

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

Present:

Chair	Cllr David Halliday
Councillors	Cllr Catherine Harvey-Chadwick Cllr ken Mawson Cllr L Mawson Cllr David Moore
Clerk	Jill Bush
Public	Brenda Parsons
CC Councillor	Paul Turner

ITEM

1. Apologises

Cllr Eileen Eastwood
Cllr Julie Savage

2. Announcements from the Chair

It would appear a misunderstanding/deliberate deception has been circulated regarding SPC and the Copeland Local Plan 2017-3025 preferred options consultation, to mislead the parishioners regarding the parish council.

Whilst the original idea was to hold an open meeting, however as events unfolded (due to covid restrictions) this was no longer possible. Subsequently, SPC had to hold a closed meeting in the library, so that Cllrs could view and discuss the details of the above plan and it was conducted observing the 6' distance rule. If it had held an open meeting, it would have been in breach of the rules.

There was no intention to block parishioners' opinions. There was no deliberate deception from the parish council to mislead parishioners. In fact all the necessary documentation and the means to submit your opinion directly to Copeland was made available on the parish website. (a link was provided in the October minutes – item 11.1)

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

None

4. Ratify the previous meeting's Minutes

Proposed by Cllr K Mawson, seconded by Cllr Harvey-Chadwick

5. Matters arising

- 5.1** Cllr K Mawson reported the Remembrance Sunday went very well. With special thanks to the British Legions' organisation.

6. To consider any planning issues

- 6.1 Cllr Moore attended a remote meeting with Copeland regarding the preferred options contained in the Copeland Local Plan. Special thanks to him for the written response. The clerk submitted the formal response.
- 6.2 Santon Way application has been approved by the Copeland Planning dept, with the caveat there must be sufficient room for the vehicles to turn and not reverse down the existing public footpath.
- 6.2 Black How application has also been approved with several significant conditions.

7. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

- 7.1 The F&GP group meeting held on 25th November to discuss the precept, other financial matters plus AOB. The current years precept is estimated at between 3-5% overspend. This is due to unexpected items that have occurred this year, due to the 'uncertain choppy waters' created due to the Covid-19 lockdowns. Copeland BC has been similarly affected; however, its annual inflationary rise will be 2%. Therefore it is proposed the parish precept is in line with this. Unanimously agreed. Deadline to submit precept is 16th January 2021.
- 7.2 AOB One of the Cllrs has not been able to attend the remote meetings due to internet inaccessibility. SPC sought advice from Copeland, whose guidance was to apply a dispensation until May 2021 can be granted. Formal dispensation until May 2021 proposed by Cllr Moore, unanimously agreed by Council.

8. Finance Report

- 8.1 RFO balance of the reconciled Cash Book Balance for November is £71,972.61. One payment (£27.39). Two receipts (£15,00.00)
- 8.2 The payments submitted for approval are:

PATA	23.25	BACS
TRPublishig	250.00	BACS
Octopus Energy	21.67	D/D
Octopus Energy	17.50	D/D
Jill Bush (stationery)	47.24	BACS
Drigg Church	150.00	BACS
Npower	27.27	BACS
Npower	23.00	BACS
Corona Energy	42.21	BACS
Octopus Energy	2.64	BACS
DAV	1857.84	BACS
Zoom (D Moore)	28.78	BACS
- 8.3 Pending an onsite meeting with Copeland representatives.
- 8.4 2020/2021 precept is expected to be approximately between 3 – 5% overspend. It is also recognized this overspend is the result of the unprecedented conditions could have been created by the Covid-19 lockdown. Capital funding can also be used for some expenditure.
- 8.5 2021/22 Precept - Copeland are applying 2%. Subsequently, it is proposed the same should be applied for the SPC precept. Agreed by Council.
- 8.6 SPC submitted last year's annual accounts signed off by both auditors and LLWR funding has been approved. This will be approximately £15,500.00.

9. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

9.1 Library

Sadly, the latest restrictions have resulted in curtailing some services being provided by the library already open. The library services continue to work closely with the Seascale library

committee who can report all the requirements needed for when the library can re-open are being put in place, including training sessions for the volunteers, so it is ready to go when it can open.

9.2 CCTV

The installation is now complete. The camera footage is to an excellent standard and understood it can reach as far as the boat shed. Signage will need to be updated. SPC can confirm it has been clarified the pole is exactly the same as before. Despite the complaint made by a resident attempting to dispute this.

9.3 Play Areas

Coniston Avenue – grass matting underneath the swing has been pulled out. This has now been put back in place.

9.4 Toilet Block

Nothing to report

9.5 BMX Track

SPC are still awaiting to the start date for the maintenance work agreed with Copeland. CC Cllr Turner reported a group of volunteers have offered to carry out some remedial work. The offer is to be commended, but unfortunately, H&S factors come into play because the public will still have access to this area. They would need to be under supervision, due possible accident claims against the insurance. It would appear there is truck accessibility SPC asked Cllr Turner to thank these worthy people for their splendid community spirit, but unfortunately at present it is still awaiting some materials and. SPC will speak to Copeland.

10 To consider matters relating to Highways and Transport

- 10.1** CC Cllr Turner reported it has responded to a resident's concern about the traffic speed on Gosforth Road, around the school and this is being dealt with. CNC will be monitoring the speed in this area.
- 10.2** Cllr K Mawson reported the rail station has installed multiple cameras on both sides of the track, to cover not just the station, but also the car parks. It is unfortunate that continued vandalism has made this necessary.
- 10.3** CC Cllr Turner reported have been no recent updates from County level regarding street lighting. CCC had previously attempted to transfer its responsibility of street (under the guise of footpath) lighting down to borough and parish councils. There has been growing concern raised about the growing number of streetlights that are not working. Cllr More reported one to highways and was advised by them, it was not a County level responsibility. Coniston Avenue has 5 streetlights that are not working. He advises members of public to report the faulty streetlights to Cumbria Highways, or by telephoning the Highways Hotline on 0300 303 2992. When making a report please include: the identification number attached to the lighting column.
- 10.4** Cllr K Mawson reported an Inspection lid has lifted proud of the road and is a risk to damaging tyres. CC Cllr Turner advised he was aware of this problem and was not a CCC responsibility, but whichever business who had this installed. He also noted the inspection lid refers to meter access, so it could be an electric, gas or water meter access point. A similar problem has occurred a Blae Wath and this is a BT responsibility. He further advised he would pass on this onto the relevant department so that it could be forwarded onto the correct people. Cllr K Mawson expressed concern about the delay in repairing in the fault. Cllr Moore advised, if the fault has been reported and vehicular damage occurs, then the relevant business is legally responsible for not acting on the reported fault. Cllr K Mawson acknowledged this, however, there is a possibility this is not so much a faulty inspection lid, as a subsidence fault. CC Cllr Turner acknowledged this could be the case.

10.5 The road surface between Seascale and Gosforth is continuing to deteriorate to the state it does not have adequate traction, making braking hazardous. More so now, because of the frosty weather. Further, because it is so smooth when the sun shines it reflects and blinds the driver. This also occurs at night when car headlights blind oncoming drivers. CC Cllr Turner reported it was listed for work under next year's budget, but agreed a temporary surface was needed for the winter, because of the dangers this posed. Highways to be contacted. Clerk to action. Actioned

11 Urgent matters raised by Councillors

- 11.1** CC Cllr Turner was invited to raise any parish issues. He advised that the cinder track near Sellafield was getting washed away and in the process of being rebuilt. This is a Sellafield responsibility. He also had a meeting regarding parking at station and he has a site meeting the following day, as they have effectively closed off the station except to foot passengers.
- 11.2** Cllr K Mawson asked what was happening with the Christmas lights this year? Cllr Moore advised he has contacted the local contractor Mr Biggins to arrange to have the Christmas lights set by timer and first switch on will be Sunday 13th. Sadly, because of the restrictions there will be no function. The gable end lights have been removed. Cllr Moore further advised the cost of replacement lights was prohibitive given how long they last, and that other Councils have opted instead for projected lights. The gable end wall from the water tower entrance would be ideal for this purpose and the projector could be installed in a position safe from vandals. He offered to make enquiries to establish the cost. Agreed by council.
- 11.3** Cllr L Mawson reported problems with the parish noticeboards barrel locks. Perhaps the noticeboard needs to be replaced and some repositioned. However, given the noticeboards are focal points for the parish and are looking somewhat 'careworn' perhaps the council could consider replacements noticeboards for the library and the wishing well. The Cllr can make an enquiry for quotations. Agreed by Council.

12 Questions submitted by the public

1 email received containing a complaint about the foreshore play area again. This time about the bucket chain. The bucket has been removed, initially to get it repaired. SPC has been advised repair is not possible and subsequently the ROSPA inspector is arranging to have the chain removed. This may be replaced in the Spring as this is very popular and Cllr L Mawson will make enquiries for replacements.

13 AOB

- 13.1** SPC received a notification suggesting a business tax reduction could be achieved and that the Company stated it was Copeland recommended. This is somewhat implausible. Why would it agree to work with Company that operates to reduce its revenue! Cllr Moore advised he understood when SPC originally took over the toilet block and the car park it submitted an appeal against business rates. Copeland agreed to remove the business rates from the toilet block as it is an amenity, but not the car park.
- 13.2** The Chair advised SPC follows the protocols laid down by the National Association of Local Councils.
- 13.3** The Chair thanked CC Cllr Turner and Ms B Parsons for their attendance.
- 13.4** The Chair also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and to enjoy it as best you can under the circumstances.

14 Dates of forthcoming meetings

Full Council meeting Wednesday 6th January 2021