

Minutes
of the meeting of
Seascale Parish Council
held on
Wednesday 1st April 2015 at 7pm
in the Methodist School Room, Seascale

Present	Vice-Chair	Mr Philip Taylor
	Councillors	Mrs Eileen Eastwood Mr Kenneth Mawson Mr David Ritson Mr Andrew Woollass Mr David Halliday Mr Andrew Williams Mr Brian Goulding
	Clerk/RFO	Mr Ian Turner (Responsible Financial Officer)
	Public	Mrs Brenda Parsons Mr Mark Jones Mr Jonathan Manford Ms Kelly Anderson Ms June Bellazario Mr James Mitchell Ms Allison Marston Ms Maureen Hogg Ms Vivienne Tregidga Mrs Marjorie Taylor Mr Terence Taylor

Item

- 1 Apologies**
Cllr Christopher Taylor, Cllr Dr Craig Ashton, Chair David Moore
- 2 Announcements from the Vice-Chair**
None
- 3 Declarations of interest by councillors in respect to agenda items**
The Vice-Chair declared an interest in Item 10.2, as he is employed by Sellafeld Ltd, who are contracting Morgan Sindall.
- 4 Minutes of the previous meeting of 4th March 2014**
After minor alterations these were **proposed** as fair and accurate by Cllr Eastwood, seconded by Cllr Mawson and there were no objections.
- 4.1 Actions arising from the previous meeting of 4th March 2014**
None
- 5 Public participation**
 - 5.1** Mrs Parsons asked the Vice-Chair if a survey had been carried out prior to the Council's agreement in principle to lease 40% of the car park to Morgan Sindall, with a view to

additional safety surrounding its increased use. The Vice-Chair said that it had not been considered necessary. Mrs Parsons went on to point out the concerns local residents had regarding the safety of pedestrians using the Arch Hill bridge and felt that the increased use of the car park may be detrimental to pedestrian safety, particularly the disabled. She said that she had been in recent contact with Sellafield and the Clerk regarding the issue of irresponsible driving in this area, but had not received a satisfactory response. She asserted that the main offenders with regards to illegal parking on the path outside her house on South Parade, were the contractors from Sellafield. Cllr Goulding stated his opinion that there was also a problem with private cars on this issue. Mrs Parsons believed that while this was the case, the predominant offenders were contractors. She went on to state that she believed that the village infrastructure was not up to this kind of increased traffic. Cllr Eastwood agreed, and pointed out that her efforts over the years to involve Copeland Borough Council's (CBC) traffic enforcers had made little impact on the problem. She had asked for the double yellow lines to be re-marked as they had become faded, but was awaiting a response. Mrs Parsons said that she had contacted Cumbria County Council (CCC) about putting bollards on the path on South Parade, but had been informed that the path was considered to be too narrow for this. She asked if the Council would consider allowing the road to be widened into the car park. Cllr Woollass informed the Council that, in his opinion, widening the road caused people to drive faster, as evidenced by the relatively few accidents around the Arch Hill bridge over the years. He added that the idea about the bollards had been mooted some fifteen years previous to this meeting, and rejected by CCC. Cllr Goulding said that the markings and signs around the Arch Hill bridge were not adequate, and he **agreed** to contact CCC to find out whether they would erect a 'priority sign' stating who had right-of-way under the bridge. Cllr Woollass stated that a scheme to introduce traffic lights in that area had also been rejected. Mr Mitchell reported that while the police were a regular sight in the area under discussion, he was dismayed to observe them ignoring blatant parking violations. Mr Manford asked the Council whether, under these circumstances, it was wise to lease the car park to so many new users? Cllr Woollass addressed the meeting saying that two issues appeared to be conflated. The first problem was the irresponsible driving and parking of a persistent minority of drivers. Whether there were spaces in the car park or not, they will park as close to the shops as they can to avoid walking the extra distance to the businesses on South Parade. How many spaces there are in the car park is, therefore, of little relevance to them. The second, separate issue, was the use of the car park. He pointed out that, as the car park was free to use, employees of Morgan Sindall could continue to park there, just as many people who work at Sellafield do every day. Ms Anderson was concerned that the increased use of the car park would have an adverse effect on the safety of children using the beach-side play area. She asked whether the Council had charged enough on the contract? She asked whether there might be an alternative way to raise Parish funds, if the scheme was rejected? Cllr Williams reiterated the point that the car park was already free to use, so there was nothing to be done if Morgan Sindall were using it anyway. He stated that he, and those he spoke to were happy that the precept had not been put up. He pointed out that the contract had already been negotiated up, and that there was no reason to think that using the car park all year round had any impact on child safety. Ms Hogg opined that this set a precedent, and that contractors to Sellafield would take it for granted that they would always get approval for such schemes. Cllr Williams pointed out that it was the policy of the Council to review each approach on its merits. Mr Jones was worried that, having paid for the car park already, he and other residents may find the car park full when they wished to use it. Cllr Goulding responded that while this was a valid point, the car park was paid for as a village asset, and that residents are never guaranteed a space anyway. He also mentioned that if the car park was full, but the leased spaces were unoccupied during the day, they could be used. Mr Taylor asked the Council to consider rejecting the proposal. Ms Tregidga said that this problem was not

confined to Seascale, but effected all the Parishes around Sellafield. She said that it was good that Morgan Sindall were acknowledging their role in this with a substantial sum of money. Mrs Parsons wondered whether Sellafield had done enough to assess their own parking space. Ms Marston asked what the impact would be on tourism. Cllr Eastwood informed the meeting that the car park would operate as usual on weekends and bank holidays. Mrs Taylor asked what kind of buses would be used? The Vice-Chair said that the contractors would use mini-buses to ferry their workers. Ms Tregidga wondered if advertising would be permitted on the mini-buses. Mr Mitchell asked how long the contract was for, and whether the Parish would incur legal fees as a result of drawing up the contract. Ms Hogg asked that, if this was the case, would the Council be satisfied with a memorandum of understanding. Cllr Halliday addressed the meeting. He stated that as yet, there is no contract, and that options such as the one suggested by Ms Tregidga, may yet be incorporated. The value of a contract was that it protected both parties to the agreement. He mused that if, in future meetings, the council were seen to have rejected this money, we would find it hard to form a coherent argument given that we are a small Parish rich in assets needing maintenance. The only sensible option, in his view, was to take the money on offer, and use it to improve Parish assets. Cllr Woollass added that if Morgan Sindall wished to flaunt their credentials as a responsible business, who took their ethical concerns seriously, then that was to be encouraged. Ms Anderson was concerned at the increased litter this may cause. Cllr Woollass stated that if liability for littering could be reliably blamed on them, then they, as is the case with all of us, could be called to account. Mrs Parsons was concerned at the state of the signs around the car park. Some were illegible, some in disrepair, and some were inaccurate or superfluous. Cllr Woollass agreed, but reminded the meeting that the Council had only recently acquired the asset (on the 20th February), and assured Mrs Parsons that this was high on the list of priorities. Mrs Parsons asked for a Councillor to accompany her on a tour of the car park, in order to better demonstrate her concerns. Cllr Goulding **agreed** to do this at a time that would be mutually convenient.

- 5.2 Ms Anderson complained that, as a recent arrival in the village, she had found details about the meeting hard to find. The Clerk commiserated with Ms Anderson, and explained the various ways in which the Parish Council can be contacted. He pointed out that the website was new, but steps were being taken to make it more widely known in the village. He was gratified to see that, despite her difficulties, she had been able to come to the meeting.

6 Reports from committees and representatives

- 6.1 The Council received a report from the Finance & General Purpose Committee.
- 6.2 The Council received a report from the Amenities Committee. The Clerk updated the Council on further positive contact he had made with County Cllr Clarkson, with regards to issues over Footpath 426017, and issues regarding lighting and highways.

7 Finance

- 7.1 The RFO gave a statement on the finance of the Parish. He issued a list of payments made, and gave the balance of the account as £31,072.87. He informed the Council that the transfer of the account across to the Unity Bank was going smoothly.
- 7.2 The RFO asked the Council to consider requests for payment. All were passed except for the payment for painting the toilets, and the payment for painting the bus shelter at Cross Lanes. The Council asked the RFO to negotiate with the contractor concerned, in order to resolve the issue. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.
- 7.3 The RFO presented the Council with quotes for play ground slides. He also presented the

Council with a quote for a banner advertising the website. The Vice-Chair asked him to get an additional quote for a larger banner. The RFO **agreed** to do this.

8 To consider any planning issues

8.1 On the matter of Application number 4/15/2099, an extension at 19 Coniston Avenue, the Council recommended that this be approved.

8.2 On the matter of Application number 4/15/2106, an extension at 1 The Drive, the Council recommended that this be approved.

9 To receive a report on asset transfers

Cllr Halliday reported that all asset transfers had been concluded to his satisfaction.

10 To consider the matters relating to the car park

10.1 The Council considered the approach from AEG Ltd, to site their facilities cabin on the car park for one week commencing on the 7th April 2015. Following a brief discussion, the Council asked the Clerk to contact the company and offer them a site by the Sports Hall, and that if they wished to donate to the Parish, it be given instead to the Sports Hall Committee. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

10.2 The Council considered the approach from Morgan Sindall for leasing the car park for a twelve month period, with an option to extend the lease on a month-by-month basis. The Council **agreed** in principle, and await the details for ratification at the next meeting.

11 To consider matters relating to the Coniston Avenue play ground

Cllr Eastwood said that she had been taken aback at the quotes given to her by the RFO regarding the slide replacement. She asked that the Council consider the viability of the play ground. Cllr Mawson said that the play ground at the beach was in some disrepair also. Cllr Eastwood **agreed** to ask CBC's inspection team to assess the play ground equipment and advise the Council.

12 To consider the establishment of a 'Seascale Sports Association'

Cllr Eastwood informed the Council that after attending a meeting of the SRA in the village, which owns the cricket ground and represents the Seascale Cricket Club and the West Lakeland Dog Training Club, she understood from the meeting that the financial state of the SRA had become such that they could not afford to run the cricket ground. One option under consideration was to sell the land for housing. The users would prefer this not to be the case, and wished to approach the Council with a solution. The Vice-Chair allowed Mr Mitchell to outline the situation for the benefit of the Councillors. After some discussion around the available options, it was unanimously decided that a 'Seascale Sports Association' be formed as an umbrella organisation for helping run the sports and recreation clubs in the village. The Vice-Chair asked the Clerk to get a quote for any extra insurance costs, and to draw up a draft memorandum of understanding for the new Association. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

*** A 15 minute extension**

The Vice-Chair **proposed** an extension to the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Woollass, and there were no objections.

13 Correspondence

Other than correspondence already relayed to Councillors, the Clerk highlighted a letter from Open Cycling asking for the Councils' co-operation in hosting their coast-to-coast cycle day, to be held on the 27th June.

14 Urgent items raised by councillors

14.1 Cllr Mawson wished to express his delight at the efforts of the inmates of HMP Haverigg in renovating and clearing a local pathway. He asked that the Council write a letter of thanks to the people responsible. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

14.2 Cllr Mawson asked the Clerk to write to CCC regarding damage to Drigg Road. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

14.3 Cllr Woollass expressed his gratitude to the Council for making his time on it so memorable. The Vice-Chair thanked him for his service to the Parish, and hoped that he would reconsider his decision to leave the Council, should his circumstances improve.

15 Dates of forthcoming meetings

The next full meeting of the Council will be 7pm on Wednesday 6th May 2015 in the Methodist School Room.