

Minutes
of the meeting of
Seascale Parish Council
held on
Wednesday 3rd December 2014 at 7pm
in the Methodist School Room, Seascale

Present	Chair	Mr David Moore
	Councillors	Mrs Eileen Eastwood Mr Kenneth Mawson Mr Philip Taylor (Vice-Chair) Mr David Ritson Dr Craig Ashton Mr David Halliday Mr Andrew Williams
	Clerk/RFO	Mr Ian Turner (Responsible Financial Officer)
	Public	Mr Michael Barnard

Item

1 Apologies

Cllr Andrew Woollass, Cllr Christopher Taylor and Cllr Brian Goulding

2 Announcements from the Chair

The announced discontinuation of the Bus Service No. 6 was a mistake, and the service will continue with little or no disruption.

3 Declarations of interest by councillors in respect to agenda items

Cllrs Ashton and Ritson declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application, as they are neighbours of the applicant.

4 Minutes of the previous meetings of 10th October and 5th November 2014

The October minutes were **proposed** as fair and accurate by Cllr Mawson and seconded by Cllr Eastwood. The November minutes were **proposed** as fair and accurate by Cllr Ritson and seconded by the Vice-Chair and there were no objections.

5 Actions arising from the previous meeting of 10th October and 5th November 2014

The Chair updated the Council on the issue of Persimmon Ltd's flood alleviation plans put forward in support of their plans to build new houses in the village. He said that as well as the £168,000 promised to Copeland for borough-wide flood alleviation, they intended to undertake works on aspects of the drainage in the village near to the development. Although the Chair stated that he felt that the plans were less than ideal, it seemed to him that the application would be approved by Copeland Borough Council.

6 Public participation

The Chair welcomed Mr Barnard to the meeting and offered him the floor. Mr Barnard was aware that an area of land uphill from his house and adjoining Lingmell Road had been put up for sale by the owner. He was concerned that any sale would be accompanied by a housing development, and that this would make a bad flooding problem on his property even worse. He showed pictures of the flooding to councillors who agreed that it was bad. He asked the Council whether they had further information on this sale and what powers were

available to the Parish to ensure proper drainage was incorporated into any future plans? The Chair informed Mr Barnard that it was his experience that sizeable developments of this sort were always submitted alongside plans for engineering the amenities to suit. As yet, he is not aware of any flood alleviation schemes earmarked for the area around Mr Barnard's property, but if any plans came to light in the future he assured Mr Barnard that he would pursue the matter at Copeland Council and inform him of this.

Mr Barnard also asked whether it was possible to protect trees in the area, as they naturally soak up much of the water. The Chair said that he was aware of the existence of 'Tree Preservation Orders', but he thought that these only applied to particular species of tree, but **agreed** to see about getting an Order for the tree on Whole House Road.

7 Reports from committees and representatives

- 7.1** Cllr Halliday reported on the recent meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee. The only issue that he felt needed the agreement from the Council were the names for signatories on the new account. He **proposed** that Cllrs Moore, Eastwood and Woollass be signatories, as well as himself. The action was ratified unanimously.
- 7.2** Cllr Ashton updated the Council on progress with the website. He stated that the delays had been due to a supplier issue, but that this had been resolved and the website would go up imminently. He asked Council to consider a Parish Facebook page.

8 Finance

- 8.1** The RFO reported to the Council that the unreconciled balance of the current account on 5th November was £12,126.81 with £658 debited during the previous month. This month's statement is not available. He went on to list outstanding payments and credits to and from the account. He said that the last statement from the Reserve Account states the balance on 14th October as £29,179.44.
- 8.2** The RFO asked Council to consider his recommendations for items in the forthcoming budget proposal. He wished to instigate the method of accounting recommended by CALC. He thanked Cllr Halliday for his invaluable assistance in this matter. The Chair stated that he was very pleased with the efforts being made to rationalise Parish accounts, and expressed the Parish Council's gratitude to, and faith in the RFO and Cllr Halliday.
- 8.3** Due to the high proposed cost of painting the bus shelter and the toilets, Cllr Halliday and the Chair wished to get the response of the full Council. After some discussion, it was decided that the cost was fair, and the Chair asked the Clerk to contact Mr B Bland to commission the work. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.
- 8.4** The RFO asked councillors to centralise the system for the handling of quotes and invoices for work within the Parish, in line with national guidelines. He asked that any queries regarding payment be directed towards him and not addressed by individual councillors. He also outlined a new simpler system for making payments. There were no objections.
- 8.5** The RFO asked for the establishment of a 'Chair's Discretionary Fund'. This would replace Petty Cash and avoid the need for writing out large quantities of cheques for negligible amounts. Cllr Halliday explained to the Council that this would take the form of a pre-paid debit card, and could be used by the Chair or an identified councillor for the purchase of items not outlined in the main budget. These would be things like cards of condolence, and small tokens of appreciation for parishioners who have served the parish in some way. This would provide an audit trail and would be a convenient way for the Council to do small

transactions. There were no objections in principle, but Cllr Taylor asked how practical this would be for very small amounts. The RFO and Cllr Halliday **agreed** to study the issue further.

9 Planning

The Council unanimously approved Application 4/14/2462 regarding the pruning of trees at 2 Lingmell Wood.

10.1 To consider the proposed formal Policy on the use of the Seafront Amenity Area following it's acquisition by the Parish

The Chair thanked the Clerk for his effort in preparing an outline Policy. The Council considered the items on the Policy and asked the Clerk to make some alterations ahead of the formal adoption of the Policy at a future meeting. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

10.1 The Clerk informed the Council that repairs to the wall outside the car park toilets had been delayed due to unclear lines of demarcation. He was pleased to inform the Council that his efforts to reach agreement with the insurers had been a success and that they were willing to proceed with the claim.

11 Correspondence

11.1 The Clerk asked the Council if they were in favour of writing a letter to Northern Rail et al in support of Cumbria Rail User's Group's campaign to update the information provision at Seascale Rail Station. They were enthusiastic about this and the Clerk **agreed** to write the letter.

11.2 The Clerk informed the Council that he had received an offer from Green Energy Ltd to install solar panels and/or wind turbines on Parish Council property. The Chair asked the Clerk to make further enquiries. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

12 Urgent items raised by councillors

12.1 Cllr Williams asked the Clerk to write to Network Rail again, to ask about their plans to deal with the mole and rabbit infestation on their land, and damaged fencing. The Clerk **agreed** to follow this up.

12.2 Cllr Eastwood and the rest of the Council expressed their sadness at the passing of Adrian Dalton, a prominent Borough councillor and friend to the Parish. Cllr Eastwood asked that the Council send a card of condolence to the bereaved. This was **agreed**.

12.3 Cllr Eastwood asked that the Clerk help her to locate the collection boxes in time for the switching on of the Christmas Lights. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

12.4 Cllr Mawson asked the Clerk to include an item on 'Healthwatch', the NHS Cumbria's consultation programme, in January's meeting. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

13 Dates of forthcoming meetings

The next meeting of the full Council will be on Wednesday 7th January at 7pm in the Methodist Schoolroom.