

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Wednesday 2nd October 2019
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 Cllr Julie Savage
Clerk	Jill Bush
Public	Mr Holman Mrs Holman Ms Brenda Parsons

Meeting recorded for minuting purposes

ITEM

1. Apologies

Cllr Eileen Eastwood and CCC Paul Turner

2. Announcements from the Chair

2.1 The Chair announced:

- A Mr Burnett from Surrey contacted the council to advise had interesting Seascale artefacts, which had belonged to his parents who hailed from Seascale (his grandfather was the founder of the prep school) and if the Council was interested, they could be sent recorded delivery. The Chair had thanked and agreed with the kind offer. The Chair proposed these be held in the library with other historical documents. Unanimously agreed by Council.
- Protocol requires all Councillors to declare a declaration of interest. This need not necessarily be at the start of the meeting should Councillors not be aware of item content, until the matter arises, and a declaration can be made during a meeting, so it can be recorded. Update: Copeland have been contacted regarding Declaration of Interest on its website.

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

None

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

Proposed Cllr K Mawson and seconded Cllr Ritson

5. Matters Arising

(7.1) The need for a mini roundabout between the Sports Hall access, Sella Banks and Gosforth Road. Highways have been contacted about this before and the Council was advised the road layout will not accommodate this. Please note, it is not feasible for Minutes to be an in verbatim

record.

(14.2) The potholes have not only been repaired in the car park, but also in the library.

(14.3) The LLWR buoy on the foreshore was removed the week after last month's meeting.

6. CCC Paul Turner

Cllr Turner has responded to the concerns raised as follows:

- 6.1 State of the road from the school down to Hallsenna Road. - this will be raised at the next Highways working group. However, it is in relatively good condition compared to some, but will see if it is on a schedule for surface dressing.
- 6.2 The risk of no pavement under the railway bridge, the narrowness of the road and the speed some vehicles drive at – this is a matter for concern, and I have requested that the pedestrian problem be revisited owing to increased numbers of Rail Passengers and Road Traffic. The last 10 years-worth of work is being found and new data will be obtained as soon as possible as usual funding is the major issue.
- 6.3 Item 6.1 is still an issue and the Council remain concerned about the risk to cyclists and a further 2 issues were raised. These have been forwarded to Highways and Cllr Turner copied:
 - The Council has received a steady flow of complaints about the poor condition of the road surface from the School down to Hallsenna. There are numerous potholes, whilst they may be small and cause little damage to cars, they are a significant risk to cyclists, as they are located near the kerbsides. As the nights draw, this adds to the risk of injury, where a pothole may not be seen until the cyclists is close to it, but cannot pull out due to passing traffic, or it is not seen at all.
 - The small footbridge between Coniston Avenue and Townend Farm is in a very poor state. It has been reported there is a hole in this bridge and concerns have been raised about possible injury to people and their dogs slipping through this causing injury. As mentioned above as the nights draw in this adds to the risk, particularly as the bridge is not well-lit.
 - There has been continual flooding by St Cuthberts Church, possibly the result of a blocked drain.

7. Public Participation

- 7.1 Ms Parsons made several complaints about the current Council and accusations about funding current and previous Cllrs received dating back 10 years and beyond. Ms Parsons tried to stop the meeting moving by interrupting the Chair as he was providing a report

8. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

8.1 F&GPWG

- There has not been a meeting, however the Council has received a further policy consultation into Local Government Auditing. The main issues that have been raised are Audit proportionality. The Chair advised the response should be based on its experience of external audits – see the 3 bullet points below
- Incompetent questions have been submitted to the auditor for the 2018/19 accounts. The Chair made clear that he was not suggesting the person who raised the questions was incompetent, but the questions were.
- The Council questioned the professionalism of the auditor and the line of questioning used because of the sheer incompetence set out in these submissions.
- This is an issue for Seascale, as there have been three complaints/questions submitted to the external auditor over a four-year period. All this has achieved has not only involved a lot of extra time to answer the questions raised, sometimes requiring additional meetings, but there

is also an additional cost against the precept; which is funded with taxes from Seascale parishioners, thus reducing what can be spent improving the village.

- The Chair proposed he and the Clerk compile a response on behalf of the Council. Unanimously agreed.

8.2 Amenities - Village Walk

- The lifebuoy and stand on the jetty, whilst serviceable is discoloured and shabby and gives a poor image of the village. Council agreed to replace this.
- The BMX track repair is still outstanding. An onsite meeting with Copeland the previous week there is sufficient material to carry out the repair and will be providing the Council with a quotation shortly.
- The Open Spaces Report from Copeland has been received and there are no issues with the foreshore - the Coniston Road Play Area needs to be cleared of equipment, encroaching bushes and then grassed on a temporary basis, prior to the public consultation.

8.3 Community Speed Watch Meeting chaired by CC Cllr P Turner and a police officer. The police will carry out risk assessments in the areas where the risk is greatest. There are 15 volunteers to be trained to man the speed guns. A further volunteer will collate the data, send a warning letter to perpetrator advising of their speed, should they continue to be caught speeding after the 3rd letter the police will be notified.

8.4 Cllr Moore attended the Traffic & Highways Group Meeting. Council agreed to an illuminated speed warning sign on the road leading down to the school. Permission is required from Highways.

8.5 Cllr Moore is attending an SRA playing field meeting next week. The Parish Council is part of a tripartite group. There are only 2 trustees and a third is required. The current trustees are senior in years and ideally 3 new volunteer trustees are required. Should a member of the public be interested please contact clerkseascalepc@gmail.com and your correspondence will be forwarded on to the relevant group.

8.6 Pavilion Club – The Cricket club now has 3 teams and this season have had 2 great achievements; they achieved the most wickets and the most runs in the respective league in which they were competing. Letter of congratulations to be sent. Actioned

9. Planning Applications

9.1 CH/4/19/2300/0G1 – No Objection subject to 5-year renewal temporary

9.2 CCC 4/19/2301/0G1 – No Objection subject to 5-year renewal

10. Finance

10.1 RFO balance of the reconciled Cash Book Balance for September is £63,640.04. There are no outstanding payments or receipts

10.2 Spurious invoices for the library have been received. The Clerk will contact the relevant businesses and advise the Council has not signed or agreed any contract with them and is not interested in their service.

10.3 The Clerk advised the external auditor has again received questions from a parishioner accusing the Council of financial impropriety. The Clerk also advised the 2018-19 audit is now complete and the accounts have been signed off. As mentioned in item 8.1 above, this is the third time in four years this has happened and each time the accounts have been signed with no financial issues. The additional cost to the audit is in the region of £200.00.

11. To Consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

11.1 Library –

- Communication with and between the volunteers continues to be positive

- Further office purchase required
- Due to enquiries it has been agreed a photocopying and printing service will be available. Cost to be assessed
- The Chair advised he has received offers of donations for the library. This was discussed and it was agreed donations can be accepted. At present all donations received will be deposited into the main account. However, a separate ledger page in the cashbook will be added to record donation receipts and spend.
- There is a duty rota
- The library door is sticking, so will require some remedial work
- There are heating issues. The boiler is new, but the system is not resulting in the library being cold. CCC to be contacted as it is not clear how to adjust the system. Alternative heating is being provided
- There has been a record number of visitors to the library, during the usual slack and business times
- The following have expressed an interest in using the library:
Epilepsy Group, Chess Group and the pharmacy for flu jab sessions, the latter is likely to be reciprocal as it is also a key holder – H&S issues will need to be considered
- Morgan Sindall has previously offered to help fund the community hub. Morgan Sindall has previously offered. Cumbria Exchange, which is part of the Sellafield supply chain also provide funding to good causes.
- A meeting area is required, which can be hired out, to help offset the running costs
- Toilet refurbishment and possibly the kitchen area
- The library computer would benefit from a Word alternative application – LibreOffice would be a suitable alternative as Microsoft cost is prohibitive
- There will be a public consultation to establish what the parishioners would like. 26 October and 2 November are 2 dates under consideration and to also get volunteers opinion now the library is up and running

11.2 Play Area – Nothing to Report

11.3 Toilet Block – Nothing to Report

11.4 Sports Hall – Replacement external door and locks ordered, delivery in a week to 10 days

12 To consider matters relating to the Highways and Transport

See item 6.3 above, third bullet point

13 Correspondence

None

14 Urgent items raised by Councillors

14.1 Cllr Harvey-Chadwick reported wind issues to flagpole ropes

14.2 Cllr L Mawson will contact Copeland for confirmation of the last grass cutting of the season

15 Dates of forthcoming Meeting

Full Meeting Wednesday 6th November 2019