

**Minutes**  
of the **Annual Parish Meeting**, of  
**Seascale Parish Council**  
held on  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 following the Annual Parish Meeting**  
in the Methodist School Room, Seascale

**Present:**

Chair            Cllr David Moore  
Councillors   Cllr Eileen Eastwood  
                  Cllr David Halliday  
                  Cllr Catherine Harvey – Chadwick  
                  Cllr Elizabeth Mawson  
                  Cllr Ken Mawson  
                  Cllr David Ritson  
                  Cllr Julie Savage

Public           Penelope Cater  
                  Vivienne Halliday  
                  Lois Holman  
                  Tony Holman  
                  Brenda Parsons  
                  Sheila Ritson  
                  Iris Williams

CCC Rep.      Cllr Paul Turner

Meeting recorded for minuting purposes

**1        Apologies**

None

**2        Announcements from the Chair**

None

**3        Ratify Wednesday 9<sup>h</sup> May 2018 APM Minutes**

Proposed a true record of the meeting by Cllr E Eastwood and seconded Cllr K Mawson

**4        Annual Reports**

**4.1     Chairs Report**

- This has been an interesting year. The previous Chair stepped down half-way through the year. He is to be commended for the excellent work he had done as Chair.
- The transfer of the library is almost completed. The Parish Council intend to also use this as a community. Age UK has expressed an interest it using as a hub as well. Business Plan submitted by the Parish Council has been ranked as excellent by CCC and used as an example.
- The compensatory funding from LLWR has been secured and backdated 2 years. This cannot be used to offset the precept but can be used for Parish Projects.
- The refurbished foreshore play area is well used
- The boat washed up on the beach has been revamped and fitted with colourful plants. Many thanks to the volunteers in involved in this splendid work.
- The toilet block refurbishment is complete. Unlike so many other areas the Parish Council continue to keep these as free toilets.
- The re-wiring of the Sports Hall is complete.
- Much of this refurbishment has been achieved by the LLWR funding received.

- The Parish Council has had its first election in 35 years, with a high turnout of 66.1%. The average across Copeland was 33.1%. One of the candidates ran a campaign and distributed their campaign leaflet. See Annex 1 at the end of the minutes
- The Cllrs have been subject to a lot of abuse, being accused of misrepresenting the public and taking back-handers and resulting in the Parish Council having to impose its vexatious policy. The same people have submitted vexatious complaints to Copeland about the car park 3 times. The accounts to the external auditors twice. All this has resulted in a substantial cost, which is unfair on the taxpayer. Hear hear was heard across the Hall.

#### **4.2 Report from the Finance and General Purposes Group**

See Annex 2 at the end of the minutes

#### **4.3 Yearly Financial Report**

See Annex 3 at the end of the minutes.

Unanimously agreed

#### **4.4 Report from the Planning Group**

- Planning Applications received from the County and Copeland Planning Authorities have a 28-day response window. All planning applications received have been responded to.
- The Black How Appeal has been rejected by Seascale Parish Council and Copeland Council.
- Sellafield Plutonium Store Planning Application was opposed due to its glossy finish. Sellafield have acknowledged this concern and will amend the finish to a darkened down finish

#### **4.5 Report from the Parish Website**

Website status previously reported by Cllr C Ashton

#### **4.6 Report from the Pavilion Committee**

Cllr K Mawson reported this has been a successful year. The Pavilion Committee are very pleased with the hand dryers eliminating the sewage blockage problems caused by paper towels being put in toilets and the fire extinguishers.

#### **4.7 Report from the Sports Hall**

The Sports Hall is doing well with bookings up. It has been another good year. Further details are supplied in the Sports Hall AGM minutes. See Annex 4 at the end of the minutes

#### **4.8 Report from the Parish Magazine**

N/A

#### **4.9 Report from the Amenities Groups**

- Cllr Ritson reported there are currently 29 volunteers and more people showing interest. Cllrs Ritson and Halliday took this opportunity to thank all the people who have volunteered and for their enthusiasm in the project.
- Foreshore play park has been completed for nearly a year.
- The refurbished toilet block is on google maps.
- A public consultation will take place in the library to establish what the residents would like to see in the parish. (A swimming pool is not viable)
- The Parish Council thank the flag officer Cllr Harvey Chadwick for her commitment and achievements.
- The Parish Council also take this opportunity to give a special thankyou to Trevor Preece for his effort with the Parish Magazine.

### **5 Public Forum**

**5.1** The other play areas in the parish need refurbishment, when is this going to happen? The public consultation will hopefully occur later this year and enable the residents to put forward what they would like to see.

**5.2** The football club now has a young group and we look forward to the commencement of this with continued interest.

**5.3** The BMX track request came from a youngster.

**5.4** The Viking Way was created the same way.

**5.5** Cllr K Mawson thanked all those who participated in creating the Show of Poppies, it was a brilliant display.

### **6 Dates of forthcoming meetings**

MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION**

**BRENDA PARSONS**

**INDEPENDENT**

**I AM STANDING FOR COUNCIL TRANSPARENCY**

**AND**

**ACCOUNTABILITY.**

**Cllr David Moore** said recently, I quote "WE" are elected to represent the people in our community, "WE" are their voice on the council,

I will challenge him to keep his word. **PC stands for Parish Council not Private Club.**

**WHY ARE**

.....decisions made and implemented outside of council meetings?

.....the elderly and vulnerable excluded from enjoying the seafront?

Instead of going into the council's coffers why were you not asked how best to use the £2,500 SPC received for selling Dai Morgan's beach cleaning vehicle? Why wasn't it used for something useful and commemorative? Were you asked if you wanted the picnic tables and seats permanently removed from the seafront? Was it alright not asking you if the swings you paid for could be removed permanently from the seafront?

**Councillors must be held accountable.**

Never in the history of Seascale have Cllrs ignored the voice of the community with such fervour, particularly during the construction of the £200,000 Seafront project. Of course children should have play areas, but that amount of funding would and should have paid for an upgrade of all three play areas in Seascale. As owners of the land Cllrs ignored all reason and handed over a piece of seafront public land to be privately developed by the Chairperson of a charity. During private meetings she singularly engaged in the collation of the finance without declaring traceable details. She was given a seat on the council and the position of heading the council's Amenity Group. She was the self-appointed project manager, financier, and as part of the construction team she supervised the development. Without consultation she changed the approved plans. Treating it like a derelict building site the amenity area was cleared, including fencing, your swings, picnic tables and seats. Ultimately ensuring the exclusion of the elderly, disabled and wheelchair access. Reporting on a charity facebook page does not replace the democratic procedure of Cllrs having debate and reaching decisions in open meetings, then importantly being correctly minuted. Cllrs not wanting to give answers to the questions we ask, begs another question. Are councillors doing it for themselves?

**WHY?**

## Annex 2

### Finance & General Purposes Working Group Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 08.05.19

The changes made to last year to both our internal and external auditors, that I referred to in my report, did indeed result in a more speedy and professional conclusion of the audit process for the 2017/18 accounts and all indications suggest that it will be a similar experience this time around.

Thanks are due to the RFO for the accuracy and detail of the financial information she provides to the Council. In particular, the figures produced for the precept calculation were greatly appreciated by the Councillors. The final figures justify our decision to increase precept by 3%, showing a variation of -1.7%.

We are carrying forward a surplus of £19,972 for the year (as opposed to a deficit of £3,200 last year). This is largely due to receipt of LLWR monies. The surplus will partly be used as contingency towards the running costs of the library for the first year, until we establish what these are, and also towards capital expenditure for reconfiguration of the building to create a community hub. The Council is taking on a significant commitment in retaining the library as a vital asset for the community and it is right that we should adopt a prudent approach to this undertaking.

In presenting this report I would like to take this opportunity to re-assure the rate payers of Seascale and address some of the selective and misleading comments made in a statement by a candidate during the recent election campaign.

- The Finance & General Purposes Working Group is not empowered to make financial decisions and authorise expenditure. These can only be taken by Full Council. The Working Group provides a forum where key financial matters can be considered in more detail and at a greater length than time allows in a Full Council meeting. It is purely advisory, and Councillors have the opportunity to consider recommendations and reject or amend them. The insinuation that decisions are made and implemented outside Council meetings cannot therefore be applied to the workings of the F&GP Group.
- As a Parish Council we are subject to a robust audit process involving both internal and external examination of the accounts. We have to comply with stringent regulations to satisfy the requirements of the Local Government Association and the National Audit Office. As an ex-banker, it saddens me on both a personal and professional level that insinuations can be made without any evidence to substantiate them regarding the financial management of the Council. Indeed the person involved behind these insinuations is well aware of the regulatory environment in which we have to operate, as they have made a series of repetitive challenges to the accounts over the years, which they may have not been upheld but have incurred significant expense to the ratepayers of Seascale through additional audit fees.
- Likewise, the individual is well aware the Beach Seafront Project was undertaken by a separate legal entity, a Charity whose regulation and financial reporting requirements come under the auspices of the Charity Commission and therefore have nothing to do with the finances of the Council.
- Regarding the sale proceeds of the beach cleaning vehicle, this matter was discussed with both Dai Morgan's widow and groups who undertook fund-raising towards it. The agreement reached was consensual and the funds are 'ring' fenced' within the Parish Accounts to be used for beach cleaning activities. To date this has funded 3 and there are more in the future.
- All the requirements of the Working Group under its Terms of Reference have been met. Thanks to all the members of the F&GP Working Group and all the other Councillors who have participated during the year.

This is a clear indication that we have robust monitoring and control systems to enable us to manage the parish finances effectively, as evidenced in the method used to calculate the core precept for 2019/20. As with last year, we have scrupulously avoided using exceptional income to subsidise the core precept, which we are prohibited from doing.

## Annex 3

### Finance Report 08.05.19

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The closing cashbook balance at 31 March 2019 is £54,998.20. We are carrying forward a surplus of £19,972 for the year (as opposed to a deficit of £3,200 last year). This is largely due to receipt of LLWR monies. The surplus will partly be used as contingency towards the running costs of the library for the first year, until we establish what these are, and also towards capital expenditure for reconfiguration of the building to create a community hub. The Council is taking on a significant commitment in retaining the library as a vital asset for the community and it is right that we should adopt a prudent approach to this undertaking.

### Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2018/19 for

		SEASCALE PARISH COUNCIL	
	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2018 £	31 March 2019 £	
1. Balances brought forward	36812	35026	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	20954	21582	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	12933	56568	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	3439	5175	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	NIL	NIL	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any)
6. (-) All other payments	32233	53004	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5)
7. (=) Balances carried forward	35026	54998	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6). rounding
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	35026	54998	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	55465	55465	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	NIL	NIL	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure notes re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.
		✓	

## **Seascale Sports Hall Management Committee Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held On 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

**Present:** Mr J McElroy (Chairman)  
Mrs J McClemens (Treasurer)  
Mr J Walmsley (Secretary)  
Mrs J Caulfield (Committee)  
Simon Degler  
Denise Brown

**Apologies:** Mrs D Todhunter (Trustee)  
Mrs E Eastwood (Trustee & Committee)  
Mr J Young (Trustee)  
Mrs L Platt (Committee)  
Mr A Lee (Cricket Club)  
Mr S Brown (Cricket Club)

**Copies to:** Committee  
Trustees  
Present  
Seascale Parish Council Clerk

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
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**1 Minutes of AGM held 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

It was proposed by Mrs J Caulfield, seconded by Mrs J McClemens that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018 should be accepted as a true record. This was unanimously agreed.

**2 Matters Arising**

**2.1 Bouncy Castle.**

It was felt that although the Bouncy Castle was getting to the end of its life it was still serviceable and new one could be obtained quickly if required.  
Action closed.

**2.2 Condensation on floor.**

Action closed.

**3 Chairman's Report**

Once again we have had a very busy and successful year catering for all sorts of groups which includes keep fit, badminton, tennis, table tennis, archery, football, exercise classes, parties including the bouncy castle, Seascale cricket club, venue for various meetings, CNC training sessions and other various events.

Following the work earlier last year of replacing all the lights, heating elements and the paddle fans etc., we were expecting to have a less hectic time throughout the year. However that was not to be.

There were two C2C events planned last year, one being the standard 1500 cyclists and another a sponsored group from the Royal Engineers with some 30 plus riders. We were all geared to welcome both events but shortly before the smaller C2C's event we had a blocked drain, a flood due to a tap being left on, a failed shower in the ladies change room which all required attention. Along with that there was a missing surface water drain cover just off the pavement adjacent to the Sports Hall with a large deep hole. Just to add to these failures the main hall lights kept flickering and eventually started sparking from the consumer unit.

We arranged for the blocked drain to be cleared, replaced the ladies shower and decided to replace both changing room taps with plunger types to prevent any further problems with taps being left on. We also contacted Cumbria County Council who came and sorted out the hole left by the drain cover to ensure the area was safe for all. The biggest worry was the state of the electrics and being so close to the C2C events we were under severe pressure to resolve the matter. We unfortunately had to cancel one of the routine bookings but rehoused them elsewhere so the electrical survey could be carried out. Thanks to John Garner's team they found the wiring to the light switch (which was installed in the mid 1980's) was causing all the problems as it was fed by a cable within the plastered wall. Having agreed that a repair wasn't viable they set out to and rewired the lighting system complete from the consumer unit direct to the light switch and this work was completed and tested the day before the first C2C event took place for which our committee were eternally grateful to them knowing that the imminent C2C events could go ahead. There were some critical comments from some members of the Parish Council who suggested that we should have got the original contractor in to sort out the lights!!!! With two days to resolve the issue this suggestion to contact manpower services after 30 years was discarded – however after all our efforts we finally had the sports hall back in full operation.

Both the C2C events were a great success and the larger group who have used our premises for a number of years have not only booked for this year but also for 2020 which is fantastic for the image of our village.

There has also been an increase in the booking throughout last year and some booking have come in at short notice and we really appreciate Denise being flexible about when she is able to get into the hall and look after it so well. With all the increase in bookings and having to overcome all the serious issues we have had to cope with I offer my grateful thanks to all concerned in making the Sports Hall as successful as it is.

#### **4 Finance**

The Financial Report was presented by Mrs J McClemens (Treasurer) and copies of the balance sheet was handed out. It was proposed by Mr J McElroy and seconded by Mrs J Caulfield that the Financial Report should be accepted. This was unanimously agreed.

#### **5 Election of Committee**

The existing committee were re-elected en bloc.

#### **6 Any Other Business**

**6.1** It was thought that, if possible, all user groups should have a representative on the committee. Closed.

**6.2** A letter of resignation received from Mrs P Kirkham. Closed.

**6.3** The persons authorised to sign cheques would be changed. Mrs P Kirkham would be removed and Mr J Walmsley added. Closed.

The meeting was closed at 7:35 pm.

Mr. John Walmsley ( Secretary)