

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held remotely and hosted by David Moore on
Wednesday 7th October 2020

Present:

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

ITEM

1. Apologises

Cllr Eileen Eastwood

2. Announcements from the Chair

- There appears to be an increasing drive to push responsibilities down from central government, to local councils who are then pushing this down onto parishes. Yet no account appears to be taken of the fact that Parish Cllrs work on a voluntary basis. For example, the documentation for today's meeting consists of the new Financial Regulations, proposed changes in planning procedures and the Copeland Local Plan. There appears to be a growing amount we are expected to be involved in, and Parish Cllrs do not necessarily want to spend their time reading reams of 'government speak'.
- The Chair thanked CC Cllr P Turner, Copeland Cllr Andy Pratt, who has recently been elected to the position of CALC Chair and resident Ms B Parsons signing into the meeting.

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

Cllr K Mawson
Cllr L Mawson

4. Ratify the previous meeting's Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Halliday, seconded by Cllr L Mawson

5. Matters arising

None

6. To consider any planning issues

CH/4/20/2331/0F1 – this is a permitted development and neighbours would have been consulted. SPC have no further comment to make on this application

7. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

7.1 Due to the continued lockdown the F&GP have not met

7.2 The Amenities working group have not met for the same reason as 7.1

7.3 Cllr K Mawson reported Copeland do an excellent job of clearing overflowing litter bins and take photos of the area on completion. Sadly, this needs to be done to disprove the almost weekly complaints Copeland receives from a parishioner claiming the contrary.

8. Finance Report

8.1 RFO balance of the reconciled Cash Book Balance for August is £60,174.65. One payment (£16.79) outstanding since July

8.2 The payments submitted for approval are:

PKF Littlejohn	360.00
Corona Energy	41.99
Zoom (D Moore)	43.17
Octopus Energy	25.03
Octopus Energy	23.75
Copeland BC	2237.15

8.3 CCTV upgrade quotes

Cllr Savage reported she requested quotes from 7 suppliers and received 6. She is disappointed that one who has not sent a quote may well have been worth considering because of the specification detail provided. There was also disappointment as Google Earth was used, rather than a physical survey. Of the 6 received she advised 2 can be discounted. The remaining 4 are similar in the provision offered. However one of these who was slightly cheaper didn't include some of the essential fixtures and fittings, so it is not clear what the final cost would be. The Company who originally installed the CCTV have proved problematic when trying to contact them, so has reluctance considering them. There are 2 proposed preferred businesses, one is based in Workington and other in Barrow, so both local businesses. One issue has become clear during this process is that, whilst the existing system was the best at the time, the technology has progressed enormously in the last few years and the systems today are substantially superior today, including excellent night-time recordings. Cllr Moore acknowledged technology is more superior today, but he would like to see the top-grade quality available. An important consideration is weather damage. All the businesses offer after sales services. Excellent advice on protecting the camera lens and cabling etc from weather corrosion and vandalism was also given. Cllr Savage proposed the 2 businesses she considered were offering the best were approached about service/maintenance contracts. Agreed by Council. The Chair thanked Cllr Savage for the time and effort she has put into this.

9. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

9.1 Library

The library services re-opening status and process report:

Re-opening is occurring in 3 phases; it is currently at phase 2. Only 6 of the main libraries were opened in August, the library service is proposing to open another 12 of the smaller main libraries. Smaller branch libraries, such as Seascale are in phase 3. Opening is based on a risk assessment check list and there are 5 essential requirements, such as track and trace etc, some of these requirements are mandatory, before a library can re-open. In this partnership the library services will provide signage, the necessary infrastructure and essential advice. Once all this is in place Seascale library will open along with all the similar libraries and at present, it is not possible to provide a re-opening date at this stage. If Seascale library opened prior to the recommended process, it would receive no support from the library service. To ensure necessary requirements

are met, it is essential to have this support. The Parish Council will purchase Perspex screens. Cllr Halliday proposed he investigate the cost of installing hand sanitizers, rather than just having a bottle of sanitizer 'by the door'. There is a meeting with the library on Friday 9th October and hopefully SPC will be able to provide a status update to the library trustees. Cllr Moore agreed there are parishioners who miss the library, however, there are also those who are concerned about the safety aspect. Cllr Moore also advised as this was a H&S issue, so a requirement and an integral installation would be a better option, agreed by Council.

The Parish Council acknowledge this continued delay is frustrating but assure users it is working to re-open it as soon as possible.

9.2 Play Areas

The Coniston Avenue play is popular and well used

Cllr K Mawson reported dog fouling on the play area and the beach. He noted the dog warden is active in a number of areas and why not Seascale. Cllr Moore asked him to give him the details of when this dog fouling occurs after the meeting and he would forward this to the dog warden.

9.3 Toilet Block

Tap in Ladies toilet is sticking. Cllr Moore volunteered to fix this.

9.4 BMX Track

No issues

9.5 Following the HMP Haverigg enquiry about community work, the Council discussed this, and the Viking Way was suggested, as the hedges either side of the footway are overgrown. There are also some overgrown grassy areas along the route and having this cut back would be greatly appreciated. Clerk to contact Haverigg with suggestion. Actioned

Other suggestions include clearing weeds around the Sun Clock by the Castle, also tidying around the boat club ramp, the banking in the Dell and the path toward Sellafield.

10 To consider matters relating to Highways and Transport

10.1 Cllr K Mawson reported there are serious drainage problems by Blea Wath Brow, which require urgent action before the frost starts. Cllr Turner advised a special gullies camera is used to establish what and where the flooding problem is. CCC does not have this equipment and needs to bring on a contractor to do this work and when this is done is subject to the contractor's availability. Update: camera investigation began w/c 12th

10.2 Cllr K Mawson asked what was happening about the traffic lights by the railway bridge. County Cllr Turner advised it is not likely to happen in the foreseeable future, due to lack of funding. Once there is available funding a full consultation will be carried out with SPC and the residents. Cllr Moore advised when a contractor working there and was asked, he said traffic lights were being put up. Cllr Turner advised the contractor was in no position to make that statement and the company has been contacted accordingly, due to the confusion it created.

10.3 Footpath lighting – Copeland has suggested the Parish could accept the responsibility for 4 lights and also finding the funding to maintain these. One of these is in the Winscale club car park and not a parish responsibility. Two lights between Lingmell Crescent and Gosforth Road and one may be sufficient. The fourth light is in a back street to the rear of Railway Terrace, where there is no other lighting. As no report has been released on the status of these lights, SPC is reluctant to take on an unknown maintenance cost.

School warning sign was switched off when 2 streetlights were removed. When are these streetlights being re-established and subsequently the school warning sign and is it CCC highways or a third party responsible for these? Initial enquiries were not helpful. Mr Pratt reported it is not clear which streetlights will be the responsibility of CCC highways and which will be the responsibility of a third party or who this third party is?

- 10.4** CC Cllr Turner reported there would be speed monitoring between Cross Lanes and Halsenna. Some road repair work is also scheduled in.
- 10.5** Cllr K Mawson reported concerns have been raised by the lack of dropped kerbs making access difficult. CC Cllr Turner asked if the list of locations could be forwarded to him, so he could submit this along with requests from other parishes.

11 Urgent matters raised by Councillors

- 11.1** Cllr Moore advised there is a Copeland Local Plan 2017-35 consultation in progress, and this will affect Seascale. He pointed out there was no need for 3-4 bed houses, but 1-2 bed bungalows, so that elderly people can downsize and subsequently release larger properties onto the market. SPC has previously proposed the land behind the Health centre. If agreed, it would mean elderly people would be close to essential amenities, such as the GP, the Post Office, the shops, and the library. Andy Pratt advised the Plan was focussed on using developable land, whilst protecting wildlife and other protected species. However, if an alternative proposal can be submitted, then it would allow for leeway in its Plan.

The Plan focuses on building additional developments, be it employment opportunities or housing, but does not take account of the need to upgrade infrastructure accordingly.

The consultation documents (both lengthy, but the actual data on Seascale is only a couple of pages in each document) are available on the parish website, along with a response form with a close date of 15th November. <https://www.seascaleparish.com/meeting-cancellation-notification/>

- 11.2** Cllr Moore reported the Christmas lights on the Sports Hall Christmas are not working. He suggested these are removed, but replacement deferred and that the other Christmas lights are still put up and switched on, even if there is no official switching-on ceremony. Proposed by Cllr Halliday and seconded by Cllr Harvey-chadwick

12 Questions submitted by the public

- 12.1** SPC received a 12-page communication. Within this, was listed numerous changes a parishioner wanted made to last month's minutes. SPC advise only the Parish Cllrs have the authority to amend what was reported in the minutes and is under no legal obligation to respond to repeat or variants of the same questions/complaints. Although the overall tone of the communication was vexatious, SPC make the following response to questions raised.
- There is no legal requirement to put the play area inspections on the website.
 - As above. Also, the Data Protection ACT and GDPR limits what can be released into the public arena.
 - Mushrooms come up overnight and as the complainant has since confirmed, they are no longer there.
 - SPC did not report the child cyclist in the car park incident as it was not raised in the meeting. Nor have the police requested a formal notification for CCTV footage. SPC does not report every parish activity. For example it did not report a parishioners recent aggressive and anti-social behaviour towards a member of the public using the car park and verbal abuse directed at a Cllr around the same time.

13 Dates of forthcoming meetings

Full Council meeting Wednesday 4th November