

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Wednesday 1st March 2017
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

Present:

Chair	Cllr Brian Goulding
Councillors	Cllr Craig Ashton Cllr Eileen Eastwood Cllr David Halliday Cllr Catherine Harvey – Chadwick Cllr David Moore
Clark/ RFO	Ms Jill Bush
Public	Mr D Taylor Ms J Taylor Mr P Turner (Gosforth PC) E Finlay A Pooley Ms B L Ramsden Ms B Parsons J Taylor I Blyth Mr C McGuire T Jones Mr D Davis C Platt Ms G Goulding M Temple J Saunders S Roberts S Furniss K Rhodes Ms G Pyrelinghon Ms E Mawson A Taylor R Kimber Mr B Harvey-Chadwick Ms L Morrison Ms E Porter

ITEM

1. Apologies

Cllr David Ritson

2. Announcements from the Chair

Councillors introduce themselves

The meeting was recorded for minuting purposes

A brief statement was read out regarding a leaflet/poster from a group called Seascale Carpark Action Group and a website which has been set up using the Seascale Parish Council website name. The Chair stated the Parish Council has no affiliation with this group or the website. The website has no authority to receive complaints, emails or any other communications on behalf of the Parish Council (PC). Emails from this website will not be acted upon.

The PC operates on a voluntary basis and employ a clerk for 5 hours a week to administer on behalf of the Council. The Council has spent approximately 70% of their time dealing with complaints from a small number of residents, stopping the Council on working on other projects.

The Chair stated the 3 parishioners who have made their views known to the Parish Council (PC) regarding the car park would not be allowed to speak about the car park at this meeting...at this point a resident stood and said she was objecting to this, it could not be done as it wasn't democratic and you cannot prevent anyone from speaking. The Chair requested she sit down and allow him to finish what he was saying. The resident continued to protest and the Chair had to ask more than once to be allowed to complete what he was saying. Another member of the public said it was a Parish Council meeting, to let the Parish Council run it and a further comment. The resident said "How dare you" and sat down. The Chair continued...will not be allowed to speak about the car park at this meeting but they will be allowed to speak on other subjects. This is to allow the rest of the members of the public the opportunity to voice their opinions and ask Question from the floor about the car park and the Parish Council will answer them.

Members of the public were advised that due to time restraints, time would be restricted to 4 minutes per person.

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

Cllr Mawson

4. Minutes of the previous meeting of 1st February 2017

Cllr Ashton proposed a true record of meeting seconded by Cllr Halliday

5. Report from the Chairman regarding the Beachfront Car park

Copies were available for public at the meeting. A copy of the Report is available on the Parish Council website under Chairmans' Reports (www.seascaleparish.com). After this the PC can take Questions from the floor. The Chair read out his report on the car park.

6. Public Participation

6.1 Questions from the Public and Answers from the Parish Council

Question from the floor – Re: 24 resident permits, how was this number formulated, what area around the car park does that cover and does it cover the School?

Answer – No the area of the car park is nowhere near the School, cover is from Railway Terrace to Albert Street, around the back, those closest to the car park.

Question from the floor – Re: Not everyone living in Seascale would require a permit and how was the total number of permits arrived at?

Answer – no. 24 is an estimate taken from the number of vehicles parked overnight, on a regular basis.

Question from the floor – Sellafield workers will also have access to the car park?

Answer – Yes, if they live in Seascale.

Question from the floor – Report refers to 24 residents, is that 24 parking spaces or 24 residents, how do you know what is required?

Answer – It is an estimation; the alternative would be knocking on everyone's door, this would be very time consuming and the PC do not have that sort of time available. The figure was arrived by going around the car park at night and counting the number of cars regularly parked there overnight and the total average was about 24. Some are workers and some are people live there. A further consideration is that some people need to use the car park because they work in Seascale.

Question from the floor – Residents living close have a permit. What if they have people visiting or lodging they can also have a permit?

Answer – This is a computerized scheme is for a virtual permit, requiring the vehicle and registration number to be logged for the period of time they need it, once that time has elapsed the computer automatically discards it. Provided the car details and dates required are supplied in advance the permit would be in place when the visitor arrives.

The object of the exercise isn't to penalize people who live and work there, but to stop people coming in, parking their cars, leaving them unattended and getting into another car to drive into work and then being dropped off again at the end of the day. Meaning not only do they get free parking for up to 12 hours, but they are also taking up spaces for long periods of time. However, if you live here you are entitled to park there.

Question from the floor – 45 Morgan Sindall (MS) permit holders, 24 resident permits, what about others and the hundreds of visitors who come in the summer, where are they going to park, are you considering an extension?

Answer – The contractors' agreement is that up until 9.00am the blue bays are for their use, after that time if they are not used, they are available to everyone else. Today there were spare blue bays. If they are late for any reason, then they will have to park where they can get a space. Some of the blue bay permit holders have been issued with permits and they are starting to use them, there some that don't use permits. This could be because they haven't put them up, or could be because they are not MS contractors. However, if the virtual system is opted for, they will have to supply their index numbers, if they haven't done this then they will get a parking ticket, if parked longer than the period stated.

Question from the floor – Given the Council funding shouldn't every resident have a permit and has any thought been given to coaches?

Answer – Firstly, the car park NOT a coach park reason because of the negotiation of the small bridge and further damage to this will split access to the village. Every Seascale resident having a permit would result in a logistical nightmare. Most people in the village using the car park generally don't use it for more than 4-hours, so permits are not required. The residents are entitled to use the car park. Whilst no final decisions have been made on which system to adopt, if for example someone wants to go to Whitehaven and they may be more than 4-6 hours. All that would be required advise in advance to allow a virtual permit to be set up for that period. It is not difficult to add this onto a computer, it is a fairly straight forward process.

Question from the floor - Concern raised about who really owns the car park, because it was originally given to Seascale.

Answer – Yes it was did originally given to Seascale by BNFL. Borderline passed it to Copeland. However, Copeland transferred this asset back to Seascale approximately 3 years ago, as they are looking to decrease their assets. Seascale definitely own the car park now.

Question from the floor – 45 blue bay permits and about 25 resident permits leaving approximately 25 for others to use and what of disabled bays?

Answer – Yes, but also not all the blue bay and all the residential spaces will be filled all the time, so they will be available for others to park in. We could walk away from MS agreement and no longer get this donation, but that does not stop parking there. At present, it is a free car park anyone can park there and the Parish would lose £12,000 a year.

Question from the floor – What about the mini buses driving in and out of the car park?

Answer – As mentioned earlier in the report, if they don't collect and drop off in the car park, they are legally entitled to collect and drop off in the street, outside your homes.

Question from the floor – H&S issues, concerns about an accident in and leaving the car park regarding the speed some drive at?

Answer – The behaviour of some drivers will be targeted. There have been discussions with the police. At our last meeting, police response to speeding past the school was basically, the organisation called BRAKE of which the Police are a member, will not take action with regards to alterations. They work on a kill or injure policy. That is their policy and until this happens they won't take any action by putting in restrictions. One of the options available is 'Speedwatch' which will be brought up later in the meeting.

Question from the floor – Seascale was until a few months ago, a low-density traffic and didn't have problems with so much speeding. You have invited MS to take up 45 spaces. It wasn't a donation it was a contract... This donation or whatever you want to call it has caused tremendous problems not only in the car park...and it is everything I said it would be...the buses filling spaces...I would do something about it...Can stop deliveries, it would soon get sorted

Answer – That is not true... Please stop right there... Please stop. You have repeated this for the last 2 years...Madam please. If MS do not wish to pay and if they still want to park their cars there, there is nothing we can do about that because it is free to all users at this present moment. If they are not to pick up in the car park, they can pick up in South Parade outside your house. There is nothing we can do about it...There is nothing you can do about it...Not at 6.00 in the morning. We are restricted with what we can and can't do. We are not a legal authority, so kicking off at the Parish Council about it, it's not going to go anywhere, so please stop.

Question from the floor – Why can't overhead barriers be put up at the entrance of the car park?

Answer – We have a recycling centre and the recycling vehicles would not be able to get in to service this. Retaining the recycling area was a condition made by Copeland. It must be retained so we cannot put up these barriers. We are also visited by a Bank van each week.

Question from the floor – Pay and Display costing £500 per year and administration and MS are paying £12,000 per year, so this will be less. It is said it will be non-confrontational, but in the real world it is, along with clamping. An example given of over staying in a disabled bay in a different car park.

Answer - They will not be clamping, it will not be allowed. By non-confrontational we mean a photograph will be taken and sent to the computer back office. You are not confronting the driver. There will be no clamping.

Question from the floor – Is it possible to restrict the speed in that area to 20mph, installing speed bumps. Could that be a possible solution? As there is risk of getting knocked down?

Answer – I entirely agree with you, I had an accident there as someone was driving fast. However, Cllrs Goulding and Moore had a meeting with Highways less than 12 months ago and set out what we would like to see in Seascale regarding line marking, signage and various other things. It has taken them 12 months to do that. We can certainly apply for it, but it is not something that is likely to happen overnight. They could reduce the speed to 20mph, but unfortunately there is no guarantee everyone will drive at that speed. It's down to the individual.

Question from the floor – There is no white line at the car park, is this something that could be done to slow down the drivers exiting?

Answer – Something we have considered and is certainly there is no reason why this can't be done, along with speed bumps. As this moment if you are driver and you look left and right and there is no traffic coming then they will accelerate to 30mph, as that is the speed limit along there.

Question from the floor – How much would be added to the precept if we had to recover the loss of the MS monies. All this money from MS has meant you have been able to refurbish all these things, how could this be achieved without it? The repair would cost even more because of the delay.

Answer – I will have to pass this onto the mathematicians for this. However, it has been very nice when the cricketers came to us and said the fence needed replacing and we were able to say yes, we can do this. Similarly, the Sports Hall needed a complete rewiring and because of the MS donation we could write a cheque for them and get this work done straightaway. Without this money, we would have to increase the precept and it would mean a delay this work getting done

Without these figures in front of me I cannot give exacts, however the precept increase would be on average about £60.00 per household and that would be substantially more than a 100% increase this year. It is important to mention the MS donation cannot be used to manage the car park, but it can be used for one off refurbishments.

Statement made by a resident– The Parishioner who is complaining, doesn't seem to realise this a car park and we have to move on. It would still be used without this money, but without it we wouldn't be able to run the car park at all. Perhaps resulting in an increase of parking tickets to help pay for the running of the car park. The car park is only an issue when demand exceeds supply.

Answer – Exactly and this is one of the things we have to sit down and hammer out. However, we would at least like to have the opinions of the residents. There has been a lot of social media giving out false information and this has influenced some of the residents. If you only get half the story, then that argument will go on forever.

Question from the floor – What we need to be doing is moving forward. As a resident I am reluctant for this matter of the car park becoming detrimental to the village.

Answer – Yes, exactly.

Question from the floor – I have been a resident for a long time and speeding is not a recent problem there has always been a problem with speeding. Diverting slightly also parking, particularly outside the bakery. It's only a matter of time before there is an accident.

Answer – It is one of the reasons why the Parish Council objected to Co-op being built on the grounds that the parking was insufficient and there wasn't sufficient infrastructure regarding deliveries. However, Copeland approved it and it is one of the things we have to live with. Requests have been made for speed checks to be carried out.

Question from the floor - One option perhaps worth considering is the speed signs that light up as they appear to be effective.

Answer – Yes.

Unfortunately, we are going to have to move on, unless we want to be here all night.

6.2 The Chairman invited representatives from the 'Shackles Off' and 'Seascale Community Beach Park' Charitable Projects to speak **Ms M Taylor**

Shackles Off are looking to see what could be done around the recycling area and have already started to collect. They have submitted their proposal to the sponsor who is offering £6000. They wish to carry out a community project and the young people of Shackles Off would like to adopt the area to keep it clean and would like to put a panel or wall along the back and try to make it more pleasing to the eye.

The Seascale Community Beach Park has also applied for a Grant, where the public vote for their preferred Project. They will be open every afternoon should those who wish to vote but feel they may need help, or if want to volunteer you will be very welcome.
Please support these Projects.

- 6.3** One of the 3 residents who was asked not to speak about the car park, but did anyway said her daughter had never been to a meeting and she is not here now and believe it unfair to say this. The Parish Council Noted the comment.

6.4 Please Help and Support the Seascale Community Beach Park Project
Ms E Mawson

The Seascale Community Beach Park

Upgrading the Beach Park area is a charitable Project. The project has some funds, £103,000 but needs more to be able to complete this. The facility will be available free of charge. We need your help. We have been shortlisted to receive funding through Sellafield's new Community Choices program called Deciding Together - and that is what we need you to do. Please, please, please spend a few minutes and log onto their website and cast your vote. You each have 10 votes, and you can give ALL 10 to us. This is for A LOT of money, £30,000. With this we can make this project a reality. I really can't put into words how vital your vote and support will be, so SHARE, SHARE, SHARE! Anyone, anywhere in the world can vote for The Beach Park Project as long as they have an email address. Remind your friends, family, long lost relatives, total strangers who look like they have 3 minutes to spare.....<http://decidingtogether.org/projects/seascale-community-beach-park-project/>
Please support this Project.

7. Reports from Committees and Councillors

- 7.1** Finance & General Purpose working group met last week. Ratifying payments which had to be agreed in the clerks' absence. The cricket fence was discussed. There were a number of actions from this meeting but none that need reporting by this committee.

Clerk listed the actions.

ACTIONED Footpath closure - Cumbria County Council advise the footpath (from Caldergate to the golf course) is anticipated to be closed for approximately 6 months for H&S reasons during the demolition of the Mill

- 7.2** Cllr Moore reported the reduction of Parish Councillors from 12 to 8 has been accepted by Copeland Borough Council

8. Finance

RFO balance read out reconciled Cash Book Balance of £28,173.79. Outstanding payments £1,101.98

Outstanding receipts £10, 801.41

VAT reclaim for £1,159.80

Payment requests approved.

Online banking concerning BACS payments which will be looked at by the finance group.

9. Planning Issues

4 Planning Applications passed with no objections from the Parish Council

CH/4/17/2033/OT1 - Telecommunications Installation of 20.1m monopole

CH/4/17/2039/OF1 - Change of loft space and cellar into on-suite bedrooms

CH/4/17/2034/0F1 - Extension to single storey garage

CH/4/17/2051/0F1 - Visibility splay change of variation to 4/14/2048/0F1

10. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

10.1 Beach Front Play Area

Cllr Goulding was on the play area looking at the beach front and looking at the metal climbing frame and thought it could be grinded. However, on inspection decided that it was not going to be an easy job and would take a day. Looking for permission to pay someone to do this and Cllr Goulding will paint on completion. Parishioner Ms Mawson said she could arrange to have this removed.

Arrangement was made to meet the following day at 9.30am. - 3 councillors attended with Ms Mawson and it was agreed Cllr Goulding would contact Copeland to see if it could be repaired before he would condemn it.

10.2 Asset transfer of the Library

Cllr Moore reported the Expression of Interest has been submitted to the County Council and put before the committee and assuming they are going to accept, a Business Case will be put together, to include a meeting room. A wifi facility has already been installed. Annual running costs are not expected to exceed £9,000. It is worth noting the MS money cannot be used for running costs, it can however be used for one off refurbishment costs. The reason being is because the MS donation cannot be guaranteed for the future. A Gosforth Parish Councillor at this meeting, said they have taken over their library they use a paper not computerised system. He was in there on the Saturday and it was fully used and they have lots of volunteers. It is working very well. Cllr Eastwood was pleased to report following a request for volunteers, a list has been collated and anyone wishing to volunteer please do so and we can add your name. Data Protection registered requirement. The Parish Council already have one person who is Data Protection approved.

11 To Consider relating to the Highway and Transport

The Parish Council gave a list to Highways, some of which has been carried out.

Question from the floor from the floor – Are the give way markings for real or was it a cock up?

Answer - It was a mistake which has been reported to highways however it appears that most drivers respect it and allow cars though the bridge and into the car park.

12 Correspondence

12.1 An email received from Mr Emmett to Seascale and Gosforth Parish Councils regarding concerns about parking outside shops and speeding. The clerk advised the PC had already raised this concern with the police and supplied a report from the previous months' minutes of the outcome. The clerk also advised these concerns would be brought up at the next meeting. Since then the PC have received a letter from the police who are looking at ways to alleviate the traffic problems in villages. They are inviting a nomination from each of the 10 different parishes listed with the view to forming an action group. This is to do with speeding and parking issues within all the satellite villages around the Sellafield area. They do recognize there is an issue because Sellafield do not provide enough in-house parking for all their staff. So obviously, they are looking for alternative places to park and the reason why there is a problem at our car park. Other villages are also being affected. They are hoping to arrange a meeting in March with the Parish Council action group, Cumbria Highways and key businesses including Sellafield. The Seascale PC has nominated their representative.

12.2 The PC has received an email from a concerned resident regarding the misinformation given in the leaflet the above-mentioned car park action group has been posting through the residents' doors. The PC has responded, provided the facts and what the PC are considering. The PC has now received a reply saying she was happy with the response received and understood the problems that we had. We are still in the early of how this is going to move forward and opinions from the residents are helpful in decision making.

12.3 The PC also received a letter from another concerned resident on receiving the leaflet. The PC has replied outlining the problem and possible proposed solution. The PC also assured the resident of

their intention to continue providing a free car park to residents on the occasions they may need to use it for more than the specified possible 4-hour limit. We are trying to organise the car park in a way that is of benefit to the residents, whilst also accepting there are other people who do want to use the car park. We are not just talking about contractors, but also day trippers and people who come in to use the businesses and visitors generally. We hope what has been explained this evening and the Question from the floors that have been answered has helped alleviate some of the concerns.

- 12.4** National Plant Monitoring Scheme – wildlife flora and fauna habitats and are looking for volunteers. Cllr Harvey-Chadwick understands the local school have an interest in wild flowers. Cllr Goulding said there are concerns in Seascale, some of our young people are experimenting with drugs. Please be mindful that cannabis is about and that it has always been about. As our parents are probably aware, as well as the young people. For advice please contact Shackles Off.
- 12.5** The PC received a letter from United Utilities advising they are joining forces with Severn Trent Waters to be called 'Water Plus'. They will be billing businesses (not private consumers) from April 2017. The PC anticipate this will result in higher water charges.

13. Urgent items raised by Councillors

- 13.1** Cllr Goulding has put on our website, (www.SeascaleParish.com) an article about Speedwatch. He has been to the school and looking at all the posters being done by the children and picking one, producing it and putting it up around the Village. Speedwatch is run by local people. St Bees are running it for the last 2 years. They pick and choose the times when they want to conduct their speed checks. It has to be carried out in pairs and they are trained by the police how to use a speed gun. Any vehicle that looks as though it is travelling fast they point the gun and record the speed and send it to the police, who then issue a warning letter to the driver. So far there have been 2 volunteers. The article will be kept on the website. If anyone is interested, please contact Cllr Goulding.
- 13.2** Faded road markings at Fairways and The Links junction. Clerk confirms they have been contacted twice and have been advised the road markings will be renewed.
- 13.3** Manhole cover broken loose from its surround, location junction of Albert Street and Drigg Road. Clerk to contact Highways. **Actioned. Clerk contacted the Highways named contact on 18th February. Automatic reply received – out of office until 6th March**
- 13.4** Significant issue regarding secondary school placements. Clerk to contact relevant department. **Actioned**

14. Dates of forthcoming Meetings

Wednesday 5th April 2017