

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Wednesday 5th February 2020
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

Present:

Chair Cllr David Halliday

Vice- Chair Cllr Lizzie Mawson
Councillors Cllr Ken Mawson
 Cllr David Moore
 Cllr David Ritson
 Cllr Julie Savage

Clerk Jill Bush

Public D J Gray
 Z O'Hanlan
 B Parsons

Meeting recorded for minuting purposes

ITEM

1. Apologies

Cllr Eileen Eastwood
Cllr Catherine Harvey-Chadwick
CCC Paul Turner

2. Announcements from the Chair

The meeting will be in 2 parts. When the meeting reaches part 2, the members of the public will be asked to leave.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for all the unnecessarily heavy workload she had to deal with over the Christmas period. Commended for her professionalism and commitment to the Parish Council. I take this opportunity to publicly thank her for that. Also, thanks to Cllr Moore for his guidance and support on the same matter.

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

Cllrs D Halliday, L Mawson, D Moore (also as a Copeland Borough Cllr)

4. Ratify Minutes of the previous meeting of 8th January 2020

The Chair reminded the Cllrs it is important the minutes are recorded accurately. The clerk also advised prior to putting the draft minutes on the website, these are circulated firstly to the Chair and then to the rest of the Cllrs. She asked the Cllrs if there were any amendments to be made, if they could bring this to the clerks attention, she can update minutes before they on to the website. It may also save time at the next meeting.

Proposed Cllr Ken Mawson and seconded Cllr E Mawson

5. Matters Arising

(12.2) final minutes amended to read Blawath Farm and soft copy to go on the website will be updated accordingly.

(5) Rail Station shelter has been damaged again. Cllr K Mawson was of the opinion it wasn't being carried out by locals, the problem is exacerbated by the lack of CCTV. The clerk further advised despite contacted the relevant rail company responsible, they invariably do not respond.

6. CCC Paul Turner

Unable to attend as needed to attend a planning meeting. Cllr Moore advised a meeting took place between Cllr Turner and Kevin Cosgrove at highways to discuss in depth all the highways issues that have been submitted by parishioners and the Council. He also reported it was agreed he would meet SPC, either for an onsite meeting and/or at the full council meeting to discuss all the issues that have been raised.

7. Public Participation

7.1 Ms Parsons referred to item 14.1 of the January minutes (regarding a purported police officer in an unmarked vehicle chastising children making too much noise on the play area) and stated it wasn't about the noise they were making, but their bicycle lights were not on. She stated the parents should be aware of what the children were doing.

7.2 Referred to a matter which was listed on the part 2 agenda, she believed you had to take a vote to agree this. The Chair thanked her for reminding him and advised the Council to hold the meeting. Cllr Halliday proposed the Council vote on matters of commercial sensitivity and potentially confidential should be held in a separate meeting. Seconded by Cllr Moore and agreed by Council. Ms Parsons acknowledged the vote had taken place.

7.3 Ms Parsons said, "there was a lot more, but wouldn't say it at this stage."

7.4 Mr Gray asked who was responsible for the traffic warden patrols in the village? He also reported parking on the pavement outside the hairdressers and in other places in the villages. Cllr Moore advised CCC was responsible for the traffic wardens and that parking on pavements was not a traffic warden matter, but parking on yellow lines is. He further advised he was aware a number of tickets have been issued. With the exception are those with a disabled badge, who are exempt.

8. Planning Applications

CH/4/20/2005/0F1 – No Objection

CH/4/20/2012/0F1 – No Objection

CH/4/20/2044/0F1 – No Objection with the caveat the old CHP is removed **as soon as possible** on completion

The Seascale Mill conditions originally submitted have not been met. An example of the way the work should have been carried out can be seen at Newton Manor, which has a site plan laid in the ground. The Mill is covered under CCC Heritage and remedial work is required to meet the original conditions. The Council were of the opinion a facsimile of the way Newton Manor had been done was acceptable.

9. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

9.1 There has been no F&GP WG meetings, as the precept has now been submitted.

9.2 Cllr L Mawson attended the Parish Council Forum held by Sellafield and reported the

materials required for the new batching plant will be transported by road and not rail, which is the preferred option because of the additional traffic disruption this will cause. This has a long-term impact as it is set to evolve over the next 60 years.

- 9.3** The amenities working group met a play company to look at design options and quotes for the Coniston Avenue play area. Options include flooring, grass, seating, litterbins etc. The Council have been advised these quotes will be available later this month. Copeland have provided a quote of £1,173.49 excl VAT for groundworks (to make this more easily maintainable), tree pruning and strimming.
- 9.4** Cllr L Mawson reported the school is removing the cycle racks and asked if the Council would be interested to use these on the foreshore. The Council agreed it would.
- 9.5** Cllr Moore reported there was significant disquiet over the batch plant materials being transported by road and it is likely there will be a push-back from Copeland. There are also security issues to be considered.
- 9.6** Cllr Moore attended a West Cumbria Stakeholder Group meeting and a new CEO has been appointed, a promotion up from deputy.
- 9.7** He also attended an LLWR meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. Cathy Giel has offered to provide help to complete the Village Plan. This originally initiated by one of their employees Mr Craig Ashton, who was a Parish Councillor, but had to stand down due to work commitments.

10. Finance

- 10.1** RFO balance of the reconciled Cash Book Balance for January is £85,629.42. One outstanding payment of £12.00. There have been 7 receipts
- Foreshore play area Bridging loan repaid in full (£6,360.00)
 - Library donations (£291.28)
 - VAT rebate (£3,154.07)
 - Election – library use as polling station (£300.00)
 - Sports Hall committee sent the heater balance (£608.20)
 - Sports Hall committee also submitted an electricity payment (£800.00)
 - Library transfer legal costs rebate (£177.82)
- 10.2** Library confidential waste contract due for renewal, however, as the amount of this type is minimal as most of the data is held on computer systems, the clerk suggested the Council considered instead the purchase of a micro cut shredder, which would be more cost effective over the long time. The Council were of the opinion this was a viable consideration. Cllr Ritson to ask library volunteers their opinion. **Update:** Library group agreed to the purchase of a shredder.
- 10.3** The accountant who previously carried the annual internal audit has retired due to ill health. 4 enquiries were made, 3 of these to accountancy businesses and to CALC, who provided the contact details of a retired chartered accountant who had previously held Director of Finance positions in the public sector, therefore experienced and knowledgeable in local government audit procedure. She also carries out internal audits for other councils, including some in West Cumbria. From the enquiries made 3 responses received, one was declined (as cost prohibitive) and the remaining 2 were submitted to Council. The retired public-sector chartered accountant was proposed by Cllr Halliday and seconded by Cllr L Mawson and unanimously agreed by Council.

11. To Consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

11.1 Library –

- Many thanks to Mr Jason Rushworth who kindly made a donation to the library

- There are old photos in the library showing the flooding around Railway Terrace
- The stock rotation is not meeting the Service Level Agreement
- The Council has received the first electric bills, but they are incomplete, only supplying vastly underestimated bills for night-time use and refer to three different meter readings. The Council could only find one meter. The Cllrs will re-check the area. The supplier (Npower) may need to be contacted to ascertain if these meters still exist and where they are located. The bills will not be paid until the meter issue has been resolved and correct meter reading(s) are submitted.
- There will be regular coffee mornings held, the next on the 10th February
- There is an article in Tethera about the library and suggestions how it can be used as a village hub. There will be a suggestion box/ sheet in the library
- There is a sewing group who provide a service to the community and therefore charged at a different rate to profit making users
- Received an offer of a reconditioned apple mac computer has been gratefully accepted. This will also provide an alternative to Windows 10
- There is a disclaimer for using your own equipment and it is used at own risk. The library will not accept responsibility and advise owners have their equipment PAT tested.
- Since the library was transferred to the parish, the library committee are very pleased to report there has been no significant drop in footfall

11.2 Play Area – Copeland have done a very thorough job of trimming the footpaths

11.3 Toilet Block – Nothing to Report

11.4 Sports Hall – The meters located in the library are still showing an increase in usage. This is being monitored. Equipment checks are being carried out by a qualified electrician and usage monitored to establish issue location. The Christmas lights does not constitute this spike in usage. The clerk has received photos of the meters located in the sports hall, one of these only monitors the pavilion and they have advised the heating is gas. The clerk also asked the both parties to ensure all non-essential equipment is switched off at night. Cllr Moore noted water heaters are expensive and important these are switched off. Both day and night meter readings has shown large spikes in usage, however the night reading is showing the largest usage spike from approximately 70 units to over 1000 units per month.

11.5 BMX track – Nothing to Report

12 To consider matters relating to the Highways and Transport

12.1 A significant amount of spoil waste had been dumped by Gosforth Road/Coniston Avenue. It had not been taped or cordoned off and spilled onto the road. Cllr Halliday advised the concerned parishioner to submit a complaint to highways. A complaint was submitted and reported. 3 hours later a lorry removed it. It is not certain whether this was scheduled in, or the prompt removal was the result of the complaint. However, members of the public are encouraged to report issues. <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/highways-pavements/reporting-problem-on-highway/WDM/default.asp>

12.2 School flashing lights at the far end of the village are not working and this is causing a hazard. The lollipop lady had to jump out of the way and Cllr L Mawson has reported this to highways

12.3 Cllr K Mawson reported a third accident on the corner near Blawath Farm. A car driving up the middle of the road took the wing mirror off a car coming the other way which landed and caused damage to the car behind.

12.4 Cllr K Mawson also reported at the CRUG meeting there is going to be survey for a footbridge by the station. CCC Turner has also been pressing for an explanation why this was removed and for a replacement.

12.5 The ticket machine is not working, a ticket may be purchased from the guard and a

concession has been made to allow Seascale rail users to get on the train without a ticket.

13 Correspondence

- 13.1** Cllr L Mawson requested this was moved to the other part of the meeting, due to commercial sensitivity. Agreed
- 13.2** Confirmed Age UK communication is inviting volunteers to join its Board of Trustees and how to apply has been put on the Parish website. <http://www.seascaleparish.com/age-uk-urgently-seeking-dedicated-and-passionate-people-to-join-the-west-cumbria-board-of-trustees/>

14 Urgent items raised by Councillors

- 14.1** Corner shop litter bin fire was inadvertently caused by an adult member of the public, the lady concerned admitted their error.
- 14.2** Copeland are commencing a purge on dog fouling and owners not putting their dogs on the lead and/or ignoring the restrictions in designated areas. They have enforcement officers who will also work out of hours. They are encouraging intelligence led work and encourage members of the public to report this anti-social behaviour. Contact details to report this can be found on its website. <https://www.copeland.gov.uk/node/42910>

15 Consider item in Part 2 - Exclusion of Press and Public - reference Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Copeland Open Spaces Maintenance Contract
- Electricity Costs
- Mole problem in the Parish
- Review of Vexatious Policy

16 Part 1 – Part 2 decisions

- Open Space Contract – Copeland to be contacted on direction proposed by Cllr Halliday, seconded by Cllr Ritson and unanimously agreed by Council
- Electricity costs – Annual electricity Cllr Halliday proposed and seconded by Cllr L Mawson
- Moles – Action proposed by Cllr Moore, seconded by Cllr L Mawson and unanimously agreed by Council
- Review of Vexatious policy. Policy updated to also include ICO advice on repetitive questions. Any existing vexatious notifications did not need to be re-issued as time period restrictions are incorporated. Applying FOI Act 2000 sections 14 and 17.6.c remains unchanged under the updated policy. Policy adopted and ratified proposed by Cllr Halliday, seconded by Cllr Ritson and unanimously agreed by Council.

17 Dates of forthcoming Meeting

Full Meeting Wednesday 4th March 2020