

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of St Bees Parish Council held on
Monday 20 July 2020 at 6.30pm via Cisco Webex**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Sim (in the Chair), P Argyle, N Bettinson, G Gilmour, C Hale, A Kaldos,
H Monaghan, J Mellor, D Millington, C Robson, D Rothery, E Taylor & the Clerk

In attendance: Cllr C Whiteside, County Councillor - Egremont North/St Bees
Cllr J Hailes, CBC Ward Councillor

Also present: Mr S Woodall, Green Swallow North Ltd

75/20 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed councillors to the meeting and introduced Stuart Woodall of Green Swallow North Ltd, the agent for the owners of Outrigg Yard.

76/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs F Kennedy and A Linton

77/20 DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this stage of the meeting.

78/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no issues raised.

79/20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2020

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 15 June be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

80/20 OUTLINE PLANNING APPROVAL – OUTRIGG YARD

Cllr Argyle declared an interest as tenant of a garage on this property.

The application for outline permission to demolish the garages and create residential properties on the site had been considered by the Planning Panel on 8 July and permission had been granted with all matters reserved. It was understood that there were conditions attached relating to drainage etc and the access would be required to be constructed to highways standard. A pedestrian link to Fairladies was also to be made a condition of the application.

Cllr Argyle had represented the Parish Council at the Panel meeting and reported on the discussion which had taken place. She had presented the Parish Council's views and a member of the public had also spoken to oppose the application. Panel members had not asked any questions and the only comment from the Panel members was a criticism that the owner had not taken steps to inform tenants of the application. Cllr Argyle expressed the view that objectors had been treated in a rather peremptory and discourteous manner.

It was RESOLVED that this feedback should be shared with members of the Planning Panel.

There was considerable concern among local residents about the impact of the loss of off-street parking on other areas of the village which were already heavily congested with parked vehicles.

Since the permission was granted, electronic correspondence had taken place between a garage tenant and the site owner about the current situation. Mr Woodall confirmed that the site had not been sold and had not been advertised for sale. The land had previously been offered to CCC to provide parking for the village school but the offer had not been taken up. He pointed out that the Parish Council had not previously expressed an interest in the site but could still do so if it wished.

Councillors believed that every option should be explored to try to avoid the loss of off-street parking. Mr Woodall was not in a position to give an indication of the value of the land but he agreed to facilitate dialogue with the site owners.

It was RESOLVED to set up a small working group to look at the options and report back to the Parish Council.

(Mr Woodall then left the meeting)

81/20 FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**(a) Monthly Report & Qtr 1 Review**

The account summary at 30 June was received together with the Qtr 1 variance report. At this stage in the year income and expenditure were generally in line with expectations, although the Covid-19 situation had delayed some invoices. The play area budget and fees budget would be kept under review by the Finance & Risk Advisory Group which would be meeting shortly. The group would also be reviewing the actions recommended in the Internal Audit report and considering the possible move to electronic banking and would report back to the next full council meeting.

(b) Risk Management

Risk assessments had been undertaken for VIB activities and play areas in light of government guidance following the easing of lockdown measures. Both play areas had been inspected before reopening and additional signage had been put in place.

(c) Payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

Chq 002655 Works 4 You Ltd – grasscutting June £390.86 + £78.17 Total £469.03

Chq 002656 CBC – play area inspections Qtr 1 £336.00 + £67.20 VAT Total £403.20

Chq 002657 CBC – play area inspections Qtr 2 £336.00 + £67.20 VAT Total £403.20

Chq 002658 Jupiter Play & Leisure Ltd – new play equipment £2077.00 + £415.40 VAT Total £2492.40

Chq 002659 Npower Ltd – electricity to toilets £26.29 + £1.31 VAT Total £27.60

Chq 002660 & 2661 J Donaldson – printer ink service June £6.66 + £1.33 VAT, Webex subscription £12.50 + £2.50 VAT Total expenses £22.99 & salary July £540.42

Answer 4 U -answering service July £9.99 + £2.00 VAT Total £11.99 (to be paid by DD)

Thomas Milburn Property Ltd -toilet service £583.33 + £116.67 VAT Total £700.00 (to be paid by SO)

The following payments made since last meeting were noted:

Chq 002649 Community Heartbeat Trust – defibrillator pads £123.00 + £24.60 VAT Total £147.60

Chq 002650 Npower – electricity to toilets £20.08 + £1.00 VAT Total £21.08

Chq 002651 Derek Tolson & Sons – pothole repairs £100.00 + £20.00 VAT Total £120.00

Chq 002652 Npower -electricity to toilets £22.77 + £1.14 VAT Total £23.91

Chq 002653 Blomfields Ltd – filling planters £210.00 + £42.00 Total £252.00

Chq 002654 VIB Petty Cash top-up Total £142.52

82/20 STATION CAR PARK EXTENSION & CYCLE TRACK PROJECTS

Cllrs Sim and Taylor reported on the virtual meeting with Trudy Harrison MP to discuss these projects. It had been a very useful meeting and Trudy Harrison had made a number of helpful suggestions. She had recognised a number of synergies between the two schemes as both were transport related and both would benefit people outside St Bees as well as local residents. She had stressed the importance of getting support from CCC via the Local Transport Plan. Cllr Whiteside reported that he had been in contact with Cllr Southward to investigate whether any help was available from CCC or LEP. Kevin Cosgrove of Cumbria Highways had also agreed to take part in a virtual meeting with PC representatives to discuss both projects.

It had been suggested that installation of EV charging points, setting up a base for cycle hire etc could be additional benefits which would attract funders. There were a number of government schemes to encourage cycling which might also be appropriate. Trudy Harrison had also offered to contact the NDA to press for a response from the NDA and Sellafeld Ltd as it had proved difficult so far to engage them in discussions.

Cllr Taylor reported that following the meeting the NDA had contacted him and he was asking them for help with drawing up a business case for the car park extension. He had also been in contact with Whitehaven TC which remained fully supportive of the cycle track scheme and the elected Mayor had expressed support for both projects.

The Chairman noted that the idea of the Parish Council creating a Neighbourhood Plan for St Bees had not progressed in recent years because of the workload involved but he suggested that a Plan would be very useful in light of the developments now on the horizon. Cllr Gilmour agreed to make enquiries of a local resident who might be able to help with this.

83/20 CCC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Whiteside reported on a number of highways matters:-

- Some government funding had been received by CCC for cycling schemes but the criteria were strict and it was not known whether any of the funding would come to Copeland.
- The speed reduction measures on the B5345 at the northern entrance to the village were programmed to take place in mid September under traffic signals.
- Major resurfacing improvements on the B5345 from the level crossing to Barony House were planned to start on 1 August subject to agreement with Network Rail. Patching would also be done on the carriageway near the Queens Hotel and footway repairs would also be carried out in the area of the Queens Hotel at the same time. A road closure would be necessary.
- Extensive patching was also planned on the B5345 from St Bees to Wilson Pit Road. This would begin on 17 August for 2 weeks and a road closure would be needed.
- The possible extension of the pavement on Outrigg was still under discussion.
- The meeting of the Development Committee to consider the amended application from West Cumbria Mining had been delayed as a large number of responses had been received to the consultation. It was now expected to take place in early autumn.
- A meeting had taken place with Highways England following the disappointing news that the proposed Whitehaven Relief Road was not included in the strategic programme. However, the improvements at the Moor Row & Linethwaite junctions on the A595 were going ahead and consultation was expected to take place within the next 12 months.

Councillors asked whether any progress had been made with plans to improve the junction of High House Rd and Fleatham Croft. Cllr Whiteside agreed to follow this up with Highways and report back.

84/20 CBC MATTERS

Cllr Hailes explained that there were a number of outstanding issues, particularly at the beach area. He was working with CBC staff to progress these but it had been difficult while many staff had been redeployed or furloughed.

CBC was publicising the government's Eat Out to Help Out campaign and Cllr Hailes was contacting local businesses to ensure they were aware of how to register for the scheme. A Shop Local initiative had also been launched. Cllr Hailes thanked the Parish Council for its work in setting up and coordinating the Coronavirus Support Group in the area.

Cllr Hailes explained a scheme taking place with some success in other villages encouraging residents to clean-up a short section outside their house.

Cllr Rothery reported that work had now been done to repair the lifeboat ramp.

(Cllr Robson left the meeting at this point)

85/20 FOOTWAY LIGHTING

In December CBC had announced that it would cease to fund footway lighting from April 2020 and was looking to parish and town councils to take on the costs of any lights which they wished to retain. In view of the short notice CBC had agreed to postpone the implementation of the new policy until April 2021. There had been no progress since then and CALC officers had requested a meeting with CBC to discuss the situation. CBC had stated that it still intended to withdraw funding from April 2021 and asked that parishes complete the questionnaire sent out in January.

It was noted that the inventory of lights provided by CBC did not match with information previously supplied by CCC nor with the actual location of lights in the parish. Cllr Bettinson had surveyed all the lights in the parish and believed there were 51 footway lights belonging to CBC, a number of which were not currently working. The lights affected were on Sea Mill Lane (from Colt House to the bridge), Nethetown Rd, B5345 between the Village School and Abbey Corner, and Station Rd with a few scattered across other areas of the parish. If the Parish Council were to accept responsibility for all these lights the annual cost would be £7500 and this would not include major repairs or replacement.

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The CBC questionnaire asked for details of lights which were not required and those which it was considered should be a CCC responsibility.

It was agreed that the list of footway lights would be circulated to councillors so a view could be reached on which lights, if any, were no longer required. It was agreed that the lights on the B5345 were more appropriate to CCC funding.

It was RESOLVED to respond to the questionnaire from CBC but to answer only those questions which did not involve a commitment to take over responsibility for footway lighting.

86/20 PROPOSED NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

NALC had worked with the Local Government Association to draw up a new model Code of Conduct for all tiers of local government. A copy had been circulated to councillors. A consultation was now underway and would run to 17 August.

87/20 FOOTPATHS

There were on-going problems with the gate from the hockey field to the Dandy Walk. Recently stock had got out of the field when the gate was left open and an animal had been killed. The gate spring had been tightened to prevent it being left open but it was now difficult for walkers to open it. Although the Parish Council had no responsibility for gates on public footpaths, discussions had taken place with the land owner and CCC about possible solutions. CCC were prepared to provide a kissing gate kit, which would prevent stock getting out and would be easier for walkers, if the land owner or Parish Council were able to fund the costs of installation. Flagstones were also recommended under the gate to prevent erosion.

It was RESOLVED to contact the landowner to confirm their agreement to the installation of a kissing gate and to discuss the funding of the work.

88/20 PROJECT REPORTS

(a) Beach Regeneration & Play Area

The large spinner had been damaged, apparently deliberately, and had been removed pending repair by CBC.

The two new springies were to be delivered this week. CBC had quoted a price of £760.65 VAT to remove the old bases and install the new equipment.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation.

CBC had also quoted a price of £1283.61 + VAT to replace the mild steel poles and bars with stainless steel to prevent rusting.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation subject to confirmation of which parts were included.

Cllrs Argyle and Robson had repainted the beach shelter and the wall of the toilets where the display board had been removed.

It had proved difficult to make progress with the question of cycle stands at the beach as CBC officers are only just beginning to return to their normal roles. It was known that some funding was going to be available to principal authorities for cycling related schemes which might provide opportunities.

89/20 PLANNING

(a) New Planning Applications

There had been no new planning applications since the last meeting.

(b) Other Planning Issues

It was noted that an appeal had been lodged against the refusal of consent for an extension and decking at 9 The Crofts (application ref 4/19/2427/0F1)

(c) Decisions by CBC

The following applications had been approved by CBC:

4/20/2148/0F1 Single storey side extension – 15 Firth Drive

4/20/2163/TPO Felling of holly tree – 3 Grindal Place

4/19/2426/0O1 Outline application (with all matters reserved) for demolition of existing garages and residential development – Outrigg Yard

90/20 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report on on-going matters was received and noted. It was noted that some minor maintenance had been carried out on the tree at Beck Edge and that the Village in Bloom volunteers had provided a display to mark the 900 year anniversary of the Priory. This was particularly welcome when so many other celebration events had been cancelled.

It was noted that there was no arrangement in place for the regular emptying of the bin in Beck Edge Garden. As it was not greatly used, it was agreed to remove the bin.

91/20 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Details had been received of a webinar hosted by 'Charge My Street' and Cumbria Action for Sustainability on 30 June to discuss EV charging in the NW. Cllr Kaldos had taken part.

(b) A new voucher scheme had been announced as part of the Borderlands project to help residents in internet slow spots in Cumbria to install gigabit broadband. Noted.

(c) An update had been received from CALC on the proposal for a Whitehaven Eastern Relief Road. The relief road scheme had not been included in the second Roads Investment Strategy and the situation remained unchanged. The recent government announcement of further roads funding was targeted at local roads only. Noted.

(d) The Environment Agency had announced the opening of a consultation on environmental permits for Sizewell C. Noted.

(e) The Centre for Sustainable Energy was seeking local councils to volunteer to be involved in the creation of a carbon footprinting tool. Noted.

(f) Details had been received from NALC of its plans to host a number of online events on the theme of rebuilding communities. The aim was to bring together national influencers and policy makers with the local council sector. The first event would be on 28 July. Noted.

(g) Information had been received from the Village Hall Committee on precautions to be taken when using the Village Hall. Noted.

(h) The Care Quality Commission and Healthwatch were carrying out a survey of people's experiences of accessing services during the Covid pandemic. Details were available from the Clerk. Noted.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

NALC Chief Executive's Weekly Bulletins
 NALC Coronavirus updates
 Copeland Matters Coronavirus edition
 Action for Health & Mental Health Provider Bulletin
 Cumbria Arts & Culture Network: Covid 19 Newsletter
 Cumbria Police -weekly Covid-19 updates
 ACT Gazette summer 2020
 Rural Services Network – weekly bulletins
 FLAG Newsletter

92/20 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION /FUTURE AGENDAS

(a) Cllr Kaldos asked whether an upgrade of the Outrigg play area could be considered as some of the equipment was now old and in need of replacement. He agreed to provide some initial ideas which could be considered as a project for next year.

(b) Cllr Hale noted that the footpath from Sea Mill to Nethertown Rd was much improved following the work by CCC. It was noted that this was a public footpath and not a bridleway so should not be used by those on horseback.

93/20 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the next Parish Council meeting would take place on MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2020 at 6.30pm. The arrangements would be confirmed nearer the time in light of government advice on physical meetings.

Signed.....

Date.....