

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 17 October 2016 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), G Gilmour, J Haile, F Kennedy, H Monaghan, M Riley,
C Robson, N Smart & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr H Wormstrup, County Councillor Egremont North/St Bees

170/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Argyle, N Bettinson, T Kelly, J Lockie,
J Mellor and D Millington.

171/16 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

172/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no matters raised.

173/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2016

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 19 September 2016 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

174/16 CCC & HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Cllr Wormstrup reported that following the last meeting he had taken up the concerns about the closure of the bridge at Sea Mill with officers at CCC. It had been decided to install some steps as a temporary measure to allow the bridge to be used until funding was available to replace the bridge. The work to construct the steps had now been completed. Other footpath work had also been carried out, including replacement of a stile on the footpath to the south of Sea Mill. Councillors expressed their thanks to Cllr Wormstrup for his help and his offer to provide funding from his member's grant without which the work would not have been possible.

It was noted that CCC had begun a consultation on modernising Cumbria Care. It was proposed to create a new 60 place care home in Copeland and to close three older premises, including Castle Mount and Powe Beck. A number of public drop-in sessions were taking place and CCC would be happy to send an officer to a parish council meeting if the parish council felt this would be useful.

It was pointed out that the street lights on Station Rd were still not working. Cllr Wormstrup explained that this was out of the County Council's control as work was required by ENW.

175/16 TRAFFIC CALMING

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Traffic Calming Committee on 27 September were received together with a report from the Committee Chairman. The meeting had been very well attended with almost 30 people present.

A number of possible schemes had been considered with the aim of reducing traffic speeds and increasing pedestrian safety, particularly around the Village School entrance on Outrigg. The various schemes had been costed by the CCC Traffic Engineer. It had been explained at the meeting that the County Council budget for traffic improvements across Copeland was very small so any scheme put forward would have to be considered alongside requests for work in other parts of the area.

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A vote had been taken and the Committee had decided to recommend to the Parish Council that the highest priority should be enhanced gateway features at the entrances to the village with an extension of the pavement on Outrigg as the next priority. A separate vote had shown that the entrances to the village on Egremont Rd and Whitehaven Rd were felt to be the first priority for further gateway features.

Councillors discussed the Committee's recommendations at some length before deciding on the request to be formally submitted to CCC.

It was RESOLVED to write to CCC to request consideration of the following schemes for inclusion in the three year programme:-

- Enhanced gateway features on the B5345 at the southern approach to the village
- Enhanced gateway features on the B5345 at the northern approach to the village
- Extension of the pavement on Outrigg

Cllr Wormstrup reported that he had followed up concerns raised at the Committee meeting of problems with vehicles parking on yellow lines outside 14 Main Street which were causing problems for a disabled resident. He was discussing options with Highways officers and would report back in due course.

176/16 NORTH WEST COAST CONNECTIONS PROJECT

National Grid had postponed the workshop for parish councils as their plans had not been finalised but it was expected that a new date would be arranged. CALC had advised parish councils to consider whether they wished to authorise their representative to speak on behalf of the council or whether the representative would report back to the council which would then decide its position.

It was RESOLVED that it was not necessary to delegate authority to the parish councillor attending as the full council would consider its response before the end of the consultation period.

It was noted that National Grid had just announced that the public consultation would begin on 28 October and run to 6 January. There would be drop-in events across the area, including an event in Egremont on 29 November.

Cllr Wormstrup then left the meeting.

177/16 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Finance Report

The summary of income and expenditure to 30 September was received (copy attached to the minutes). It was noted that at the half year point income was £4700 over budget with a further £3000 due in the second half of the year. This was due to grant income being higher than originally anticipated and payment of a refund of non-domestic rates. Expenditure remained low at this point although a number of large payments were expected in Qtr 3. The Finance & Risk Advisory Group would be meeting on 26 October and would provide a detailed variance analysis at the next meeting.

(b) Budget & Precept 2017/18

The preparation of the budget for 2017/18 would begin shortly. Councillors were asked to forward any suggestions for projects to be included in the forward plan to the Clerk as soon as possible.

It was noted that the government had begun a consultation on extending local council referenda and capping of precepts. It was agreed that the Finance & Risk Advisory Group would consider a possible response.

(c) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq no 002234 CBC – play area inspections qtr3 £218.58 + £43.72 VAT Total £262.30
- Chq no 002235 CBC – emptying litter bins (play areas & Fairladies footpath) qtr 3 £271.70 + £54.34 VAT Total £326.04
- Chq no 002236 St Bees Enterprises Ltd – room hire £41.67 + £8.33 VAT Total £50.00
- Chq no 002237 J Donaldson – reimbursement for weed control fabric £129.04+ £25.81 VAT Total £154.85
- Chq no 002238 J Donaldson – salary (net) Oct 2016 - £621.39
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service Oct £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

Payments since last meeting to report

- Answer4 You – answering service £8.80 +£1.76 VAT Total £10.56 (paid by direct debit on 17/10/16)
- Chq 002233 Choiceshops Ltd – plants/guards £292.89 + £58.58 VAT. Total £351.47 (to be paid from Nu-Gen grant)

178/16 ST BEES SCHOOL

No report was available.

179/16 PROJECT REPORTS

(a)Beach Regeneration

CBC would now be undertaking play area inspections on a monthly basis as agreed at the last meeting. Cllr Riley would be updating the inspection rota to take account of the additional CBC inspections.

(b)Speedwatch

It was reported that another early morning monitoring session had taken place with a number of vehicles reported for exceeding the speed limit. At the recent Traffic Calming meeting there had been a request for speed monitoring on Beach Rd and the police had now been asked to carry out a risk assessment of locations in that area.

(c) Community Events

The ‘What’s On’ event on 24 September had been well supported with 30 local groups providing displays. There had been good attendance by members of the public. It was agreed that it would be worthwhile to hold an event of this type again, perhaps in 2 – 3 years.

The Christmas tree had now been ordered. Cllr Kennedy agreed to discuss with the Village School whether they wished to take responsibility for organising a Santa Parade this year.

It was noted that a community pantomime was being organised, to be performed in January with proceeds from ticket sales being used to fund improvements at the Village Hall. The cast would be from the local community and the Village School.

It was RESOLVED to contribute £250 to the cost of hiring costumes for the pantomime.

(d) Tree Planting

The next stage of planting at the Adams Ground would take place in November. Gorse plants and tree guards had been ordered from the Nu-Gen grant. Volunteers would be needed to help with the planting. A further planting of native shrubs was planned for after Christmas.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Path

The bid for funding from the Big Lottery Coastal Communities Fund had been unsuccessful but work would continue on planning for the project and other avenues for funding would be explored. Sustrans was hoping to complete the feasibility report by mid-November and was currently undertaking discussions with landowners and other interested parties such as Network Rail and the Environment Agency.

(f) Station car park extension

Network Rail had promised to contact the Clerk shortly to progress discussions.

180/16 ALLOTMENTS

The lengthsman had undertaken some work at the allotment field and had strimmed the vacant plot. The ground cover fabric had now arrived and was being used to cover the vacant plot. A new tenant had been found for the plot.

It was RESOLVED that the new tenant be given a rent free year from Jan 2017 as the plot would require considerable work before crops could be grown.

181/16 RETIREMENT OF VILLAGE POSTMAN

Advice had been received from CALC and circulated to councillors. It was agreed that a retirement gift would be more appropriately organised by one or more individuals acting in a private capacity. Cllr Gilmour offered to take the lead in organising a collection from the village. This would be publicised in the parish magazine and anyone wishing to contribute could leave donations at 47 The Crofts.

182/16 THE FUTURE OF THE LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

The current scheme would end in May 2017 and discussions were taking place with the parishes involved to look at the possibility of a further two year scheme. Copeland Community Fund had indicated that they could not fund a further scheme so the project would need to be funded by the local councils involved with support from the West Copeland Partnership. The final costs would not be known until it was clear whether all parishes wished to continue to take part but on the outline costs available at this stage the cost to the parish would be only slightly higher than in the current year.

It was felt that the present scheme had provided excellent quality of work and had saved considerable time and effort in finding tradesmen to undertake minor maintenance tasks.

It was RESOLVED to support in principle a further two year lengthsman project.

183/16 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was received and the following points were particularly noted:

Rottington street lights – the two new lighting columns were still not connected. CBC had confirmed that ENW now had all the paperwork required.

Litter bin – CBC had agreed to order a suitable bin to replace the one damaged some time ago. The Parish Council would meet the cost of the new bin (expenditure approved some months ago).

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Remembrance Day - there had been some difficulties in organising the wreaths for the Parish Council and other groups following the sudden death of the local organiser. A new contact had been found within the British Legion locally and he was arranging for the usual wreaths to be available. Cllr Haile agreed to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council

184/16 PLANNING

(a) New planning applications

No new planning applications had been received for comment since the last meeting.

(b) Applications approved/refused

It was noted that the following decisions had been made by CBC:-

- Ref 4/16/2270/0F1 Erection of office building & open fronted agricultural building
Whin Bank, Rottington - APPROVED

185/16 CBC MATTERS

A brief report from Cllr Hill was received and noted. Cllr Hill had provided information on a private sector housing survey which was being conducted across Copeland to assess the condition of private sector housing and enable CBC to take advantage of any government funding initiatives. He would like to encourage any property owners contacted as part of the survey to take part.

186/16 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

It was noted that the police would no longer provide detailed reports for parish council meetings because of the staff time involved in their preparation. Instead regular updates would be provided from the Copeland Hub. It was agreed to circulate copies to parish councillors.

187/16 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) A draft of the West Cumbria Corridor Travel Plan had been received. Noted.

(b) A letter had been received from the PCC Building & Works Committee asking for the parish council's policy on trees. Copies of correspondence had been provided between the PCC and CBC about trees in the churchyard following complaints by neighbours. It was RESOLVED to write to the PCC to confirm that the parish council supports the planting of new trees in appropriate locations and supports work on existing trees only where such work is necessary for the health of the tree or to protect public safety.

(c) Information had been received from the Success Regime about the launch of formal consultation on plans for the future of health services in North, East and West Cumbria. A number of stakeholder events would be organised across the county. It was agreed to include this on the next agenda.

(d) An invitation had received from CALC to the Annual General Meeting on Sat 12 November at Castle Green Hotel, Kendal. Noted.

(e) CALC had provided details of how to log in to the NALC web-site to access publications such as Legal Briefings. Noted.

(f) Information had been received from United Utilities about consultation on the draft Drought Plan. Noted.

(g) Information had been received from United Utilities on their pre-consultation on the Water Resources Management Plan. The aim was to seek views on the approach to developing the next draft plan due to be finalised in 2019 and the priorities to be addressed. It was agreed to include this on the next agenda.

(h) Details had been received of the drop-in events being organised by CCC as part of the Cumbria Care Modernisation consultation. Noted.

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(i) The agenda had been received for the next Three Tier Meeting on 20 October in Seascale. The Chairman would attend.

(j) Notification had been received of a road closure at Nethertown Rd for work to retaining wall. The work was expected to start on 18 October and last for 5 weeks. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Cumbria Wildlife Trust –eNewsletter Oct 2016

North West Coastal Access update Oct 2016

CALC Circular October 2016

PDSA free health checks for dogs – 19 Oct at the beach car park, St Bees

Northern Gas Networks Stakeholder Report

ACT Gazette Summer 2016

188/16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

(a) It was noted that the Annual Multi-Charity sale would take place in Old College Hall over the weekend of 11 – 13 November.

(b) The Friends of the Priory were organising a talk by Trevor Park on 20 October in New College Hall. It was noted Dr Park’s new book “The Reform Bishops 1828-1840 a Biographical Study” was now available.

(c)The next meeting of the Arts Society, entitled Art & Astronomy, would take place on Wednesday 26 October at 8pm in the Management Centre at St Bees School.

(d) A quiz night would be held on 1 November at 8pm at the Oddfellows to raise funds for the NSPCC.

(e) It was noted that a longstanding resident of the village, Frank Irving, had moved south to be closer to his family. Frank is from a long-standing village family, and ran the main shop in the village for many years. It is hoped to examine the possibility of publishing his memoirs using the council’s “100 years” pump-priming fund.

189/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2016 at 6.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....