

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 17 September 2018 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall**

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

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

Also present: 1 member of the public

140/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

141/18 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on matters on the agenda.

142/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public wished to raise the issue of an extension of the pavement on Outrigg. It was agreed to deal with this under CCC & Highways issues.

143/18 CCC & HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Cllr Whiteside apologised for the lack of feedback from the site meeting in May to discuss pedestrian safety in the Abbey Rd area. He undertook to speak to the Highways Manager and provide some feedback on the Parish Council's suggestions as soon as possible. Councillors also asked for feedback on the issues raised about parking close to the junction at Fleatham Croft.

It was noted that St Bees School had been contacted by Cllr Hill concerned about safety of pedestrians walking from Abbey Corner following the article in the parish magazine about the restriction of public access to school grounds. It was noted that the restriction was necessary for safeguarding reasons and this was in line with the practice at other schools. As highways issues were a County Council responsibility, Cllr Whiteside agreed to speak to Cllr Hill about the discussions which were taking place. The possible extension of the pavement on Outrigg was also discussed. Cllr Whiteside confirmed that he was fully aware of the concerns for the safety of children walking on Outrigg and would continue to press for this to be considered for inclusion in next year's programme of works.

It was noted that the street lights on Station Rd (Coach Rd) were still not working and repairs had not been completed to the sign on Outrigg damaged by a vehicle some time ago. The Clerk would seek an update on progress with these repairs.

Councillors asked about the planning application by West Cumbria Mining which it seemed would not now be considered by CCC until early next year. Cllr Whiteside stated that he supported the development as he believed that the project and the associated infrastructure improvements would be of great benefit to the area. There were a number of environmental issues to be addressed and it would be necessary to hold further consultation on plans for disposal of water from the mine. However, he agreed with councillors that it was important to ensure that such issues were not allowed to derail the project

Cllr Whiteside then left the meeting.

144/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY 2018

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 16 July 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

145/18 PLASTIC FREE ZONE

The Chairman invited Mrs Lenehan to explain her plans for a plastic free St Bees.

Mrs Lenehan explained that Surfers Against Sewage had begun an initiative to encourage communities to reduce the use of plastic. A short walk along the beach clearly showed the volume of plastic being washed up. This was not only unsightly but also damaged wildlife and entered the food chain. Mrs Lenehan was keen to work with businesses and residents in St Bees to reduce the use of plastic.

If St Bees was able to take steps to reduce the use of plastic, it would be the first community in West Cumbria to achieve accreditation under the scheme.

In answer to questions Mrs Lenehan explained that it was not intended to create a totally plastic free zone but to work towards replacing plastic with more sustainable materials eg reusable bottles, paper bags rather than plastic etc. She would be contacting local businesses and groups to seek support and was hoping to raise awareness of the actions which individuals could take. Support and commitment from the Parish Council would be much appreciated.

It was RESOLVED to support the initiative and take any measures within the council's control to reduce the use of plastic. It was further RESOLVED that Cllrs Mellor & Monaghan become members of the Steering Group.

146/18 ST BEES SCHOOL – TRUSTEE BOARD REPORT

Cllr Kelly declared an interest as a Trustee of St Bees School.

Cllr Kelly reported that the School had reopened on 6 Sept with 10 pupils in Yr 7 and it was hoped that others would be joining the School shortly. The reopening had been kept low key for the benefit of the children but it was planned to hold a more high profile event in the coming weeks. Regular newsletters were being published to keep everyone informed of plans going forward. A new member of staff had been appointed to deal with marketing/PR. It was suggested that the School needs to work closely with the council on communication with the local community.

The Trustees had been asked by residents whether Chinese pupils would be coming to study in St Bees. Cllr Kelly explained that this would happen once the necessary licences had been obtained for the boarding facilities. Work was now taking place on fire precautions to meet the criteria required to obtain licences.

Discussions had taken place with the Headmaster and Bursar about the planting of a tree to mark the School's reopening. The idea had been well received and it was planned that the pupils would help to plant the tree.

147/18 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

(a) Financial Report

The summary of accounts at 31 August was received and noted.

FRAG would be meeting shortly to review the position at the end of qtr 2 and begin the process of reviewing the financial regulations. A report would be available for the next meeting.

(b) Electricity Contract Arrangements

The Parish Council was currently part of the Cumbria County Council contract for the supply of electricity to take advantage of the prices offered by a large contract. The current contract period was due to end shortly and CCC had invited the council to continue to be part of their contract arrangements from 2019 - 2023.

It was RESOLVED to continue to be part of the CCC contract for the period 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2023.

(c) External Audit 2017/18

The external audit had been completed. An unqualified opinion had been given and no matters had been drawn to the council's attention.

(d) Donations

(a) The presentation of British Empire Medals to John & Sally Kennedy had taken place on 11 Sept. There had been a general invitation to all members of the community to attend and the event had been very well attended. As the awards were in recognition of their work for a wide range of local organisations, it was proposed that the Parish Council should contribute towards the cost of refreshments for the presentation.

It was RESOLVED to give a donation of £100 to the PCC towards the costs of refreshments for the event.

(b) The Over 60s Club had contacted the Clerk to ask whether the council would consider making a contribution to the costs of the Christmas party which would be held at the Seacote in December.

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It was RESOLVED to place a notice in the next edition of the parish magazine seeking bids from village groups and to consider all bids received at the next meeting.

(e) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

- Chq no 002444 Information Commissioner – data protection fee Total £40.00
- Chq no 002445 Playsafety Ltd - annual RoSPA inspections £178.50 + £35.70 VAT Total £214.20
- Chq no 002446 D Sim – reimbursement for key cutting Total £10.50
- Chq no 002447 CBC – play area repairs £62.04 +£12.41 VAT Total 74.45
- Chq no 002448 PKF Littlejohn LLP - audit fee £200.00 + £40.00 VAT Total £240.00
- Chq no 002449 L8Water Solutions Ltd– legionella checks 2015/18 £540.00 + £108.00 Total £648.00
- Chq no 002450 J Donaldson - printer ink charge July & Aug £13.32 + £2.66 VAT & postage £6.96 Total £22.94
- Chq no 002451 J Donaldson – salary (net) September - £673.26
- Chq no 002452 HMRC – PAYE Qtr 2 -£269.60
- Chq no 002453 St Bees PCC – contribution to costs of presentation - £100.00
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd -toilet service (September) £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

Payments since last meeting to report

- Chq 002433 VIB Petty Cash top-up £130.99
- Chq 002434 D Robinson - reimbursement for plants £45.74 + £9.15 Total £54.89
- Chq 002435 Blomfields Ltd – plants for baskets/containers £535.00 + £107.00 Total £642.00
- Chq 002436 J Donaldson – Clerk salary August £623.66
- Chq 002438 P Argyle – reimbursement for paint £161.61 +£32.32 VAT Total £193.93
- Chq 002439 J Skelton - painting of toilets Total £400.00
- Answer 4 You – answering service August £8.80 + £1.76 VAT Total £10.56 (paid by DD on 17 August)
- Thomas Milburn Property Ltd – toilet service Aug £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (paid by SO 26/08/2018)
- Chq 002440 Water Plus Ltd – allotment water charges Total £16.05
- Chq 002441 Water Plus Ltd – water/wastewater charges (beach toilets) Total £545.55
- Chq 002442 Works 4 You Ltd – grasscutting July £289.00 + £57.80 Total £346.80
- Chq 002443 YNH Ltd – domain name renewal (replaces chq 002437 which was damaged in the post) Total £22.00
- Answer 4 You – answering service Sept £10.01 + £2.00 VAT Total £12.01 (paid by DD on 17/09/2018)

148/18 VILLAGE HALL LEASES

The Chairman reported that the Village Hall Committee had considered whether it should become an incorporated body but, after taking professional advice, had concluded that this was not appropriate. The current arrangement would therefore continue with the Parish Council acting as Custodian Trustee. New leases were now being prepared and would be in the name of St Bees Parish Council. The exact costs were not yet known.

149/18 PROJECT REPORTS

(a) Beach Regeneration

A local family had offered to donate a seat for the play area. This would be the same model as the memorial seat installed a year or so ago.

The external painting of the toilets was complete and the appearance was much improved.

The annual RoSPA inspections had been carried out at both play areas in August. No high risk issues had been identified but there were recommendations for remedial work, mainly to ground surfaces.

FRAG would be looking at the recommendations at its next meeting. The rotting log on the trail had also been reported to Wicksteed under the warranty and further information was awaited from Wicksteed.

Over the summer the spring on the dolphin had snapped. The durability of these springs was questioned but it was noted that the equipment was very well used.

It was RESOLVED to proceed with the replacement of the spring at a cost of £400.37 and to look at alternative pieces of equipment for the longer term.

There had been no further response from CBC to the suggestion of a bin specially for plastic bottles at the main beach. The Clerk would follow this up with CBC.

(b) Traffic Calming/Speedwatch

Speedwatch sessions were continuing. One volunteer had withdrawn from the rota due to ill health and further volunteers would be welcome. It was agreed to advertise for volunteers in the parish magazine. It was noted that there were fewer vehicles travelling through the village at in/out muster times following the changes introduced by Sellafield Ltd. Following the article in the parish magazine comments had been received from a local resident describing the impact on parking in the village as drivers used the train or car sharing arrangements to reach Sellafield. It was noted that contractors should not be parking in the village to await pick-up in company vehicles and this could be reported to Sellafield Ltd if it was creating problems.

It was RESOLVED to write to Sellafield Ltd welcoming the reduction in traffic volumes as a result of the new measures they had introduced.

(c) Community Events

Planning was continuing for events to mark the centenary of the ending of WW1. The project group would be meeting shortly to finalise plans. There would be the traditional wreath laying and Service of Remembrance on Sunday 11 November and a series of other events were planned in the preceding week including readings of war poetry in the Priory, wooden crosses to remember those from the School and village who lost their lives, performance of a play written by Gus Kennedy and a lecture by Anthony Payne. The bell ringers were making plans to mark the centenary and a lecture by Charm Robson on art from WW1 would take place the following week.

The 'Meet the Parish Council' event would take place on Monday 8 October. The exhibition of objects linked to village history would be open from 5pm with the meeting itself beginning at 6.30pm. There would be an opportunity for informal discussions and refreshments after the meeting.

(d) Tree Planting

There were no plans for further planting apart from the tree to be planted to commemorate the re-opening of St Bees School.

(e) St Bees – Whitehaven Cycle Track

There was no further progress to report. However, it was suggested that there was a plan by United Utilities to bring a new pipeline along the valley. It was agreed to seek further information on the likely route.

(f) Priory Paddock Pond Project

Work was continuing to fully eradicate the invasive species before further work could be done.

(g) Public Access Defibrillators

Arrangements were being made to install the second defibrillator at the top of Sea Mill Lane. The First Responders had agreed to remove the redundant cabinet at the bottom of Outrigg as this was causing confusion for local residents.

It was reported that the telephone had been removed from the telephone box by the station. It seemed that there had been a plan to install a defibrillator in the kiosk but it was unclear who was dealing with this. It was agreed that it was important to establish the position to prevent the condition of the telephone box deteriorating.

(h) Station Car Park Extension

The Clerk had contacted Network Rail to press for an update on the council's request to secure access to the adjoining land on a long term basis. A reply had been received but this suggested that little progress had been made and internal consultation within Network Rail was yet to take place.

150/18 WEST COPELAND PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership had not met for some time but a meeting had been organised on Monday 24 September at 6pm to discuss the future of the Partnership when it was hoped that all the parishes would send a representative. Cllr Gilmour was unable to attend but indicated that he would be happy to continue to represent St Bees PC at future meetings. It was agreed that Cllr Sim would try to attend the meeting on the 24th.

151/18 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Gilmour reported on the meeting of the Sellafeld Parish Liaison Forum which had focussed on the changes to the travel arrangements for Sellafeld staff. The company was aware of the potential impact on parking in local villages and had undertaken to do what it could to avoid inconvenience to residents. Cllr Gilmour also outlined the topics covered at the recent Three Tier Meeting including a presentation by Cumbria Enterprise Partnership and information from Cumbria Highways on plans to ensure the safety of third parties working on/close to the highway.

The Chairman reported on the meeting of West Cumbria Sites Stakeholders Group when Sellafeld Ltd's socio-economic programme had been discussed. The company had expressed the wish that local communities would become involved in plans for the programme.

It was RESOLVED to invite Jamie Reed to meet parish council representatives at a mutually convenient time to discuss the company's socio-economic programme.

152/18 REPORT FROM VILLAGE SCHOOL

Cllr Kennedy gave a report on recent developments at the Village School. An OFSTED inspection at the end of the summer term had gone well and the school was rated as good. The results of the Key Stage 2 tests had been excellent with results in both Maths and English well above the national average. The school now had 220 children on roll.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Headteacher congratulating the school on its success.

153/18 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 4/18/2346/0F1 Conversion of barn to dwelling
116A Main Street, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there was no objection to this application.

Ref 4/18/2366/0F1 Create parking space in garden by removing a wall and
replacing with same sandstone
2 Grindal Place, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there was no objection to this application.

Ref 4/18/2367/0F1 New farm access and access road
Low Walton Farm, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there was no objection to this application.

Ref 4/18/2386/0F1 Remove conservatory & erect sun room to rear
127 Main Street, St Bees

It was RESOLVED that there was no objection to this application.

(b) Applications approved by CBC:

- 4/18/2294/0N1 Notice of intention for concreting existing hard core roads on site – Fairladies Farm, Outrigg
- 4/18/2237/0F1 Change of use from guest house to residential – Ghyll Farmhouse, Egremont
- 4/18/2289/TPO Various tree work – 21 Main Street, St Bees
- 4/17/2397/0F1 Retention of boundary fencing, retention of stairs to side/rear, construction of rear patio, erection of garage with patio roof and garden store(alterations to previously approved scheme 4/16/2180/0F1) with amended site boundary (retrospective) – The Barn, 4 Blythe Place
- 4/18/2303/0F1 Conversion of attached outbuilding to extend living accommodation – Westlands, Bigrigg
- 4/18/2282/0F1 Two storey extension & balcony to rear and creation of parking space to front – Bankside, Sea Mill Lane

154/18 TRAINING

CALC was hoping to go ahead with a course on play area inspections to be held in St Bees later this year. Four places would be allocated to St Bees PC. The dates and costs were yet to be confirmed. Enquiries had been made about the possibility of organising a bespoke training session on planning. A local planning consultant had suggested that he could provide a two hour course in St Bees at a cost of £200. It was agreed to raise the subject at the meeting of West Copeland Partnership to see if other parishes were interested in sending representatives.

155/18 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received. It was noted that the lengthsman had cleared paths at the allotment field which now looked tidier, although some plots were still not being properly cultivated. It was acknowledged that in some cases illness prevented tenants from working on their plots but it was agreed that a letter should be sent to all tenants to ask that plots be kept in a tidy state.

156/18 CBC ISSUES

Cllr Hill had provided a number of updates on CBC activities which had been circulated to councillors by email. It was noted that CBC was currently considering locations for polling stations for the Borough/Parish Council elections in May 2019.

157/18 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

No report had been received.

158/18 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) The Government had published its response to the NPS consultation process for nuclear power generation for deployment 2026– 2035. The next stage would be for developers to re-nominate sites. Nu-Gen had confirmed that it intended to submit a re-nomination for Moorside. Noted.

(b)The Local Government Boundary Commission had published its final recommendations for Copeland. There were no changes to the previously published proposals for St Bees Ward. Noted.

(c)Details had been received of Cumbria Coast Pollinator Project which aimed to boost numbers of bumblebees and other pollinators along the Cumbrian Coast. The project was being delivered by Cumbria Wildlife Trust which was encouraging the creation of pollinator havens in parks, housing estates, allotments etc. Noted.

(d)Details had been received of a Master Composter Scheme led by Garden Organic. The scheme was seeking volunteers to champion the benefits of composting in their local area. Details have been posted on the noticeboards.

(e)Correspondence had been received from a local resident about shrubs growing through the fence from the garden of the flats on Fairladies onto the Parish Council's footpath. The Clerk would arrange for overgrowing branches to be cut back.

(f)Cumbria Constabulary had launched its annual public consultation survey. Noted.

- (g)CALC had reviewed the basis on which subscriptions were calculated and was proposing a change to base the charge on the size of the electorate in each parish. A final decision would be taken at the CALC AGM in November. Noted.
- (h)United Utilities had submitted its revised draft Water Resources Management Plan to DEFRA (copy available on the Untied Utilities web-site). Noted
- (i) CCC had confirmed that the Voluntary Social Car Scheme was not operating in Copeland as it had not been possible to find a volunteer co-ordinator. Details of the vacancy have been posted on the main noticeboard.
- (j) Nominations were invited for vacancies on the CALC Executive Committee. Details had been circulated by email.
- (k)Northern Gas Networks had launched a Stakeholder Engagement Survey to ascertain views on its future plans. Details available from the Clerk.
- (l)CPRE had launched a campaign to encourage local groups to tidy up the countryside this September. Noted.
- (m)Two local residents had contacted the council to say that they were having difficulty accessing minutes on the web-site. The Clerk had supplied copies of recent minutes to those concerned until the problem could be resolved.
- (n) An invitation had been received to the ACT AGM on 19 October at Braithwaite. Noted.

FOR INFORMATION

- NW Coastal Access Update July & August 2018
- NALC Weekly Newsletters (August)
- Full Circle -St Bees School Newsletters 5-9
- Friends of the Lake District Newsletter – August
- Copeland Matters August & September
- Open Spaces Society – e-update
- Trudy Harrison MP – e-newsletter June/July
- Solway Firth Partnership News - August
- FLAG Newsletter – August
- Conserving Lakeland (Friends of the Lake District) summer/autumn 2018
- West Cumbria Mining Project Update Autumn 2018

159/18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- (a)It was reported that a Network Rail employee had been assaulted at St Bees Station. It was believed that Network Rail was reviewing its security arrangements.
- (b) It was reported that the gullies on Outrigg were blocked and there was a risk of water running down on to Main Street during heavy rain. The Clerk would report this to CCC.

160/18 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting take place on MONDAY 15 OCTOBER 2018 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....