

Seascale Parish Council
Minutes
of the
Meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee
held on
Wednesday 23rd July 2014 at 7pm
in Seascale Fire Station

Present

Chair	Mr D Halliday
Members	Mr D Moore
Councillors	Dr C Ashton
	Mrs E Eastwood

Clerk Mr I Turner

Item

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr A Woollass

2 Announcements from the Chair

The Chair wished to welcome the recent, positive report on incidences of childhood cancer in the village.

The Chair welcomed Dr Ashton and Mrs Eastwood to the 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 25th June 2014

The minutes of the previous meeting were **proposed** as accurate by the Chair and seconded by Mr Moore.

5 Actions arising from the previous meeting of 25th June 2014

5.1 The Clerk reports that Mr Woollass stated that there was no progress on the mending of the fence at the BMX Track.

6 Public participation

None

7 Reports from the Clerk/RFO

7.1 The Clerk stated that as of 14th April 2014, the balance of the Parish Council's NatWest Bonus Saver Account was £29,056.94. As of 18th July 2014, the balance of the Parish Council's NatWest Business Current Account was £29,151.88. Due to the continuing process of handing over the finances to the new Clerk, it appears the Mr Woollass was unable to transfer the £15,000 from the Current Account to the Saver Account, as he had wished to do. In addition, the size of the Current Account balance has been inflated recently by the receipt of donations to the All-Terrain Vehicle fund, for Mr D Morgan of the Parish.

The Clerk regrets that, as he was only briefly in possession of the relevant documents before the meeting commenced, he was only able to digest the appropriate information in it's briefest form. He stated that now he had most

of the information available, he would endeavour to update committee members, and the entire Parish Council, at the earliest opportunity. The Clerk stated that due to discussions he'd had with Mr Woollass, he believed that the process of changing access to the accounts, finally relieving Mrs Batten of all of the Clerk's duties, was nearly complete.

8 To receive a report on the provision of an ATV for the use of Mr D Morgan of the parish

Mr Moore was happy to report rapid progress on this matter. The vehicle had been reserved at the dealership, and would be delivered in a road-legal condition, with all of the specifications that were desired by Mr D Morgan. The vehicle is new, and has a service warranty for three years. As was discussed at previous Parish Meetings, Mr D Morgan has agreed to take on the running costs of the vehicle, and return it to the Parish, when he can no longer use it for his work around the Parish. Mr Moore stated that he believed that it would good if some publicity could be garnered, to show the gratitude of the Parish for the efforts of Mr D Morgan, and the many people from Seascale and elsewhere, who had raised money for the vehicle. He wished to mention, in particular, the Turnpike Foundation of Gosforth, whose donation was instrumental in bringing affairs to a swift conclusion. He also mentioned that it may be beneficial if the Council were to review it's policy regarding use of Parish assets of this kind.

9 To receive a report from the Chair on the market for interest rates regarding Parish monetary savings

The Chair was dismayed to discover that the interest rate on the NatWest Saver Account was only 0.5%. He stated that this was just above base rate, but that it appeared to be typical of the major banks in the UK. He had been looking in to an account with Unity Bank, who specialise in organisations such as our own. The Chair sought the consent of those present, that he might take an active role in negotiating, on behalf of the Parish, a deal that would include on-line banking, and all of the conveniences of modern banking practice. He stated that he would present a plan of action to the next full meeting of the Parish Council. This was **agreed** to by Mr Moore.

10 To consider payment of the salary of employees of the Parish Council for July and August

Mr Moore **proposed** that this be done, and this was seconded by the Chair. There were no objections.

11 To consider matters relating to the on-going asset transfers in the Parish

11.1 The Clerk conveyed to the committee on behalf of Mr Woollass that in the matter of the signing of the contract submitted by Gough's Solicitors regarding the transfer of the land at 15 Whole House Road and the resulting payment of the fee, all correspondence and payment had been sent to Gough's Solicitors.

11.2 The Clerk that in the matter of the signing of the contract submitted by Gough's Solicitors regarding the transfer of the Bus Shelter at Cross Lanes and the resulting payment of the fee, all correspondence and payment would be sent, as soon as the relevant signatures were obtained. Mr Moore addressed the issue of a fence being erected around the bus shelter as per the Covenant Document from 1956. He stated that he thought it highly unlikely that it

would be enforced after so many years, but that if it was, then the Parish would help towards a solution, in his estimation.

- 11.3** Mr Moore believes that the transfer of the Seafrost Amenity Area should be completed by the end of September, if things continue as at present.

12 To consider matters relating to Website provision for the Parish

The Chair indicated that there had been some communications between himself, Mr Woollass, and Mrs H Pateman of the Parish, as to the future of the Parish website. Mrs H Pateman had been instrumental in running the website on behalf of the Parish to this point. Following this exchange of views, the Chair considered that it would be advantageous to the Parish if a fresh start were made on this issue, and that the existing website be discontinued. To this end the Chair was happy to welcome a presentation by Dr Ashton, outlining the findings of his research into the matter (Dr Ashton produced a précis summarising this, which is retained by the Clerk, and available to all Councillors upon request). Dr Ashton discussed the options available to the Parish, including keeping the status quo, terminating the website, adopting an existing template, or getting a bespoke website. The Chair reiterated that due to prior consultations and meeting decisions, the first two options were not viable. Dr Ashton said that an existing template set-up would be expensive, and run by a third party. The bespoke option was his preferred solution, as this would allow the Parish to have more input into the website. Dr Ashton suggested that he could draw up a Parish Media Policy and was confident that the £100 per annum needed to run the website could be raised by a donation from the LLW Repository Ltd. Dr Ashton had had a preliminary meeting with them, where they indicated enthusiastic support as part of their commitment to the local community. The Clerk stated that this was in line with CALC guidelines, and Dr Ashton produced NALC literature that backed this up. Dr Ashton then went on to explain some aesthetic options to those present.

The Chair expressed his thanks to Dr Ashton for a wonderfully clear and detailed presentation, and **proposed** that Dr Ashton do what he had suggested. This was seconded by Mr Moore, and there were no objections. The Chair asked that the matter be kept in the remit of this Committee until such time as Dr Ashton had finished his travails on this matter. This was affirmed by Mr Moore.

13 To consider matters relating to policies surrounding the use of the Seafrost Amenity Area

The Chair suggested that this be put on the agenda for the full meeting. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

14 Urgent Items Raised by Councillors

Mrs Eastwood conveyed to the Chair that some resolution on the issue of the budget for Christmas Lights was now becoming urgent. Mr Moore concurred.

15 Schedule of Upcoming Meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee

The next meeting of this Committee is due on 27th August 2014

The meeting was closed at 8:20 pm