

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Wednesday 8th January 2020
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

Present:

Chair	Cllr David Halliday
Vice- Chair	Cllr Lizzie Mawson
Councillors	Cllr Catherine Harvey-Chadwick
	Cllr Ken Mawson
	Cllr David Moore
	Cllr David Ritson
Clerk	Jill Bush
Public	D J Gray
	T Holman
	B Parsons

Meeting recorded for minuting purposes

ITEM

1. Apologies

Cllr Eileen Eastwood
Cllr J Savage
CCC Paul Turner

2. Announcements from the Chair

Particular thanks to Cllr L Mawson and thanks to all the volunteers and other Cllrs who organised and helped with the Christmas light 'switch on', it was a very successful event. £52.00 in donations from the public were received and given to the Scouts, who also had a 'stall' and they collected £680.60 in total.

3. Declarations of Interest by Councillors in respect of Agenda items

Cllr L Mawson

4. Ratify Minutes of the previous meeting of 4th December 2019

Proposed Cllr D Moore and seconded Cllr D Ritson

5. Matters Arising

(12.3) Cllr K Mawson advised the rail station camera remains unconnected. This was also a problem for the other village stations

6. CCC Paul Turner

Unable to attend

7. Public Participation

- 7.1** Ms Parsons complained about the state of the tunnel in the foreshore play area and that children never used it, because of the mud, grit and water that gets into it. It was damaged and a H&S risk. She was advised necessary work was attended to. Note: the play area status was reported by the amenities chair the previous month ref: 04.12.19 item 11.2. **Update:** Copeland are contracted to carry out monthly inspections of the play area it was inspected on 12th December and again On 7th January, each time the tunnel passed inspection with no issues.
- 7.2** Referred to the library parking issues the Parish Council had raised in a previous meeting and used this opportunity to complain about parking/traffic in the village.
- 7.3** Asked what the Parish Council were going to do about global warming and in particular about parking? The Council advised realistically there was very little a parish could do regarding a global event. Ms Parsons disagreed and stated the Parish Council should be more involved because of all the traffic coming through the village.
- 7.4** What the Council are going to do about parking and was advised this outside the Parish Councils jurisdiction, it was either a police matter or a highways responsibility. Ms Parsons disagreed.
- 7.5** Complained her questions were not being answered and stated, “there would no need for hearings if questions were answered”. The clerk asked her to clarify what she meant. Ms Parsons said it was “not for the Parish Council to ask her questions, it was for the Council to answer them”. The clerk advised Ms Parsons the Council do answer questions. Ms Parsons disagreed.
- 7.6** Referred again to global warming and the number of buses coming through the village. Ms Parsons was advised the buses are not the responsibility of Seascale Parish Council. Ms Parsons expressed annoyance loudly. Ms Parson was asked if she had any questions and to respect the courtesy the Council gave her to go beyond the 4 minutes, if there weren’t any questions, the meeting needed to move onto the next item.
- 7.7** The Chair invited the next member of the public to speak and was interrupted by Ms Parsons who complained about Cllr L Mawson and made further allegations.
- 7.8** Mr Holman said he was appalled by the mess at Covness Bank where the caravan used to be and is a disgrace. Cllr Moore advised unless the build-up of rubbish is an environmental risk attracting vermin, there was little the Parish Council could do. However, he promised to go and look at the problem.
- 7.9** Mr Gray expressed concern about the parking on pavements outside the Co-op and witnessed one parishioner forced to take her pram onto the road to get around the obstacle and what could be done about this problem? Cllr L Mawson confirmed a post had been erected and damaged and were waiting for a replacement. Cllr Moore advised for a parking notice to be installed, CCC highways department needed permission from the Co-op as the post would be on their land. A request has been submitted and highways are waiting a reply. It is unfortunate the shop cannot make this decision; it will have to come from the Co-op’s legal department. Cllr Moore will contact highways to try and find out what is happening and why there has been this delay. Cllrs questioned whether the land by the chemist could be considered.

8. Planning Applications

9.

- 9.1** CH/4/19/2396/OF1 – Revised Flood Risk Assessment following parking and flood risk objections submitted by the parishioners and the Parish Council. The Parish Council question the accuracy of this revised assessment, strongly refute its content and will submit an

ongoing objection to this planning application.

8.2 CH/19/2434/0F1 - Sellafield - Single Storey Modular Building No Objection

10. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

9.1 There has been no F&GP WG or amenities meetings, but there would be an update on the play areas under item 11.

9.3 Cllr L Mawson will attend the Parish Council Forum held by Sellafield

11. Finance

11.1 RFO balance of the reconciled Cash Book Balance for December is £76,307.28. One receipt of £15,450.00 from LLWR and one outstanding payment of £12.00.

11.2 There are 2 refreshment invoices = £69.64 (coffee morning and volunteer refreshments) agreed to be taken out the donations received for the library and the balance of £152.00 to bank.

12. To Consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

12.1 Library –

- There are issues which need to be resolved with CCC, so a meeting will be set up with CCC and members of the library committee
- The library had a very successful coffee morning and raffle, the committee have decided to make this a monthly event
- Pleased the library is becoming a positive community asset
- Very successful Christmas quiz and the letters to Santa also proved very popular
- With regard to Christmas cards for recycling, if they are dropped in at the library one of the library volunteers has kindly offered to take them for recycling
- Cllr Moore reported Morgan Sindall has offered the services of a graduate designer to conduct a survey of the changes wanted in the library, to create the drawings and costings. One useful mechanism is the Cumbria Exchange, where ideas are submitted and the businesses using this can offer funding/services to worthy causes

12.2 Play Area – Cllr L Mawson has organised a meeting at the Coniston Avenue play area with local play provider Play Dale on the 30th of January at 9.00am including the overgrown bushes, replacement fence and play area for smaller children who live close by. Cllrs Moore and Cllr Halliday will also be in attendance. After a tour of the site the intention is to come up with different plans of how the site can be updated and improved which can then be presented to the public. We also need to see if this improvement can be carried out in stages for cash flow and fundraising purposes.

12.3 Toilet Block – Nothing to Report

12.4 Sports Hall – The Council has agreed to pay £1,000.00 toward the cost of the replacement heaters, the balance excluding VAT will be paid by the Sports Hall. Invoice raised and sent. The meter reading for December, similar to November was still very high, they total around £1,000.00. The cost of the Christmas lights would be included in the December usage. A Cllr reported a heater had been left switched on upstairs. It was switched off. Cllr Moore will be looking at the possible replacement for Sports Hall Christmas lights.

12.5 BMX track – Nothing to Report

12.6 Foreshore boat – Cllr K Mawson complimented the person/people responsible for the decorations on the foreshore boat.

12 To consider matters relating to the Highways and Transport

12.1 Cllr K Mawson reported the repairs to the footpath and stile at Crofthead have still not been carried out. The clerk confirmed the issue had been submitted to highways, but nothing has been heard back. See 12.3 and 12.4 below

12.2 Cllr K Mawson reported flooding by Blawath Farm. The drain next to the agricultural field is like a pond. There obviously appears to be a drainage problem.

12.3 Large areas of the top course of the road surface between Gosforth and Seascale has worn smooth. At this time of the year it is creating numerous hazards, at night the lights of other cars can glare, however, on top of this, your own vehicles lights also glare back. Frosty nights create an additional hazard, if the road is smooth, it will be even more difficult to tell if the road icy.

Cllr K Mawson reported 2 serious accidents happened over the Christmas period on this stretch of road. Update: this issue was first reported in October and highways have still not provided a repair date. The request for a copy of the detailed plan of programmes of work for Seascale, so the Councillors can provide answers when are questions are raised, has also been ignored. The clerk has contacted CCC Paul Turner to ask when highways are going to respond to these and the other road and footpath problems, which have been submitted over the months. It is worth noting the plan of programme of works cannot be requested online and is being ignored by head of highways Kevin Cosgrove.

12.4 Cllr Moore suggested if highways remain reticent in responding to the highways issues raised, then Kevin Cosgrove could be invited to a meeting in the Parish to discuss all the outstanding repairs.

12.5 Debris from school demolition will be after the new school is completed. The temporary access, which CCC advised planning permission was required, creating an eight-week delay. This access is now being used for parking. This is not unexpected as planning for new schools do not include parking for parents to drop off their children. Not all children are in easy walking distance and some parents can only drop off their children on their way to work. None of this has been taken into account. In addition, the mud which has built up on the footpaths is a hazard.

Update: The clerk has sent a full list of road and footpath problems, including those previously reported and a repeat request for a copy of a detailed plan of programme of works for Seascale by post. A soft copy was also sent to Kevin Cosgrove, with an invitation to attend a meeting. Cllr Paul Turner copied in. Actioned

13 Correspondence

13.1 A request from Copeland to Parishes to consider taking on the responsibility and funding the footway lighting. Cllr Moore reported in 2015 it was decided to only replace bulbs and no other maintenance. The footway lighting responsibility appears to be in a grey area. Highways are responsible for street lighting. It is not clear who is responsible for footway lighting. It is understood one Parish has submitted a number of issues with this. It was noted, if Parishes took up this responsibility, this cost would be added to the precept, so there would be no financial saving to Copeland. Seascale Parish Council will decline to respond at this stage and observe the response from others. **Update:** CALC consider that parish and town councils are not the appropriate body to take on footway lighting and other options must be considered before any discussions of transfers to parish councils can be considered. And only when all other possibilities have been considered should lighting assets be transferred and only when they have been remediated, ie; upgraded to LED and with their electrical safety test completed. Parishes will also need a far more detailed understanding of electricity, maintenance and decommissioning costs that parishes will be taking on

13.2 A letter from received from Pat Rola complaining about a property in Links Crescent. The person is unknown to Copeland constituency, is not on the electoral register and giving an

address which is inaccurate. The residents of Links Crescent who have received a copy of the letter do not agree with its content and have no issue with the property. As the address is not valid like Copeland, the Parish Council will not be responding.

14 Urgent items raised by Councillors

14.1 Cllr L Mawson reported some children in the play area were approached by a man dressed in a uniform like a police officer. He told the children he had been watching them and told them they were making too much noise, being a nuisance and asked their ages. All were over 10 years old. He then got into an unmarked vehicle and drove off. The Council questioned the validity of a police officer watching for anti-social behaviour from an unmarked vehicle. Ms Parsons stated these were the same children being noisy outside her house and made further allegations against this Cllr. **Update:** It was a concerned parent who contacted the Councillor about this, and the Parish Council are of the opinion it is a matter of public concern to report this matter in the minutes. Despite receiving an email threatening “If you print in the minutes one word of her [Cllr L Mawson] diatribe there will be repercussions”.

15 Dates of forthcoming Meeting

Full Meeting Wednesday 5th February 2020