

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Wednesday 6th September 2017
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

Present:

Chair	Cllr Brian Goulding
Councillors	Cllr Craig Ashton Cllr Eileen Eastwood Cllr David Halliday Cllr Catherine Harvey-Chadwick Cllr K Mawson Cllr L Mawson Cllr David Moore
Clark/ RFO	Ms Jill Bush
Public	Ms Brenda Parsons Mr Geoff Hayward

The meeting was recorded for minuting purposes

ITEM

1. Apologies
Cllr David Ritson
2. **Announcements from the Chair**
None
3. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors in respect of Agenda items**
Cllr Moore
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting of 5th July 2017**
Minutes Proposed Cllr Moore, seconded Cllr Halliday. Ratified and signed off
5. **Matters Arising**
Seafront Victorian lamp post has been installed, but at a slight angle. This will be rectified
6. **Council to consider co-opted Councillor**
Proposed Cllr Moore, Seconded Cllr Eastwood.
Ms Fiona Robinson was welcomed to the Council
7. **Public Participation**
Ms B Parsons read out a statement. The Clerk asked for a copy of the statement and advised answers to the questions contained therein would be answered in the Minutes. This was because, unfortunately, much of what was read out was not heard and Ms Parsons had requested she read it out the entirety before questions were answered. The Parish Councils' response is set out below the statement.

SEPTEMBER 6th MEETING SPC

Mr Chairman with no Cllr available to ask questions, and only allowed to speak 4 minutes once a month I request the courtesy to ask my questions without interruptions. You then show me the good manners and reply.

1. In the July meeting there was much talk to address the ongoing neglect of the seafront yet it amounted to nothing being done, in spite of SPC having close on a balance of £50,000. Why did the council not engage a professional at the cost of the expected £4,000 to make the much needed improvements? £1,200 was wasted on CCTV cameras, then advertised to the nation through Tethra on line, the seafront is now safe for people to visit. Why would anyone on holiday want to visit an area with a potential claimed by SPC for criminality. Would it not have been a better use of £1,200 to put lighting at the Bike park where there is claim to a drug problem?

2. The men's toilets have succumbed to being out of order and yet again it is the vulnerable and disabled that are taken advantage of to resolve it. I made my concerns directly to the chairman having seen the MS driver opening the toilets. The Chairman immediately went on facebook to publicly praise the Morgan Sindall driver for his community spirit by volunteering to open them. I request the chairman to ask this same driver through facebook to exercise community spirit and volunteer to drive safely, and not to use South Parade pavement for parking on whilst he goes shopping, not drive at speed from the Drigg Road into the car park against the arrows, swinging the bus round at top of the aisle to park across it to use as a picking up point? Or better still MS volunteer to remove themselves, show some community spirit and refrain from using our village car park as a worksite? Why doesn't the SPC and MS show community spirit and value a child's life for what it is and not risk it for 3pence an hour? The amount paid for parking.

3. Why didn't the SPC seek planning approval for the play equipment before raising the money?

4. Why has it been minuted that it was one woman putting her personal rubbish in the litter bins that had caused the bins to overflow? This is untrue it was because the bins had not been emptied.

5. How does the council think they are going to run the library when they have made such a monumental mess of running the car park and seafront area?

6. Due to the council's rigid restrictions on availability. How is Dr Ashton of LLWR going to promote his ten year community plan? It is generally known that since Morgan Sindall infiltrated Seascale, the car park and other the local communities MS have received in excess of 7,000 complaints. We all need to see an end to the Contractors charter of their wants given priority over the well being of the residents. It is time SPC concentrated on maintaining what we have, take pride in our surroundings and end this need to continually indulge in project power. A visit to Ravenglass would show the council how enjoyable it is that less is more.

Once Dr Ashton has done his presentation I would like to propose something he may like to add.

Work already carried out in the current fiscal year is as follows:

- Car park CCTV installation
- Toilet block ceiling repair
- Wishing Well Repair
- Parish flag digital artwork (for the replacement of the current flag)
- Red Ensign Flag
- Replacement seafront Victorian Lamp post
- Wishing Well Seat Repair

Scheduled work, to date, to be carried out is as follows:

- Toilet block repairs/refurbishment
- Additional waste bins
- Replacement public seating
- Parish Flag and other replacement flags

Cllr Aston has proposed the next Community Plan will, like the previous one, have resident participation. See 8.1 below.

This would be such an occasion for Ms Parsons to submit her suggestion for lighting in the bike park.

At least 26 members of the public attended the 1st March meeting as Item 5 was about the car park and Item 6 was public participation regarding the previous Item. At this same meeting no parishioner, including Ms Parsons raised the possible risk to a child's life. There is no logic in Councillors making the lives of the Parishioners less safe, when all the Councillors and their families also live in the Seascale. Contrary to what Ms Parsons claims there has been a growing number of resident's (including Councillors) getting involved in various community schemes, such as the Seascale Community Park and 'Shackles Off' a group dedicated to litter picking. Approximately 20 volunteers have already put their names forward to help in the library when the Parish take over this asset from the County Council, rather than it be closed. SPC invite Ms Parsons to join the growing positive community spirit.

The Parish Council acknowledge the opinion Ms Parsons has of Morgan Sindall (MS) and are pleased that, to date, all the other responses have been in support of the MS contractor who volunteered to open the toilets in the morning. As a private company, they have no legal obligation to respond to FOI requests, therefore SPC are unable to comment on the claim of the number of complaints MS may have received.

The Parish Council has no legal jurisdiction over alleged driving offences, that is a matter for the Police.

The 'Seascale Community Beach Park' is a registered charity and it was this group which sought funding through grants. Earlier this year it was awarded a full grant because of the level of support it received from the local people. SPC willingly supports such a venture when it has so much local support and was more than happy to fund the cost of the planning application because of this. SPC draw Ms Parsons attention to 5th April Minutes Item 4.1. and respectfully point out she attended this meeting.

The contract for litter bin emptying is as follows:

	Seascale Foreshore
1.4.17 TO 30.4.17	8 BINS 2 TIMES A WEEK - 4 WKS
1.5.17 TO 30.9.17	8 BINS 3 TIMES A WEEK - 22WKS
1.10.17 TO 31.3.18	8 BINS 2 TIMES A WEEK - 26 WKS
	BMX Track
1.4.17 TO 31.3.18	1 BIN 1 A WEEK - 13 WKS

SPC note the opinion Ms Parson has of it.

It is worth noting Ravenglass is within the National Park and has lost much of its small public car park for an approximate 12-month period whilst United Utilities upgrades the waste water system. Muncaster Parish Council objected and offered viable alternatives, unfortunately the car park is not owned by the Parish. It was anticipated this could cause problems for the residents, as visitors resort to finding alternative parking. MPC have also reported a problem with dog owners failing to clean up after their dogs.

8. Reports from the Councillors & Working Groups

8.1 Community Plan

To engage the local community, and stake holders.

Conduct a survey to involve as many residents as possible to establish where they would like to see the Parish in 10 years-time.

The way to achieve this could be multi-pronged:

- On-line
- Drop-in focus group
- Paper form available in the library

The data collated from this would be the basis of the Village Plan, with a business plan to execute it. The business plan could be submitted to stake holders with the possibility of further funding on the strength of this and/or any recommendations they may have to improve it.

Cllr Ashton will submit a survey proposal at the next meeting.

8.2 Library

The last meeting was in July, which included a discussion with representatives from CCC. SPC can report the takeover process is continuing, however, this has been interrupted by the next agenda item.

8.3 2016/17 External Audit

The external auditor (BDO) has received one complaint, which was predominantly about an asset acquired by the Parish in an earlier fiscal year, the BDO had audited and signed off the accounts for that year. Unfortunately, the BDO have decided to investigate and are acting on very limited information. This is a waste of public funds. There is however, a financial gain for the BDO. Of real concern too, is the lack of impartiality shown by the BDO. When a private company has concerns over the way accounts are being audited this can be challenged through several avenues, however, the only avenue open to a Parish Council was previously the Audit Commission, which closed in 2015 and replaced by the National Audit Office, which concentrates on central government. SPC is not alone, as other councils have also expressed concern over the BDO conducting investigations into previous years accounts, which were also audited and signed off by them.

Cllr Halliday asked for the Council to support for the following proposals.

Due to the BDOs' unreasonable and unprofessional behaviour SPC should seek an alternative auditor.

Proposed Cllr Halliday and seconded Cllr Moore

Cllr Goulding proposed the Clerk be recompensed for the additional time that has had to be spent on this. Seconded by Cllr Halliday.

Cllr Moore proposed the organisation who recommended the BDO are notified of the manner it conducts its investigations and what redress is available. Seconded by Cllr Eastwood.

9 Finance

9.1 RFO balance read out the reconciled Cash Book Balance of £44,320.75 for July, this includes seven outstanding payments totalling £1,806.96.

9.2 Pavilion to be invoiced for electricity and the Sports Hall contacted again regarding the outstanding invoice for the same. Clerk to action. Actioned

9.3 Payments requests approved.

10 To Consider any Planning Issues

- 10.1** Land adjacent to Glencairn, Gosforth Road - Variation & Discharge of Condition 8. No Objection. Clerk to action. Actioned
- 10.2** Application for CHP Plan – New Steam Generation Plant & Demolition of CHP Application – in Ponsonby Parish - close to the border of Seascale Parish. Qualified no objection. Clerk to action. Actioned

11 To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

11.1 Play Area H&S Inspection

Cllr Goulding who is RoSPA trained Play Area Inspector conducted the inspection and provided a full report for Council. He found several areas of concern and cordoned off areas which pose a H&S risk. A repair and replacement programme will be created from these findings.

11.2 Gents Toilet Block

The cleaner has reported a toilet seat has come off, a handle has come off, a door lock is not working and it is flooding. Subsequently, it has been closed off and until suitable repairs are carried out, the disabled toilet will be used. It is accepted continual repairs are not viable and the hand dryer is not working. The toilet block has a large footfall and therefore the facility should reflect the number of people who use it. Mr Geoff Hayward also raised concern that there is no lock on the disabled door, the hand drying facility insufficient and limited hot water and has offered his services. The Council expressed concern about the missing door lock, as that was only fitted recently. The Council thanked him for this, have taken his details and will be in contact with the cleaner to arrange a suitable time for the work to be assessed.

11.3 Seating to Castle Area

The seating has been removed for safety reasons and will be replaced. A contractor will be contacted to carry out the necessary work.

11.4 Consider a budget to replace worn flags

It was felt perhaps a budget was not necessary.

Cllr Harvey-Chadwick said the Parish Council had been donated some flags and that some of the existing flags are getting frayed. A list of flags needing replacement to be submitted and approved for payment. Cllr Goulding proposed purchase and replace flags as and when required. Seconded by Cllr K Mawson.

- 11.5** Cllr Eastwood advised the red flagstones by the castle seating are broken and need replacing.

12 To Consider relating to the Highway and Transport A595 group

A new sergeant who has taken over from Sgt Franks. Cllr Goulding has contacted him and asked for an update as the Parish have volunteers and it has been some 4 months when this was first proposed. Initially it was on hold because an assessment needed to be conducted by the police first. SPC have been advised that the reason is that it is still pending is because the officer conducting this is off sick. However, this will be conducted soon and are willing to loan equipment until the Parish can purchase its own.

- 12.1** Cllr K Mawson noted Ennerdale have a speed monitor signpost, which lights up when the speed limit is exceeded. However, this must be approved by highways first before it can be erected.
- 12.2** Whilst the A595 group are trying to divert Sellafield traffic back onto the A595 and off the village roads, Cllr Goulding noted that there was a solid traffic queue on the A595 from Whitehaven to Sellafield at 07:30. The works buses cost £6.00 a day, must be booked in advance and only run from Cockermouth and Workington and mostly likely why there is a problem with their workers having to use their cars and park them close to the bus route. Subsequently, it would appear Sellafield workers also having a problem with their employers' travel plan. Cllr Moore believes Sellafield should be part of the A595 group, as the problem cannot be resolved without their input. This was agreed by Council.
- 12.3** Cllr K Mawson has found the give way road markings are very faded at several locations. Cllr Moore believes that CCC should also be part of the A595 group.

13 Correspondence

None, they had been forwarded in the previous month.

14 Urgent items raised by Councillors

- 14.1** Library business case. Emails will be resent providing the list of library book stock and other information appertaining to the transfer. A meeting to be arranged with CCC library representatives regarding this. Clerk to action. Actioned
- 14.2** The Planning Application for the Seafront Community Beach Park has been approved.
- 14.3** Graham Construction has recently created a conferencing area, competition which would need to be considered in the library business plan. LLWR use Westlakes. Businesses need to be made aware there will be a local alternative in the library and ask them to support local facilities.
- 14.4** Sellafield will have a spent fuel pool, which will be seen from the beach until the baseline is completed in 2080 and a significant risk on the Parish doorstep. However, this has already been passed and paid a huge community tariff, though not to Seascale. However, it is hoped downstream an internal settlement can be considered.
- 14.5** Additional litter bins will be provided as part of the Seascale Community Beach Park Project.
- 14.6** The Pavilion requires two fire extinguishers, water and dry powder.

15 Dates of forthcoming Meeting

F&GP WG 27th September
Full Meeting Wednesday 4th October