

Minutes
of the meeting of
Seascale Parish Council
held on
Wednesday 4th February 2015 at 7pm
in the Methodist School Room, Seascale

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| Present | Chair | Mr David Moore |
| | Councillors | Mrs Eileen Eastwood Mr Kenneth Mawson Mr David Ritson Mr Andrew Woollass Mr Andrew Williams Mr David Halliday Mr Brian Goulding |
| | Clerk/RFO | Mr Ian Turner (Responsible Financial Officer) |
| | Public | Mr Neil Henderson Ms Sarah Baker Mr Stuart Burgess Ms Sylvia Hunt |

Item

- 1 Apologies**
Cllr Craig Ashton, Cllr Christopher Taylor, Cllr Philip Taylor
- 2 Announcements from the Chair**
None
- 3 Declarations of interest by councillors in respect to agenda items**
None
- 4 Minutes of the previous meeting of 7th January 2014**
These were **proposed** by Cllr Goulding as fair and accurate, and seconded by Cllr Ritson.
There were no objections.
- 5 Actions arising from the previous meeting of 7th January 2014**
None
- 6 Public participation**
 - 6.1** The Chair welcomed Mr Henderson and Ms Baker from Seascale Scouts to the meeting. Mr Henderson outlined the situation as regards St Cuthbert's Parish Hall. The Hall is now up for sale, and it is likely that this sale will result in the demolition of the Hall to make way for more housing. At present there are three main users of the Hall; the Scouts, the 'Messy' Methodist Church group, and a dance troupe. Mr Henderson is concerned that the closure of the Hall will leave the Scouts homeless, as they tend to generate a lot of mess and need a lot of storage for their gear. The reason for the sale, as he understands it, is the church's inability to bear the cost of maintenance and repair of the building. To this end, he proposes that an effort be made by the Parish Council to secure the building for their, and the community's, continued use. He asked that the Council set up a panel to work towards this end. He is confident that the Scouts would be able to raise significant funds towards the purchase of the building and the repairs (which he estimates at around £100,000), but would require the

Parish Council to commit to helping with the cost of maintenance in the long term.

Cllr Eastwood suggested that one way of securing the site, might be it's use as a 'Community Hub', as touted by the Mid-Copeland group. Cllr Eastwood said she would look into this possibility. Cllr Williams suggested that the Scouts and the others use the Sports Hall, with the Chair adding that storage could be provided by shipping containers in the short term, while permanent facilities were constructed. Cllr Mawson said that his wife's grandmother had organised the subscriptions for the building's construction, and that it would be a shame to lose such a building. Cllr Woollass **proposed** that the Council reiterate it's support for the Seascale Scouts, to unanimous agreement. The Chair thanked Mr Henderson for his presentation, and said that the Council would consider his request.

- 6.2** The Council received a report from Mr Burgess of Cumbria Police regarding their recent policing of the area. Mr Burgess then clarified some general policing queries from councillors, before informing the council, that his unit's future at Sellafield was uncertain. The Chair asked the Clerk to write to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and state our support for the unit, and to copy the Crime Commissioner for Cumbria into the correspondence. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

- 11 To consider allowing Seascale Messy Church to use the car park and power point in the toilets on 12th August 2015**
This was unanimously agreed.

All members of the public left at this point.

7 Reports from committees and representatives

- 7.1** The Council heard a report from the Finance & General Purpose Committee (F&GP).

- 7.2** The report from Cllr Ashton on progress regarding the website was read by the Clerk on his behalf. Cllr Ashton said that the emails for the website had been set up, and the website had gone 'live'. He expected an invoice from the web developers to arrive soon, and asked that the councillors send materials for publication. In addition, the Clerk said that he would endeavour to produce a simple set of instructions to enable all councillors to actively participate in the website.

- 7.3** The Chair reports that he had approached Morgan Sindall with the deal proposed by the Council for use of the car park, but was yet to receive a reply.

8 Finance

- 8.1** The RFO gave a report on the finance of the Parish. He reported that the balance of the primary account stood at £3020.24 at the end of January, and the reserve account held £29,182.39. He asked that the Council accept two quotes that had been discussed in the F&GP meeting. Namely, a renewal of the agreement with Copeland Borough Council to maintain the grass and sundry, and to allow Mr Brian Bland to repair the entrance to the Sports Hall. These were unanimously **agreed**. The Clerk requested that £3,000 be transferred from the reserve account into the primary account.

- 8.2** The F&GP Committee had considered the level of the precept for next year, and recommended that it be set at £19,537. This represents a rise of just under 2%, and translates to 50 pence more for each household. It was **proposed** by Cllr Eastwood that this be submitted, seconded by Cllr Williams, and there were no objections.

- 8.3** The Clerk requested the Council pass a list of payments, which were unanimously

agreed.

8.4 The F&GP Committee had considered the level of donations for commercial use of the car park. The Chair asked that the rate of £10 per week be asked of NatWest, but that the rate be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. This was unanimously **agreed**. He requested that the Clerk send a bill forthwith to NatWest, and the Clerk **agreed** to do this.

9 To consider any planning issues

9.1 On the matter of application 4/14/2517, an extension to the property at 9 Hallsenna Road, the Council recommended it's acceptance.

9.2 On the matter of application 4/14/2522, a change of use of the property at Postlethwaite's Garage, the Council recommended it's acceptance.

9.3 On the matter of application 4/14/2105, the erection of two wind turbines at Church House Farm, the Council recommended it's rejection for reasons of not being in keeping with the character of the local area.

9.4 On the matter of the plan concerning ongoing forestry work on NDA land around the Parish, the Council recommended it's acceptance, but asked the Clerk to write a letter asking the team to be sensitive to nesting birds in the area. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

10 To receive a report on asset transfers

The Chair reported that he was simply awaiting the documents concerning the Seafront Amenity Area to arrive for signature. This would complete the transfer.

10.1 The Council considered the proposed formal Policy on the use of the Seafront Amenity Area following it's acquisition by the Parish. This had been amended by the Clerk following the previous meeting. It was **proposed** by Cllr Woollass that this be formally adopted. It was seconded by Cllr Ritson and there were no objections.

12 Correspondence

12.1 The Council considered a reply to the 'Cumbrian' magazine. The Chair was satisfied that our letter had been published in the magazine, but was angered by the reply posted by the original author. He suggested that the editor be invited to come to Seascale.

12.2 The Clerk informed the Council that he was in receipt of a questionnaire regarding the Copeland Housing plan for the next five years. The Chair asked that the Council convene a Planning meeting to discuss a proper response. The Clerk **agreed** to organise a meeting at a convenient time.

13 Urgent items raised by councillors

13.1 Cllr Goulding reports that there was a meeting over property mineral rights going on in Drigg concurrent with this meeting.

13.2 Cllr Mawson reports that the light on the junction of Hallsenna and Gosforth Roads is completely missing, including the lamp post, and the light under the railway bridge is blown and needs replacing. He asked the Clerk to report this to the County Council. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

13.3 Cllr Eastwood, asked that the Clerk contact Electricity North West asking them to reinstate the area around the electrical substation by the railway station. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

- 13.4** On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Eastwood wished to commend the Seascale librarian Ms Beth Dell for her support to the community, and wish her well in her retirement.
- 13.5** Cllr Williams raised some concerns over safety issues in the Sports Hall.
- 13.6** Cllr Eastwood informed the Council that the 'Seascale Slimming Club' was relocating to the school hall.
- 13.7** Cllr Eastwood gave the Clerk the proceeds from the festive fund-raising, and asked him to deposit it in the account. The Clerk **agreed** to do this.

14 **Dates of forthcoming meetings**

The next meeting of the full Council will be at 7pm on Wednesday 4th March 2015, in the Methodist School Room.