

Seascale Parish Council
Minutes
of the
Meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee
held on
Wednesday 30th September 2015 at 7pm
in Seascale Fire Station

Present Chair Cllr David Halliday
 Members Cllr David Moore
 Cllr Eileen Eastwood

 Clerk Mr Ian Turner

Item

1 Apologies

Cllr Dr Craig Ashton

2 Announcements from the Chair

The Chair suggested that it would be beneficial to the Committee, to co-opt another member. It was **agreed** that this would be raised at the next full meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest by Councillors in respect of Agenda Items

None

4 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 29th July 2015

These were unanimously **proposed** as a fair and accurate representation of the meeting.

4.1 Actions arising from that meeting

4.1a Cllr Eastwood said that she had been unable to assess the benches in the Parish due to personal circumstances.

4.1b The Clerk asked the Committee for guidance regarding the invoices presented by Copeland Borough Council (CBC) for emptying the bins in the Seafront Amenity Area. The Committee **recommended** that the first invoice not be paid, as this had not been agreed by the Parish Council, but that the second be paid upon receipt.

4.1c The Clerk asked the Committee for guidance regarding the NPower contract. Cllr Moore recommended that, due to the Clerk's frustrated attempts to have an individual meter installed for the pavilion, he simply go ahead with seeing about getting a better energy deal for the Parish. This was generally **agreed**.

5 Public participation

None

6 To receive a report on the matter of transferring the finances of the Parish to the Unity Bank

The Clerk reported that there were still loose ends regarding the NatWest account, but that he would be transferring the bulk of the money to the new account shortly. He received advice on whether the NatWest account should be kept open. The Chair said he would think on this.

7 To receive a report on the audit

The Clerk reported that the audit had been submitted, and that they would be making recommendations in due course. He had, however, been in contact with them, and was aware that they were unhappy with the lack of a proper budget. They were also unhappy about the confusion surrounding the NPower bills. Generally, they were happy that the figures were accurate, and that the finances of the Parish were in good order.

8 To consider matters relating to the budget

The Clerk said that he was preparing a budget in time for December's meeting.

9 To consider repairs to the BMX track and payment options

The Clerk informed the Committee that the suppliers of aggregate needed to be paid up front. The Chair suggested that he pay using digital banking, and **agreed** to assist the Clerk in this.

10 To consider an amount to donate to the 'Seascale Community Beach Park Project'

Cllr Moore suggested that an amount to donate to the project be agreed by a full council, after a budget had been agreed. The Chair said that the Committee agreed in principle to donate, and would **recommend** this to the Councillors.

11 Urgent Items Raised by Councillors

11.1 Cllr Moore handed the Clerk a letter from the Girl Guides, asking for permission to 'Geocache' on Parish land. The Clerk **agreed** to put this on the agenda for the next full meeting.

11.2 The Chair **thanked** Cllr Eastwood for her efforts in securing funding for Seascale Football Club's new goalposts. He also **thanked** LLWR and the Copeland Community Fund for the money.

11.3 The Clerk relayed a request from Muncaster Parish Council, asking for support for its campaign to stop National Grid from siting giant pylons in their Parish. The Chair asked the Clerk to put it on the agenda for the next full meeting. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

11.4 The Clerk told the Committee that he had received a letter from BDO informing him of an audit complaint from a Parishioner regarding the deal with Morgan Sindall. It was their intention to investigate the matter at a cost of £234 to the Parish. The Clerk told the Committee that he had denied their request, and would not pay any such invoice, as all of the information that they requested was in the public domain (on the website). Furthermore, an investigation had been carried out by CBC who found that the Parish Council had acted with complete transparency in this matter. The Committee **agreed** to endorse the Clerk's position.

12 Schedule for the upcoming meeting of the F&GP Committee

The next scheduled meeting of this Committee is 7pm on Wednesday 28th October 2015 in Seascale Fire Station.