

Minutes
of the meeting of
Seascale Parish Council
held on
Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 7pm
in the Methodist Schoolroom, Seascale

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

Item

1 Apologies

Cllr David Halliday

2 Announcements from the Chair

It was with regret that the Chair announced that the Flag Officer, Mr David Morgan, has decided to step down after many years of service. He expressed the deep gratitude felt by the Council for the efforts made by Mr Morgan, who has been an asset to the Parish, and done credit to our community. It is Mr Morgan's wish that we appoint a new officer, and the Chair put out an invitation to the Parish for applicants.

3 Declarations of interest by councillors in respect to agenda items

None

4 Minutes of the previous meeting of 3rd February 2016

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

4.1 Actions arising from that meeting

None

5 Public participation

5.1 The Chair welcomed Mrs Parsons to the meeting. Mrs Parsons said that she and others had been involved in a beach clean recently, which had yielded many bags of rubbish. The Chair said that the Council was grateful to those who participated, and said it was regrettable that no-one had informed the Parish Council, as we were therefore unable to publicise it further. The Chair asked the Clerk to post thanks on the website, and write a letter of thanks to the organiser, believed to be Mrs Harvey-Chadwick. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

5.2 Mrs Parsons asked a question regarding finance, which the Clerk answered.

5.3 Mrs Parsons asked whether there was a deliberate policy of not maintaining the Sea Front Play Area, and whether there was a budget for its repair. The Chair replied that maintenance

of the Play Area fell into the general maintenance budget, and that repairs were subject to need, based on the assessment of members of the Parish Council. Mrs Parsons left the meeting.

6 Reports from Committees and Councillors

- 6.1** Cllr Ashton gave a report from the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- 6.2** The Clerk said that he had attended a NuGen briefing about their general plans for remodelling the roads between Calderbridge and Beckermet, which he relayed to the Council.
- 6.3** The Chair reports that he met users of the Pavilion, to arrange payment of the money they owe to the Council for payment of the electricity bill.

7 Finance

- 7.1** The Council received a report from the RFO on the finance of the Parish (attached/available on request). The RFO told those present that his requests for payment of rent had not been replied to by NatWest, and requested advice from the Council. The Chair expressed disappointment that they would be late payers considering their line of business. Cllr Goulding asserted that, despite their belief that they were providing a service to the village, they were a commercial enterprise, and should respect their agreements with the Parish Council. The RFO also mentioned that Morgan Sindall were late with their payment, but put this down to an administrative error on their part.
- 7.2** The Council unanimously agreed to all requests for payment.
- 7.3** The RFO requested that all beneficiaries of precept money prepare an annual statement in time for the AGM in May. This includes the Sports Hall Committee, and the Pavilion Committee. The statement should include a Chair's report and a detailed financial statement, and can be given in person or read by the clerk from a letter. This is in line with legislation on openness in Local Government and audit recommendations. He also said that any local organisation who wished to give a statement would also be welcome to do so.

8 To consider any planning issues

- 8.1** The Council considered application 4/16/2040, a 2 storey extension at 4 Green Close. They recommended that it be allowed with no reservations.
- 8.2** The Council considered application 4/16/2048, a change of occupancy and a new garage at Whingarth, the Banks. They recommended that it be allowed but asked that the access be reviewed, as it is directly opposite access to Insievar, and the Council was concerned that this may cause problems.

9 To receive a report on Parish Assets

- 9.1** Cllr Goulding reported that he had successfully completed his RoSPA course, and that he was now licensed to carry out regular inspections of Parish Play Areas. He said that an annual inspection must still be carried out by a more qualified inspector from Copeland Borough Council (CBC). The Chair congratulated him and asked the Clerk and Cllr Goulding to work together with CBC to implement a new inspection regime. They **agreed** to do this.
- 9.2** The Chair reports that the deadline for closing the Library has been postponed until further

notice by Cumbria County Council (CCC). However, they are adamant that they will still go ahead with the closure at some point in the near future. Cllr Ashton said that the discussion in the Finance and General Purposes Committee had revolved around preparedness for the Parish to take over the building, and recommended to the Council that this be done. What form the asset would take after this needed to be researched more thoroughly. The Chair said that in his communication with CCC, they had said that they would still like to run some sort of library service from the building.

9.3 The Clerk presented the Council with two quotes from CBC pertaining to the Coniston Avenue Play Area. They were quotes for clearing the site and replacing the equipment. In line with previous decisions on this matter, it was unanimously resolved that the area be monitored for signs of further deterioration. The Chair asked Cllr Goulding to look at it, and make his recommendations to the Parish Council. He **agreed** to do this.

9.4 Cllr Eastwood postulated on the likely date of a Parish 'Beach Clean'. She felt that this would be in the Spring when the weather was likely to stay fair for an extended period.

10 To consider matters relating to the Highways

10.1 Cllr Goulding said that he felt that the problems by the Chemist and new Co-op on Gosforth Road, were increasing. The Chair said that this was likely the result of a spike in construction activity in the area.

10.2 Cllr Mawson said that the sand had been cleared from the Drigg Road by CCC, but there appeared to be no progress on repairing the various lights that were out.

11 To consider transport issues in the Parish

11.1 The Council considered proposals regarding the bus service to Whitehaven submitted by CCC. It was unanimously **resolved** that Seascale Parish Council is committed to at least a year of subsidising this route, subject to an accurate cost being relayed to the Council.

11.2 Cllr Mawson said that new electronic information boards had finally been installed at Seascale Railway Station. He said that there were still issues around passengers alighting from certain trains, but said that Northern Rail were actively working towards a solution.

12 Correspondence

12.1 The Council invites proposals to mark Her Majesty's 90th year be submitted to the Clerk. Cllr Eastwood said that she knew that 'Shackles Off' were planning to mark the occasion on the 21st April.

13 Urgent items raised by councillors

13.1 Cllr Eastwood said that the 'Seascale Stompers' were planning a dancethon (Stompathon) to raise funds for a fireworks display for this years festive season. This will take place on 20th May.

13.2 Cllr Eastwood said that the Methodist Church are campaigning for a disabled bay outside the Church. The Council wished them well in their endeavours.

14 Dates of forthcoming meetings

The next scheduled meeting of the full Council is 7pm on Wednesday 6th April 2016 in the Methodist School Room.