

Minutes
of the meeting of
Seascale Parish Council
held on
Wednesday 4th November at 7pm
in the Methodist School Room, Seascale

Present	Chair	Cllr David Moore
	Councillors	Cllr Brian Goulding Cllr Andrew Williams Cllr David Halliday Cllr Mrs Eileen Eastwood Cllr Kenneth Mawson Cllr Dr Craig Ashton Cllr David Ritson
	Clerk/RFO	Mr Ian Turner
	Public	Mrs Brenda Parsons Mrs Shirley Walmsley

Item

1 Apologies

None

2 Announcements from the Chair

None

3 Declarations of interest by councillors in respect to agenda items

None

4 Minutes of the previous meeting of 7th October 2015

These were **proposed** as a fair and accurate record of the meeting by Cllr Goulding after a minor adjustment to Item 15.6, seconded by Cllr Williams, and there were no objections.

4.1 Actions arising from that meeting

None

5 Public participation

5.1 The Chair welcomed Mrs Walmsley to the meeting. Mrs Walmsley described how she had been campaigning consistently for some five years to have Network Rail complete a security fence that had stopped short of the village, and inexplicably, continued beyond Sellafield. Despite repeated communication, Network Rail refused to explain this state of affairs or correct it. She was pleased now to report to the meeting that work had been completed on a 'livestock fence', that closed the gap, and would now prevent animals and small children from wandering on to the track. Mrs Walmsley explained that it was her opinion that this would not have happened at all but for the good offices of Mr Ian Croucher, an employee of Network Rail, who championed Mrs Walmsley's cause within that organisation. The Chair expressed the sincere gratitude of the Parish Council for the efforts of Mrs Walmsley, who also received applause from Councillors. He added, that to see your efforts in situations such as these pay off, was a rare thing these days. He said that if residents of the Parish were in

the habit of awarding medals, Mrs Walmsley would certainly receive one, with Mr Croucher being mentioned in dispatches.

- 5.2 Mrs Walmsley said that communications from the Parish Council had been inconsistent through her long campaign, and had ceased entirely after the previous Clerk had resigned. The Chair apologised, saying that there had been a fairly chaotic period during which councillors had struggled among themselves, with unsatisfactory results, to fulfil the functions of RFO and Clerk. While he was confident that everything had been carried on correctly in the period before the new Clerk was installed, he admitted that the usual contact with the public had suffered worst of all. He assured Mrs Walmsley that this was no longer the case.
- 5.3 The Chair welcomed Mrs Parsons to the meeting. Mrs Parsons complained that she felt that the editorial in 'Tethera' was inaccurate.
- 5.4 Mrs Parsons asked the Council why it had not kept the public informed on the decisions concerning the Beach Park. The Chair informed the meeting that the 'Seascale Community Beach Park Project' (SCBPP) was not beholden to the Parish Council, and that the publication of their decisions was a matter for them. Cllr Goulding informed the meeting that he was aware that the SCBPP had identified a likely budget of around £150,000 to complete the project, but this was speculative, and not yet official.
- 5.5 Mrs Parsons told the meeting that it was her opinion that the bins in the car park were not being emptied with sufficient frequency. The Chair explained that the contract with Copeland Borough Council (CBC) was a new one, and that the Parish Council was co-operating with CBC to ensure proper standards were being maintained. The Clerk **agreed** to ask CBC for an update.
- 5.6 Mrs Parsons complained that she was being harassed by children in the village and went on to accuse Cllr Mawson and the Chair of orchestrating this. The Chair objected to the accusations levelled by Mrs Parsons, saying that this was not the place for such personal attacks. Mrs Parsons became irate and would not desist from her aggressive behaviour. The Chair then **proposed** that the meeting be suspended and this was seconded by Cllr Ritson and there were no objections.

Meeting suspended

Meeting resumed

The Chair resumed the meeting after some minutes of Mrs Parsons continued accusations, which continued at intervals throughout the proceedings, in a manner designed to disrupt the meeting.

6 Reports from Committees and Councillors

The meeting received a report from the Chair of the Finance & General Purpose Committee. Cllr Eastwood **proposed** a vote of thanks to Cllr Halliday and Mr Graham Worsnop for their assistance in helping the RFO to set a budget basis for the Parish. This was seconded by Cllr Williams and passed unanimously.

7 Finance

- 7.1 The meeting received a report from the RFO on the finance of the Parish (attached/available on request)

7.2 The Council considered requests for payment. Cllr Eastwood asked the RFO to query the bill from United Utilities, as it seemed quite high. The RFO **agreed** to do this.

7.3 To consider quotes and repairs in the Parish

The Chair said that he had been unsuccessful in securing the services of a plumber, and that therefore the taps in the Toilets were still leaking. He said that in the meanwhile he would attempt a repair himself.

8 To consider any planning issues

None

9 To receive a report on Parish Assets

9.1 To consider matters relating to play areas in the parish

9.1a Cllr Eastwood said that Mr Ian Rigg had repaired the slide at the Coniston Avenue Play Park, and that CBC inspectors had now removed the barriers.

9.1b The Clerk reported that the BMX track aggregate had been dropped short of its target bins, and that he had spoken to the company about this. The Chair wished to thank Mr Steven Mawson for his assistance in moving the aggregate to its proper position. The Clerk **agreed** to write a letter of thanks to Mr Mawson.

9.1c Cllr Mawson noted that a 'Springer' had been removed from the Beach Park for safety reasons by CBC inspectors. This was unlikely to be replaced.

9.1d Cllr Mawson said that the rabbit holes around the Beach Park had not yet been filled in. Cllr Ritson **agreed** to seek assistance from the Golf Club in resolving this.

9.1e The Clerk informed the meeting that he had **agreed** to assist the SCBPP in finding insurance for their organisation.

9.2 To consider matters relating to formal contact with bodies seeking funding from the Parish

The Clerk asked the Council for guidance in this matter. He stated that he felt that all bodies affiliated with the Parish Council, and particularly those who benefited from precept money levied from parishioners, be required to provide an annual report to the Parish Council. He suggested that the appropriate time for this might be the AGM. After some discussion this was **proposed**, as suggested, by Cllr Ritson, seconded by Cllr Ashton, and carried unanimously. The Clerk **agreed** to contact all those bodies effected by this decision.

9.3 Cllr Ritson was pleased to report that the path leading to the Coniston Play Park alongside the Persimmon development, had been reopened by the Cumbria County Council (CCC). He thanked the Chair for his efforts on achieving this.

10 To consider matters relating to the festive celebrations

Cllr Eastwood said that she had written to the gentleman who had arranged the fireworks last year, and received no reply. Instead of fireworks, this year's lights would be better than ever. She added that with Mr John Garner being granted the money from the fireworks budget, he was now able to install new LED bulbs that would reduce the electric bill. She said that refreshments would be provided as usual. She hoped that the Primary School might be involved in putting up posters advertising the event. Cllr Ashton **agreed** to deal with the school on this matter.

11 To receive a report on matters concerning the Library

The Chair reported that he had been informed by CCC, that they intended to carry out a 'Saleable Standard Assessment' of the building, to ensure that the building was in a good condition before any hand-over. Councillors discussed the possibilities for financing the continued operation of the library in a close approximation of its current function. These included seeking commitment to fund the library from local Parishes and businesses. Cllr Goulding proposed that the Council contact local Parishes, this was seconded by Cllr Eastwood and passed unanimously. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

12 Correspondence

12.1 The Clerk supplied a list of correspondence. He said he had received a letter from the fire-fighters at Frizington Fire Station, informing the Council of a proposal by CCC to close the Station. The letter stated that this was potentially dangerous to the local community and pointing out that a previous survey had made this observation. After discussion, the Council unanimously **resolved** to support the fire-fighters in their efforts to retain the station. To this end, the Chair instructed the Clerk to circulate the relevant email from CCC regarding its budget consultation and prepare a reply. He asked the Clerk to write to the fire-fighters assuring them of our support. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

12.2 The Clerk said that NHS Healthwatch had contacted client parishes of the West Cumberland Hospital to help their campaign to save the maternity unit from closure. It was remarked upon that, at a time when the NuGen project at Moorside was projected to increase the local population significantly, it was an unconscionable decision. The Clerk **agreed** to write to Healthwatch in support of their campaign.

12.3 Cllr Eastwood informed the meeting that she had received a copy of a plan of the owners of the properties in Ling Mell that had trees on them. She gave the plan to the Clerk.

13 Urgent items raised by councillors

13.1 Cllr Eastwood said that she was disappointed by the poor standard of work carried out on the Arch Hill bridge. She said she had informed CBC of her displeasure.

13.2 Cllr Eastwood said that she was concerned about the disruption that would be caused by the work commencing on the new shop on Gosforth Road by the Chemist. Already, contractors had parked on the pavement, completely obstructing it.

13.3 Cllr Ritson said that he was concerned that the area around the Chemist would become choked with traffic once the shop had opened and the Post Office counter opened in the Chemist.

13.4 Cllr Goulding commented that, while he was pleased to see CCC marking the yellow lines on the busy roads in the village, this was useless without proper traffic enforcement.

13.5 Cllr Goulding expressed his dissatisfaction with the actions of United Utilities, in closing Drigg Road for 'emergency repairs' without notice. He said that he knew that they had been working in the area for all of the previous month, and found it odd that this would then become an emergency.

13.6 Cllr Mawson was dismayed at the fly-tipping going on in the large lay-by on the Gosforth Road. It appears that the signs prohibiting the activity had been removed, and rubble had been tipped. The Clerk **agreed** to contact CCC about this.

13.7 Cllr Mawson was concerned about the lack of progress over the issue of high kerbs along Drigg Road and Gosforth Road. He considered this issue to be dangerous to the disabled, having witnessed a person tipping over on a mobility scooter while attempting to descend a kerb on Drigg Road. Cllr Eastwood **agreed** to assist his campaign with the relevant organisations.

14 Dates of forthcoming meetings

The next scheduled meeting is 7pm on Wednesday 2nd December 2015 in the Methodist School Room.