

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held remotely and hosted by David Moore on
Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Present:

Chair	Cllr David Halliday
Vice- Chair	Cllr Lizzie Mawson
Councillors	Cllr Catherine Harvey-Chadwick Cllr David Moore Cllr Julie Savage
Clerk	Jill Bush
Public	Brenda Parsons
District Councillor	Paul Turner

ITEM

1. Apologises

Cllr Eileen Eastwood and Cllr Ken Mawson

2. Announcements from the Chair

2.1 The Chair thanked David Moore for setting up this meeting

2.2 Cllr David Ritson has resigned to due ill health. The Chair commended his commitment and had welcomed his deliberations. He will be missed, the Chair and Cllrs wish all the best

2.3 Reaffirmed the social distancing will continue as per Government guidance

3. Declarations of interest by councillors in respect to agenda items

Cllr Moore and Cllr Mawson

4. Ratify the previous meeting's Minutes

Proposed by Cllr L Mawson, seconded by Cllr D Halliday

5. Matters arising

None – The Chair advised whilst the minutes can only be amended by the parish Cllrs he asked Cllr Turner if he would like to comment about the July minutes. Cllr Turner thanked the Chair for the opportunity and agreed with the Chairs comment and would like to make a clarification and that he is on the Cumbria Planning Committee and would like that taken into account.

6. To consider any planning issues

CH/4/20/2282/0F1 No Objection

CH/4/20/2296/0F1 Objection

CH/4/20/2331/0F1 Late submission to meeting, Cllr Moore to circulate planning data to other Cllrs

Whitepaper planning application changes. This was advisory so that SPC are aware of what is being discussed at government level. Cllr Moore reported at present there are no changes and

will keep SPC informed on this matter.

7. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

- 7.1** F&GP – car park report – the car park notices are clear. Campervans are allowed to stop overnight. There will be no changes to overnight parking. It is noted since the covid-19 lockdown the car park usage has dropped. The cost of new parking machines and enforcement makes charging not economically viable. There is also the impact these charges would have on local businesses, such as the village store where people briefly stop off to buy a newspaper or other sundries. Subsequently, SPC will not change its current position. Cllr Halliday proposed the Council consider its current position and vote on an annual basis. Unanimously agreed. CC Cllr Turner advised CCC could take over the management, install charging machines and enforcement at an agreed negotiated cost. The clerk asked given this is a village car park, not in the National Park and the bulk of its usage is seasonal it is likely any negotiated agreement cost is likely to offer SPC little financial gain. Cllr Turner agreed this was possible. It was also noted the Ravenglass car park used to be full, but since implementing charges the usage has dropped and the locals now have problems with excessive street parking. It was further noted this is prevalent across the board, not just in Ravenglass and SPC remain reluctant to place residents of Seascale in a similar situation.
- 7.2** Pier marker – SPC is of the opinion this matter has arisen because someone has complained it is no longer fixed at the end of the jetty. Trinity House has advised it is no longer interested in this. SPC has been advised unless there is a local need for this, it has no responsibility for re-installing it. It will be moved to safe storage.
- 7.3** CCTV quotes update – Due to the continuing anti-social behaviour directed at the car park users, SPC is now making enquiries to update the current facility to cover the whole car park, the toilet block and the foreshore play area. The digital update will allow effective and clear night-time coverage. It is in receipt of 3 quotes and is awaiting a further 3. Cllr Savage advised the quotes received are basically providing the quality, e.g. the ability to zoom in and see someone drinking a coffee in their vehicle.
- 7.4** Fish & Chip van – Concern was expressed about a business using a van would not be paying business rates, it would be competition against local businesses who were struggling, concerns raised about litter and problems with parking, as it would be located in the car park. Whilst there has previously been a chip & chip van in the past and it was acknowledged it was well used, it was argued this was before there was another (Chinese) takeaway in the village. There is also an existing fish and chip shop, but it was noted has been empty for years.

8. Finance Report

- 8.1** RFO balance of the reconciled Cash Book Balance for August is £70,393.04. One outstanding payments of £16.49. There are 2 cancelled cheques, the payments will now be made by BACS.
- 8.2** Due to social distancing SPC has set up and will now make payments via the banks online system. These will be by S/O or BACS. The payments submitted for approval are for:
Library gas supply
Website Domain
Website accessibility upgrade

9. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

9.1 Library

- There was a Trustee meeting at the end of August and the following statement was agreed. We are aware that a number of users and volunteers are awaiting the re-opening of the Library. Those of us who volunteered to be Trustees (David Halliday, Viv Halliday, Mel Gould,

Hilary Cowley and David Ritson) met recently to review the situation, bearing in mind that the most important thing is to keep our users and volunteers safe. After looking at all the options, and taking advice from Cumbria Library Service, we considered that for the time being the Library should remain closed. To put this in context, Cumbria Library Service has only opened Whitehaven and the other 5 large Libraries in the County in the last few weeks offering a much-reduced service, basically “click and collect”. Smaller Libraries, including Egremont and Millom, and the Community Libraries, remain closed. Please rest assured it is our desire to re-open the Library as soon as we believe it is practical and safe but now is not the time. In the meantime please remember that you can continue to borrow books online using the Borrow Box service – <https://www.borrowbox.com>. We continue to liaise closely with Cumbria Library Service to look at how and when we can re-open and will provide a further update when we are in a position to do so.

- The Charity Commission require a formal statement setting out the scope of responsibility from SPC, this will be circulated to the Cllrs and also to the library trustee. If agreed by the latter Cllr Halliday will sign this on behalf of SPC and Mr M Gould will sign on behalf of the Trustees.

9.2 Play Areas

- The Coniston Avenue play is now complete and open for use. The feedback from residents has been positive. They are pleased that young children have a well laid out and safe play area in easy distance of their homes. The children are thoroughly enjoying the equipment and it is a pleasure to hear their laughter.
- The foreshore play area is also well used and similarly, SPC has also received numerous compliments about the well maintained and cleanliness of the foreshore play area.

9.3 Toilet Block

- There was a blockage in the urinal, under the emergency repair process this has been cleared, approved by full Council. Cllr L Mawson advised to send invoice to the clerk to organise reimbursement of cost. The disabled toilet door handle is not catching properly, so on exit is not remaining closed. This will be repaired.

9.4 BMX Track

- The broken seat has been removed

10. To consider matters relating to Highways and Transport

10.1 Cumbria County Council and Copeland Borough Council have been putting ‘pressure’ on Parish Councils to take up the responsibility of footway lighting with the additional cost being added to the Parish precept and ultimately the Council Tax. There has been no indication from either authority that the current costs they charge for this responsibility will decrease accordingly. They will also not release essential data so that parishes may make an informed decision. Cumbria Association of Local Councils, on behalf of the parishes, has been in discussion with these authorities and expressed frustration with the intransigence. Subsequently, based on the advice received, it is the opinion not just of SPC but other parishes to not respond to unrealistic propositions and unknown costs until full information is disclosed.

10.2 Council proposed in response to the email from Copeland BC regarding footpath lighting to enquire why 2 street lights by the school were removed on a ‘risk basis’ without the courtesy of notifying the Parish and that in doing so, it also removed the supply to the school warning sign? Actioned.

11. Urgent matters raised by Councillors

11.1 No urgent matter raised, however the Chair thanked CC Cllr P Turner and resident Ms B Parsons signing into the meeting.

12. Questions submitted by the public

12.1 Ms B Parsons submitted 4 questions, which are listed below.

Firstly, Ms Parsons is aware SPC is under no legal obligation to answer repeat or variants of the same questions. However, for the purpose of others reading these minutes SPC provides the following for 1 – 3

1/SPC took over the whole of the seafront area for the benefit of the community. When will the council take advice and report to a meeting the options for operating the car park as a profit making asset?

SPC response: It has previously taken advice from Copeland BC and Cumbria County Council, also see 7.1 above. It receives funding from a local business and from its donation box. SPC will consider keeping this a free amenity on an annual basis.

2/ Will SPC have a proactive maintenance programme for the car park instead of waiting until disrepair forces unplanned short term measures?

SPC response: Car park repairs are carried out as required. It is a matter of personal opinion as to whether the car park falls into a state of 'disrepair'.

3/ There is a high degree of exclusion from what was the amenity area. Such as provision for the elderly, vulnerable and disabled. Would you consider making room for this section of the community by addressing the issue of over development of the site? The state of what was an all-inclusive amenity area after only 2 years is unacceptable.

SPC response: The foreshore area has suitable seating for all ages and ability. Regarding the play area, the original planning application and the amendment were both approved by the district planning committee and passed an independent risk assessment on completion. The Parish Council insurers carry out bi-annual inspections and there are also monthly inspections carried out by an independent body. There is no over-development. The H&S Executive recently assessed the public toilets, the car park and the play area and confirmed all met all the required standards, including all those appertaining to social distancing. No further action is required by SPC.

4/ Will SPC stop the use of the footpath and the play area by cyclists?

Answer: SPC assumes Ms Parsons is referring to the foreshore footpath, which is part of the authorised coastal cycle way. Cycling on other footpaths should be reported to the police by the witness. It is unfortunate that some people do not respect the play area notices, especially selfish dog owners who not only walk their dogs across it, but also let their poorly trained dogs off the lead here and in other restricted areas, ignoring the risk of them attacking members of the public. All these should also be reported to Copeland dog wardens or the police.

12.2 The sports hall advised they have installed a lockable bin because, sadly, dog owners were depositing the dog poop in this receptacle. They are also considering a dog bin. (It is possible Shackles may provide this)

12.3 Mr Williamson Enquired about a pitch for a fish and chip van: see 7.3 above

13. Dates of forthcoming meetings

Full Council meeting Wednesday 7th October

APM Wednesday 7th October

AGM Wednesday 7th October