

Minutes
of the **Annual Parish Meeting** of
Seascale Parish Council
held on
Wednesday 20th May 2015 at 8pm
in the Methodist School Room, Seascale

Present	Chair	Cllr David Moore
	Councillors	Cllr Mrs Eileen Eastwood Cllr David Ritson Cllr Brian Goulding (Vice-Chair) Cllr David Halliday Cllr Dr Craig Ashton
	Clerk/RFO	Mr Ian Turner
	Public	Mrs Brenda Parsons

Item

1 Apologies

Cllr Mawson

2 Report from the Chair

The Chair reported that it had been a year of transition for the Parish Council. At the beginning of the year the Chair had been Cllr Andrew Woollass, and there had been no Clerk. He thanked Mr Woollass for his efforts to secure the services of the Clerk, and all those Councillors who had assisted him in maintaining the functions of the Parish Council. Since taking over as Chair many of the projects commenced under previous Chairs had come to fruition. The Chair listed the negotiations with Persimmon Homes to provide flood alleviation for the village as part of their building programme; the transfer of assets from Copeland Borough Council to the Parish, the largest of which being the Seafront Amenity Area, including the toilets and car park; the agreement with Morgan Sindall to lease a part of the car park; the sale of the Church Hall and subsequent help given to the Seascale Scouts.

3 Annual Reports

3.1 Report from the Amenities Committee

Cllr Eastwood summarised the activities of the Amenities Committee. The monitoring of the amenities of the Parish has been undertaken with a view to whether the Parish will improve or dispose of them. The play areas around the Parish are reaching the end of their life and require significant investment to keep them in working order. The Coniston Avenue play ground is in a particularly poor state, with matting and a slide in need of replacement. Seats around both this play area and the one by the cricket ground are in need of refurbishment. Action promised by the Seascale Recreation Association in installing two seats and a basketball practice area has not been forthcoming, although one seat has been removed by them. Cllr Eastwood was pleased to note a recent approach by a Seascale parishioner who wished to find funding for a complete re-design of the beach front play area. Cllr Eastwood has been active in seeking funding for nets for the new Seascale Football Club, and reported that this was also nearing completion. She said that the problem of poor and illegal parking in the village had continued throughout the year, despite protests from the Council and from parishioners made to both the perpetrators and the relevant authorities. Significant work on the Seafront Amenity Area is now possible since the Parish Council took over ownership,

and Cllr Eastwood is hopeful that the coming year will see a major improvement to this area. The Parish Council has already commissioned a major refurbishment of the lights along the shore. Cllr Eastwood wished to thank Mr David Morgan and others who have worked to tidy up the beach area, and expressed her frustration at the continued lack of consideration of a minority of dog owners in the parish who leave the mess made by their animals for others to clean. Cllr Eastwood gave special praise to Cllr Goulding, who, with help from Mrs Parsons, had compiled a thorough report on the car park area and central Seascale in general. This document would prove useful in formulating the plan of works to be carried out this year. Cllr Eastwood was pleased to inform the meeting that the Church of England intended to install a small garden of remembrance for the benefit of less mobile parishioners. This would render the impromptu roadside memorials obsolete.

3.2 Report from the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr Halliday reported that this year had been difficult but productive. The major issue for the year had been the completion of the Parish accounts, which had not been submitted until the last moment, and had then been returned with significant queries over practices within Parish accounting methods. He said that since the Clerk had assumed the role of RFO there has already been a vast and noticeable improvement in the accounting of the Parish. He added that the RFO's willingness to take on training and advice has done him credit, and he wished to thank him on behalf of the Council for the work he continues to do to bring the Parish's finance up to standard. He noted that while asset transfers have taken much longer than expected, they had been completed to the satisfaction of all concerned. He wished to thank Cllr Moore for his efforts on this project. The Committee has been engaged in transferring the Parish Account from NatWest to the Unity Trust Bank. It has been more difficult than expected, but it was now in its final stages. He believes that this will make banking much easier. The Committee also dealt with setting up the new Parish website. He reported that the site was up and running and thanked Cllr Ashton for his efforts. Cllr Halliday concluded by reporting on the purchase of the All-Terrain Vehicle for Mr Morgan.

3.3 Report from the Planning Committee

Cllr Moore reported that the infrequent meetings of the committee had been productive insofar as the Parish had been able to feed views back to planners in Copeland Borough Council, particularly on the Borough's long-term plan for the area. Cllr Moore said that the meetings in the Parish had informed his work at Copeland in forcing the Borough to consider the wishes of the Parish. The most tangible effect of this was the flood alleviation project agreed with Persimmon Homes.

3.4 Report from the Footpaths Working Group

Cllr Ritson reported that since the inception of this group a few months ago, it has not met and the members no longer wish to continue.

3.5 Report from the Pavilion Committee

This has been deferred until the next full council meeting due to the absence of Cllr Mawson.

3.6 Report from the Sports Hall Committee

This has been deferred until further notice.

3.7 Report from the Parish Magazine

Cllr Eastwood said that the move to encompassing the three parishes had gone smoothly with feedback being generally extremely positive.

3.8 Report from the Parish Website

The Clerk reported that the website is getting a lot of traffic, and is proving a useful tool for conducting parish business. He informed the meeting that he had plans for developing the website further in the near future.

4 Public Forum

- 4.1** The Chair welcomed Mrs Parsons to the meeting. Mrs Parsons asked why, when she had applied for co-option, she had been refused? The Chair replied that, to his best recollection, although she had been proposed, there had been no seconder, and that this was the reason her application had been refused.
- 4.2** Mrs Parsons outlined a recent encounter with Cllr Goulding while she was exercising her dogs. Cllr Goulding had been hunting. They discussed the law surrounding the control of pests, and whether the Parish had a duty to control pests.
- 4.3** Mrs Parsons discoursed on the subject of 'Dog Control Orders'. She hoped that the Parish Council would allow dogs access to the Seafront Amenity Area. The Chair informed Mrs Parsons, that while the children's play areas were naturally not for dogs, there were no plans to exclude dogs from public areas in the Parish.
- 4.4** Mrs Parsons said that she hoped that the situation regarding the signs in the car park would soon be addressed. Cllr Eastwood said that she would make plans drawn from Cllr Goulding's report.
- 4.5** Mrs Parsons informed the meeting that she believed that the life-belt attached to the jetty was inadequate and damaged. Cllr Goulding **agreed** to remove it after the meeting.
- 4.6** Mrs Parsons wished to comment on the issue of illegal parking on South Parade. She believed that the Parish Council should do more to prevent this. The Chair referred Mrs Parsons to statements made at previous meetings about this issue, and assured Mrs Parsons that the Council endorses her campaign against irresponsible drivers, and has in fact done all it can to raise this concern repeatedly over the years.

5 Dates of forthcoming meetings

The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7pm on Wednesday 3rd June 2015 in the Methodist Schoolroom.