dead written in the sand.

The Santa Parade and switch-on of the tree lights were scheduled to take place on Tuesday 4 December with the RNLi Carol Concert taking place later at 7pm. The Christmas tree would be put up on 2 December.

It was RESOLVED to donate £100 to cover the cost of refreshments at the Carol Concert.

(d) Tree Planting

An order would be placed shortly for some silver birch and a copper beech tree to commemorate the re-opening of St Bees School.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track

It was hoped to hold a meeting of the project group shortly and widen membership of the group.

(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project

Weedkilling equipment and pruning saw were being ordered.

(g) Public Access Defibrillators

A formal request had now been made to the Community Heartbeat Trust to transfer ownership of the telephone box to the Parish Council. It had been suggested that it might be possible to use their installers to put the defibrillator in place and the Clerk was following this up.

(h) Station Car Park Extension

There had been no further correspondence from Network Rail since the last meeting.

191/18 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

The Health & Safety Policy was due for annual review.

It was RESOLVED that no amendments were required.

A question was raised about whether safeguarding training was appropriate for parish councillors. The Clerk would make enquiries about whether this was the practice in other councils.

192/18 VILLAGE IN BLOOM

Cllr Argyle reported on a meeting earlier in the evening with representatives of the Village in Bloom Committee. Developments at Stonehouse Farm would mean that the VIB group could no longer locate their greenhouse and storage facilities there. There were now only a small number of active volunteers and this, combined with the loss of the base at Stonehouse Farm, meant that the group's activities would have to be significantly reduced next year and threatened the future of the group in the longer term.

Councillors agreed that the floral displays made a significant contribution to the appearance of the village and would be greatly missed if the group was disbanded. It was agreed that the Parish Council should do whatever it could to help with the problems of finding a new base and attracting more volunteers. Cllr Gilmour would liaise with the Chairman of the Village in Bloom Committee to explore possible options.

193/18 WEST COPELAND PARTNERSHIP

The next meeting would take place on 26 November and Jamie Reed would be attending for a discussion on Sellafield Ltd's socio-economic strategy. It was also hoped to have a report on the future of the lengthsman scheme when the current scheme ends in March 2019. Cllr Gilmour would be attending the meeting but other councillors would also be welcome to attend.

194/18 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Sim gave a verbal report on the recent meeting of West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group.

195/18 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 4/18/2440/0F1 Amendment to roof construction of approved two storey extension & balcony (resubmission)

Bankside, Sea Mill Lane, St Bees

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

- Ref 4/18/2458/001 Outline application for single dwelling with all matters reserved

Plot 2, Blythe Place, Sea Mill Lane, St Bees

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

(b) Decisions by CBC:

- 4/18/2386/0F1 Remove conservatory & erect sunroom to rear elevation – 127 Main Street APPROVED

1170

- 4/18/2415/TPO Felling of two sycamore & one ash tree protected by TPO -1 Fleatham Gardens, High House Rd REFUSED

196/18 CLERK'S REPORT

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

The request for a litter bin close to the Linethwaite/A595 junction had been passed to CBC for consideration.

One large allotment plot would become vacant shortly. It was agreed that this should be divided into two small plots to reduce the waiting list.

197/18 CBC ISSUES

Cllr Hill had provided a number of updates on CBC activities which had been circulated to councillors by email. The Elected Mayor's statement on the decision to wind-up Nu-Gen had also been circulated. CBC had begun its budget consultation and the consultation paper was available on the CBC web-site.

198/18 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

No report had been received.

199/18 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Letters of thanks had been received from the Friends of the Priory, Great North Air Ambulance, St Bees Over 60s and RNLI for the recent donations. Noted.

(b) An email had been received from a local resident keen to set up a team of litter champions in St Bees, each taking responsibility for litter picking in their street. The Parish Council's support in providing litter pickers, gloves etc would be appreciated. It was agreed that the budget allocation for beach cleaning could be used to pay for additional equipment, if necessary.

(c) Notification had been received from Highways that the road closure at Pallaflatt had been extended for a further two weeks because of unforeseen engineering difficulties. Noted.

(d) CALC had circulated a brief survey on Preventing Strokes which councillors might wish to complete. Further information was available from the Clerk. Noted.

(e) Information had been received from CALC on the launch of the Flood Hub website - a one stop shop to help householders, businesses, communities and landowners across the North West become more flood resilient. The website was funded by the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) and developed by Newground and other partner agencies. Noted.

(f) Information had been received from CALC on a postponement of the introduction of the government's Making Tax Digital scheme. Noted.

(g) The Open Spaces Society had produced a draft of its next strategic plan for the period 2019-2024. Details were available from the Clerk or from the OSS web-site. Noted.

(h) Information had been received via CALC on liabilities arising from trees on land owned by Parish Councils. Details had been passed to FRAG members for consideration of any potential risks.

(i) Details had received from CALC of the next 3 Tier Meeting on 6 December and the decision by Toshiba to withdraw from the Moorside Project and wind up Nu-Gen. Noted.

(j) A letter had been received from the Open Spaces Society requesting donations to fund work on two commons de-registration applications. Noted.

(k) The Environment Agency had announced completion of an initial high level scrutiny of the UK HPR1000 reactor design. Noted.

(l) Details had been received of the Colourful Coast Partnership meeting on 27 November. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

NW Coastal Access Update October

NALC Weekly Newsletters October/November

Open Spaces Autumn 2018

ACT Gazette – Autumn/Winter 2018

Full Circle Newsletters 15 & 16

Trudy Harrison E-Newsletter

Friends of the Lake District - News & Events November
Copeland Matters Nov
Countryside Voice Winter 2018

200/18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

It was reported that the Christmas Art & Craft Exhibition would be taking place over the weekend of 30 November/2 December in Old College Hall.

201/18 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 17 DECEMBER 2018 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....