

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

**PRESENT:** Cllr D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, G Gilmour, C Hale, A Kaldos,  
F Kennedy, A Linton, J Mellor, D Millington, H Monaghan, E Taylor & the Clerk

Also present : 1 member of the public

**175/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr C Robson. Apologies had also been received from Cllr J Hailes (CBC Ward Councillor).

**176/19 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**177/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2019**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 21 October be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**178/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no matters raised.

**179/19 CASUAL VACANCY**

The vacancy created by the resignation of Jamie Lockie had been advertised in the parish magazine and one expression of interest had been received.

It was RESOLVED that Mr Dave Rothery be co-opted to serve as a parish councillor until the next election in 2023.

Mr Rothery then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

**180/19 COUNTY COUNCIL & HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

**(a) Pavement Extension – Outrigg**

A letter had been sent to Highways confirming the Parish Council's offer of a financial contribution to the costs if the scheme went ahead. No response had yet been received.

**(b) Yellow lines -Fleatham Croft/High House Rd Junction**

The County Council's Local Committee had agreed to the Parish Council's request to look again at the decision not to proceed with the proposal to put a short section of double yellow lines on High House Rd at its junction with Fleatham Croft. A written submission had been sent and Cllr Hale had attended the Local Committee meeting in Millom to present the case, stressing that safety should take priority over convenience of parking. The Local Committee had agreed to include the matter in the agenda for the December meeting but had warned that the informal consultation might need to be re-run. Parish Councillors pointed out that there was no information available on which households had been consulted. The Clerk would seek further information on this point and also follow up with Cllr Hailes the suggestion at the last meeting that CBC might formally support the case.

**(c) Parking Restrictions – B5345 between the level crossing & Barony House**

It was noted that there had been no response from Highways to the suggestion made a few months ago that parking along this section should be limited to 2 hours to prevent parked vehicles obstructing the approach to the chicane. A time limit on parking would prevent Sellafield commuters leaving cars there all day to travel to the site by train or in other vehicles.

It was RESOLVED to write formally to Highways to seek a response to the suggestion.

**(d) Main Street/Seacroft Drive junction**

Following the consultation undertaken late last year CCC had decided to go ahead with a short section of double yellow lines to prevent vehicles parking right up to the junction. The proposed Traffic Regulation Order had been published with a deadline of 4 December for objections to be lodged.

**(e) West Cumbria Mining**

It was noted that the government had decided not to call in the planning application for the new mine. Cllr Whiteside had provided some information on the Sec 106 agreement that was being negotiated with West Cumbria Mining but it was not clear whether the facilitation of the cycle track would be part of the agreement.

**181/19 CBC MATTERS**

Cllr Hailes had provided a written report for the meeting which was received and noted.

He had discussed with CBC officers some of the problems encountered by the recycling vehicles accessing properties on Sea Mill Lane. CBC would be grateful for the Parish Council's assistance in encouraging residents to avoid parking on the narrow sections of the road on collection days to allow the vehicle to access properties. The Clerk would put a reminder in the parish magazine.

It was reported that dog fouling continued to be an issue in the village but the pavement stencils promised by CBC some months ago had not been done. The Clerk would ask Cllr Hailes to take this up with the appropriate officers at CBC.

**182/19 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT****(a) Finance Report**

The summary of accounts at 31 October was received and noted. Work would begin shortly on producing a draft budget for 2020/21 for consideration at the next meeting.

**(b) Donations**

It was RESOLVED that the following donations be made to local groups and organisations:-

- Village Hall Committee – contribution to costs of Village Hall £600
- St Bees PCC – contribution to publication costs of parish magazine £720
- Royal British Legion - £155
- Adams Recreation Committee – contribution to purchase of new mower £100
- St Bees Over 60s – contribution to events/activities £100
- Youth Group – contribution to purchase of equipment/activities £100
- Citizens Advice Copeland – contribution to costs of advice services £100
- Great North Air Ambulance – contribution to costs of service £100
- Friends of the Priory - £50
- Furness Line Action Group - £50

**(c) Financial Regulations**

FRAG had reviewed the Financial Regulations in light of the new model regulations issued by NALC. Details of the proposed amendments had been circulated. The only significant change proposed was an increase in the amount which could be authorised for emergency expenditure from £250 to £500.

It was RESOLVED that the amendments to the Financial Regulations be approved.

**(d) Payments**

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq 002579 Works 4 You Ltd – allotment work £165.00 + £33.00 VAT Total £198.00
- Chq 002580 CALC – course fees Total £215.00
- Chq 002581 J Donaldson – reimbursement for printer ink £6.66+ £1.33 VAT Total £7.99
- Chq 002582 J Donaldson– salary November Total ££565.42
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service Nov £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00

**Payments since last meeting to report**

- Chq 002578 Petty cash top-up Total £128.37
- Answer 4 You – answering service £8.80 + £1.76 VAT Total £10.56 ( paid by direct debit on 18 Nov)

**183/19 SEA MILL**

Network Rail had begun work to install additional rock armour to protect the railway line along the section from Sea Mill to Coulderton. The work was likely to last until January and the main base would be at Coulderton with the stone being transported along the beach at low tide. CBC had also arranged for the coastal defences to be strengthened in front of the car park and properties at Sea Mill. Details had been posted on the Facebook page.

The problems with the broken drain had been investigated. CBC had commissioned a CCTV survey which had identified a blockage. This had now been cleared and CBC was now organising work to replace the broken sections of pipe.

It had been suggested that the large section of concrete dislodged in the storm a few years ago could be removed while the work was taking place. However, it had been decided not to proceed as there was concern that this could leave the area more susceptible to erosion.

**184/19 RIGHTS OF WAY**

(a) Cllr Taylor provided a report on the hearing into objections to modifications to FP423011 & FP423012 which took place on 29 October at the Seacote Hotel. The Inspector had listened to the points made by the objector and the case put forward by CCC and Network Rail. The Inspector's decision was awaited.

(b) Members of the public had reported that the surface of the bridleway at Green Lonning was being damaged by large agricultural vehicles. It was agreed that Cllr Hale would visit to check the condition of the bridleway.

(c) It was reported that two of the stiles on the footpath to Coulderton were in poor condition. The Clerk would report this to CCC Rights of Way team. One fingerpost was also missing but this had already been reported and was on the list for replacement.

**185/19 PROJECT REPORTS****(a) Beach Regeneration**

A reply was awaited from CBC on whether the cycle stands could be provided as part of the Hidden Coast project.

Quotations were being sought for the work required to the Wainwright wall.

It was reported that some of the metal work on the play area equipment was showing signs of rust. It was agreed that the inspection team would compile a list of the work required so that this could be organised. At the last weekly inspection it had been noted one of the zip wires had been taken out of use. The Clerk would check the position with CBC. Both springies had been taken out of service pending the conclusion of the discussions with Wicksteed about the recurrent failures of the springs.

**(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch**

There was no progress report. Arrangements would be made for the gun to be recalibrated.

**(c) Community Events****(i) Christmas Events**

The Christmas tree had been delivered and would be put up on 7 December. The Chairman and Cllr Kaldos had investigated the price of lights for the tree and it appeared that the budget would need to be increased.

It was RESOLVED that festoon-type coloured lights be purchased at a maximum cost of £300 and that £100 be contributed towards the cost of refreshments at the RNLI carol concert.

Detailed planning was underway for the Santa Parade. The parade would leave the bus turning circle at 6.15pm with the tree lights being switched on at 6.30pm. Cllr Kaldos was updating the risk assessment and a road closure application had been submitted. A licence was also required for the street collection in aid of the RNLI.

**(ii) 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Bees Priory**

Cllr Gilmour gave a resume of events and activities to take place as part of the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

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Among the events planned would be a black tie ball, a medieval feast, a Christmas tree festival, a story competition for local schools and history lectures. The organisers would still welcome ideas for other events.

### **(d) Tree Planting**

Cllr Bettinson was liaising with a number of local residents who had offered to donate pot-grown trees.

### **(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track**

There was no progress to report.

### **(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project**

There was no progress to report since the last meeting.

### **(g) Station Car Park Extension**

CBC had confirmed that they still owned the land adjacent to station car park but they would require a full business case for the extension to the car park before a transfer would be considered. It had still not been possible to make any progress with discussions with Network Rail.

It was RESOLVED to write to CBC and CCC to formally request their assistance in taking the project forward.

### **(h) Village in Bloom – New Base**

St Bees School had offered a possible site near the cricket pavilion which seemed in principle to be acceptable to the planning department. Further discussions would take place to agree the details of design etc before a planning application was submitted.

## **186/19 COUNCILLOR TRAINING**

CALC had organised a training session on planning issues to take place on 20 November in New College Hall. Places had been booked for Cllrs Argyle, Gilmour, Hale and Monaghan.

## **187/19 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllrs Gilmour & Taylor reported on two workshops on Advanced Modular Reactors. The sessions had focussed on the opportunities this type of reactor could offer to our area and how the ideas might be taken forward. The sessions had proved interesting and follow-up sessions were planned at a later date. The Chairman reported on a meeting with St Bees School who were organising an event on 21 November for local residents to ask questions about the school and its future plans.

The Chairman had also attended a session on geological disposal organised by West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group.

## **188/19 PLANNING**

### **(a) New Planning Applications**

- Ref 4/19/2392/0F1 Concreting of existing farm yard - Green Lonning Farm, Outrigg  
It was noted that this application had now been withdrawn.

- Ref 4/19/2405/0F1 Extension to dwelling – 4 The Crofts, St Bees  
It was RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.

- Ref 4/19/2368/TPO Various works to five trees protected by Tree Preservation Order  
2 Fleatham Gardens, High House Rd

It was noted that a response had been sent under delegated authority after consultation with the Planning Advisory Group. After reviewing the expert report commissioned by CBC, a response was sent confirming that the Parish Council was content to accept the advice given in the expert report.

### **(b) Applications approved by CBC**

It was noted that there had been no decisions on applications within the parish since the last meeting.

**189/19 CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk’s report on on-going matters was received. Cllr Bettinson agreed to look at the fence at Beck Edge Garden and advise on whether repairs or replacement were required. It was noted that there appeared to be no improvement in the state of the untended allotment plot. It was RESOLVED that the tenancy be terminated and the plot re-let.

**190/19 POLICE REPORT**

The problems with the 101 non-emergency number had been reported to Sgt Macdonald after the last meeting. He would pass the comments to the officer concerned but had asked for information on specific dates and times. It was agreed that councillors would pass any available information to the Clerk.

**191/19 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a)Notes had been received of Copeland CALC AGM together with minutes of the recent Three Tier meeting. Noted.
- (b)A press release had been received from St Bees School announcing the opening of two new schools in China. Noted.
- (c)An update had been received on the October meeting of Copeland Health & Wellbeing Forum. Noted.
- (d)CALC Annual Report & AGM agenda had been received. Noted.
- (e)An update had been received from Highways England on improvements to the A595.This had been circulated to councillors by email.
- (f)NALC had announced the launch of a joint publication with LGA on tackling loneliness. Noted.
- (g)A bulletin had been received from the Action for Health & Mental Health Provider Forum. Noted.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- NALC Newsletter & Chief Executive’s Bulletins
- NW Coastal Access Update Oct
- Friends of the Lake District News & Events (Nov)
- Copeland Matters Nov
- Open Space Autumn 2019
- CBC Bereavement Services Bulletin
- WCM Project Newsletter
- Trudy Harrison MP Newsletter
- ACT Gazette

**192/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- (a) It was noted with sadness that Henry Wormstrup had died recently. He had served as County Councillor for St Bees/Egremont North for 4 years and had regularly attended parish council meetings.
- (b)The Arts Society would be meeting on 20 November in the Management Centre at St Bees School. Christopher Donaldson would be speaking on John Ruskin -The Poetry of Architecture.
- (c)It was noted that Howgill Family Centre had lost the contract its contract with Cumbria County Council. The contract had been offered to a London-based organisation.
- (d) Cllr Bettinson was drawing up a document on the operation of the Shepards & Whitehead Charity and a copy would be provided for the Parish Council.
- (e)There had been no progress with additional signage on the cycle path at Linethwaite. The Clerk would contact Sustrans again.
- (f) It was reported that water regularly collected under the gate to the Dandy Walk from the hockey field, making it difficult for walkers. Cllr Bettinson agreed to check whether there was a practical way of improving the situation.

**193/19 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was RESOLVED that the next Parish Council meeting take place on MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....