

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held remotely and hosted by David Moore on
Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Present:

Chair	Cllr David Halliday
Councillors	Cllr Catherine Harvey-Chadwick Cllr Ken Mawson Cllr L Mawson Cllr David Moore Cllr Julie Savage
Clerk	Jill Bush
Guest Speaker Public	Martyn Taylor CCC highways Rosamund Blaney Brian Goulding Craig Smith CCC Paul Turner

ITEM

1. Apologises

Cllr Eileen Eastwood

2. Announcements from the Chair

2.1 The Chair reaffirmed the Parish Council was following remote meeting protocols as set out as advised by CALC.

2.2 The legislation for these remote meetings is in place until 6th May, however, it is possible this may be extended.

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 D Moore, seconded by Cllr Savage

5. Matters arising

(5) Cllr K Mawson asked if the report on Seascale news to Tethera would be submitted by the Chair, as that is who had done this historically. The Chair confirmed he had already agreed to do so and had spoken to the editor, who has confirmed he will contact SPC prior to publication so that an article can be submitted for the next edition.

(11.2) Cllr K Mawson asked when will the foreshore streetlights be repaired. See item 12.1 below.

(11.3) The clerk can confirm there are no changes to the ICO subscription cover

6. Guest Speaker from highways

Mr Martyn Walker accepted SPC's cordial invitation to its meeting and answered some of the concerns raised by residents over the standard of the highways in the Parish. Below and highlighted in red, is the opening statement and the answers to the concerns raised.

Cumbria Highways are currently investing in a new online reporting system for defects and enquiries called HIAMS. This system is due to be launched in April 2021 which will see a new Highways Engagement Team receiving a triaging the defects from members of the public. This team will be made of staff with experience of working in Highways with the goal of trying to give direct answers at source to as many questions as possible. MRT stressed the importance of all defects need to be logged on the current HIMS system as possible, so we have a record of all the enquiries into the system and the following progress can be tracked. MRT thanked the PC for their questions in advance and has provided the answers below.

1. Poor condition of the road surface from the School down to Hallsenna junction/Cumbrian Lodge. There are numerous potholes, whilst they may be small and cause little damage to cars, they are a significant risk to cyclists, as they are located near the kerbsides. As the nights draw in, this adds to the risk of injury, where a pothole may not be seen until the cyclists is close to it, but cannot pull out due to passing traffic, or it is not seen at all. First reported in 2019/20.

This is currently programmed to be patched in the next financial year.

Cllr K Mawson clarified it wasn't the whole road affected, but where there is a pipe track that have been re-laid poorly and is breaking up. This has caused two cyclists to have minor accidents.

2. Large areas of the road surface between Gosforth and Seascale has worn smooth. At this time of the year it is creating numerous hazards, at night the lights of other cars can glare, however, on top of this, your own vehicles lights also glare back. Frosty nights create an additional hazard, if the road is smooth, it will be even more difficult to tell if the road icy. 2 serious accidents happened over the 2019/20 Christmas period on this stretch of road. This was first reported in 2019, but was not added to the following years repair budget, though hit is understood it has been added to the 2021/22 budget. Why has this road been left to deteriorate for so long and when, in next years budget is it scheduled in for resurfacing?

No serious RTC's have been recorded by the CRASH group who monitor accident hot spots in the county. The glare is most likely caused by "fattening up" which is caused by the aggregate in the surfacing sinking into the surface, leaving a smooth surface behind. This is not a safety defect as such, but worthy of monitoring. The road is not scheduled for any resurfacing in the coming financial year. All the road markings were renewed in summer 2020.

3. SPC question why Seascale is one of the few villages which does not have a 20-mph speed limit, or why it does not have a flashing speed signs or any speed bumps near the school? First reported in 2019/20.

There are relatively few villages throughout West Cumbria that currently have 20mph speed limits. Department for Transport criteria specifies that 20mph restrictions should be evidence led and feel logical in order to encourage self-compliance. They are only introduced in areas where the average speed is already at or below 20mph, and Cumbria Police will not enforce 20mph limits.

The matter of speeding traffic along Gosforth Road near the school has recently been brought to our attention and has been added as an item on the Casualty Reduction and Safer Highways (CRASH) group, which is jointly attended by representatives from both Cumbria Constabulary and Cumbria County Council. The group is tasked with investigating speeding and safety issues throughout Cumbria. We are currently awaiting traffic surveys to be undertaken along the road, after which the results will be analysed to determine if any issues are prevalent. We can feed back to the Parish Council once we have the results and the matter has been discussed. Councillor Turner has also asked for more of a police presence in the area to try and discourage speeding. A flashing speed sign was requested by a member of the committee and Councillor Turner will take this request up with the CRASH group.

4. The repairs to the footpath and stile at Crofthead have still not been carried out. This like all the problems has previously been submitted to highways, but nothing has been heard back. First reported in 2019/20.

Stiles are the responsibility of the landowner as they are to provide a crossing point through field boundaries. The Countryside Access team within Cumbria County Council can assist with getting landowners to carry out maintenance on private land. MRT encourages people to report issues via the online defect system.

One of the Cllrs had understood stile repair was a highway responsibility.

MRT advised that the EU provided individual funding for this.

5. Flooding by Blaewath Farm. The drain next to the agricultural field is like a pond. There obviously appears to be a drainage problem. Icy weather has made the continued flooding of the road at Blae Wath treacherous. Even the gritting has not dissipated the ice, all that appears to have occurred is that any standing water is washing the gritting away and still leaving a layer of ice. The Council already warned the winter weather would make this area dangerous. This was first reported to highways on 13 January 2020, why was the work delayed for a year?

Gully tankers have been working in this area today to try and locate the problem and using root cutters to try and clear the carrier drain. We have a order in our programme to replace a section of pipe, due to happen in April 2021. Ken Mawson has offered to show a member of Cumbria Highways staff where he thinks part of the problem is downstream. Committee Secretary to send MT his contact details. Clerk to action.

Actioned

Cllr K Mawson also advised there had been dozens of complaints made about these potholes

6. Single yellow lines on the main road adjacent to the cricket field to stop Sellafield employees parking there, as there are 45 spaces in the car park allocated to Sellafield.

The committee clarified this request to be for a 4-hour parking bay to discourage parking by commuters, this has been passed to our traffic team for consideration in our next Traffic Regulation Order.

7. SPC has submitted a request for 7 dropped kerbs in Seascale, it is understood other requests have also been submitted. Please can a full list of the dropped kerbs for Seascale be released to SPC, so that when a parishioner asks if one can be put in a specific area, it can confirm if it is already listed, or if a request needs to be submitted. Councillor Turner is currently working with our traffic team to establish a list of locations suitable for new dropped crossings in the area. With a view to these sites being installed in spring 2021. These locations will be communicated back to the Parish once they have been finalised.

This response has not addressed the request submitted, the current list could have been released now and updates issued.

8. An inspection cover on Drigg road, next the warning flag by the firing range (not highways responsibility) was recently repaired. However, the tarmac surrounding this repair has dropped again. SPC was previously advised the cracks in the pavement and on the road adjacent to this was due to general wear and tear. However, the boreholes close are by are to measure subsidence. If subsidence is being monitored, can highways categorically confirm these cracks, and the recent repair are the result of an underlying subsidence problem? Whilst the former could be argued it is wear and tear, it doesn't explain the problems which have materialised following the recent inspection cover repair. SPC ask for clarification from highways on this matter.

The committee clarified concerns were only for the lid itself and not the reason for its being there. This has been passed to a maintenance team to be fixed.

9. Footpath at the junction of Albert Street to Drigg Road is very uneven. Whilst some work has been carried out here, the problem has returned.

This location has not had any previous concerns raised. MRT to sent a team member to inspect the location.

10. Several street-lights are not working, including the ones near the school. One of these has a school warning sign linked to it, which is now no longer working. Cumbria Highways currently have no outstanding lights not working in the Seascale area, but MRT encourages residents of the area to report all lights not working via our online reporting system. Footpath lighting is the responsibility of Copeland Borough Council. The column linked to the flashing school warning sign was removed by CBC, severing the electrical connection. Cumbria Highways have ordered a new connection to be made to this sign via Electricity North West.

Cllr K Mawson expressed concern about the speeding by the school and felt a sign, which shows the speed of the vehicle and encourage the driver to slow down if exceeding the speed limit, would be helpful. He acknowledged these are usually supplied by the police or by a local community group.

11.SPC also request a copy of the detailed plan of programmes of work for Seascale for the coming financial year. The reason this is requested is so that the Councillors can provide answers when concerns are raised by parishioners. Please can a copy of this be released? It is possible, by doing so, it would reduce the number of requests submitted to highways over the same issue.

The works programme for the next financial year is currently under review after significant funding changes. Apart from the two sites promised above.

The Chair thanked Mr Taylor for attending the meeting and for the time he gave to answer the questions raised.

7. To consider any planning issues

4/21/2053/0E1 - 'Certificate of Lawfulness' No issue submitted

4/21/2055/0F1 – No Objection

8. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

None, but F&GP group will be meeting in April (date to be confirmed) regarding year end data and preparation.

9. Finance Report

9.1 RFO balance of the reconciled Cash Book Balance for February is £82,9428.49. One outstanding payment (£27.39)

9.2 The payments submitted for approval are:

Waterplus	334.67	Toilet block water & drainage - Dec - Jan
Npower	30.75	1.46 Library Electric supply - Jan 2020
Designworks	156.00	26.00 Annual Website Domain Hosting
J Bush (Post Office)	4.31	Recorded delivery x 2
PATA	47.10	Payroll Service (x 6 mths)
ICO	40.00	Annual Data Protection Fee
Corona energy	41.99	2.00 Library Gas supply - Jan 2021
Waterplus	87.61	Toilet block water & drainage - Jan - Feb
Zoom (D Moore)	14.39	2.40 Remote meetings (Feb)
J Garner	310.00	Shore street lamp and car park lightng repairs
WF Cascade	141.12	23.52 Toilet block supplies

10. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

10.1 Library

The Chair reported there has been a possible re-opening date suggested, but this has not been confirmed. The leak creating a damp patch on the wall has not got worse, but a contractor has been contacted to establish where the problem is coming and carrying out the necessary repair.

10.2 CCTV

Cllr Savage reported the quality is still consistently good, nothing to date saved on system hard drive. New signs required. Cllr L Mawson will provide a website and Cllr Savage to investigate further.

10.3 Play Areas

With regard to the foreshore play area, Cllr L Mawson asked the Council should she arrange

to have the tower repainted or allow it to go back to natural wood. Update: feedback to date is to repaint this and also repaint the relevant parts of the tunnel.

10.4 Toilet Block

The faulty taps and a split cistern will be replaced.

10.5 BMX Track

Nothing to report, apart from that it continues to be well used

10.6 Christmas lights

Enquiries ongoing, add to the April agenda

11 To consider matters relating to Highways and Transport

None, see item 6b above

12 AOB/Urgent matters raised by Councillors

12.1 Cllr K Mawson queried when the shore lampposts will be repainted. Cllr L Mawson advised enquiries have been made to local contractors for the repainting of the foreshore street lights. However due to the elevation of the work and the equipment required to carry out this task finding a contractor who can do this work is proving problematic. Enquiries will continue.

12.2 Cllr Harvey-Chadwick reported the flagpole rope needs to be replaced, however, because it was not a straightforward process it is not a one-man job. Cllrs Savage and L Mawson agreed to help. Update: on 9th March the Cllrs met onsite to lower the flagpole to replace the ropes. On lowering the flagpole it was found it to be badly corroded and in a poor state of repair with missing screws etc. The fibreglass was very brittle and the whole thing was deemed unsafe. They dismantled it and are researching replacements.

12.3 The current bin emptying contract may not be sufficient, and enquiries will be made to Copeland regarding the current contract.

12.4 Cllr Moore reported the church had asked if the NHS flower board could be removed as it was looking unkempt, however, the church be happy for it to remain there if it was replanted. Cllr Moore it was replanted. Majority agreed. Cllr Moore would contact Copeland to arrange for this to be done and that it was billed separately from other work carried out.

12.5 Cllr Halliday reported that a member of the public contacted him through concern about a dogs' safety, as it was not on a lead and walking near and on the road.

12.6 An initial assessment of coastal erosion affecting Seascale has commenced and with a disclaimer SPC have been able to put this on its website, which can be found here: <https://www.seascaleparish.com/>

12.7 A consultation about a proposal to changes in local authorities, which will affect Parish Councils has been launched. The Chair, a councillor and the clerk will be making a formal response.

13 Questions submitted by members of the public

13.1 Kathleen Hartley reported a bench overturned just in front of the Play Park. SPC note this is not the first one of the benches has been overturned.

13.2 Brenda Parsons submitted 2 questions; the first question refers to the carpark.

Q1: Why are the Council not using the Government requested procedure to help prevent the spread of the virus? Or is it all about essential ice cream?

Answer: SPC is following the same government guidelines regarding car parks located outside, as, e.g. supermarket carparks, which have a greater turnover of vehicles using it and people crossing to access the store.

SPC is somewhat at a loss to understand what relevance ice cream, essential or otherwise, has to do with the carpark.

Q2: I noted that the play area assets only stand at just under £29,000. Does this mean Seascale Parish Council do not own the equipment supplied to Lizzie Mawsons charity? As for legal reasons she could not pass it to a third party? Does this mean that the warranty will only be honoured by eibe if the equipment stays in the ownership of her charity?

Answer: The asset register, the questionnaire is referring to, clearly states the value as at 12/02/2007, over 14 years ago and prior to any refurbishments. SPC confirms it owns all the play equipment and advises it is under no legal obligation to respond the rest of the comment.

13.3 Q: Tony Smith submitted an enquiry “with regards to parking our chip van on the carpark near the beach if someone could let us know what we need to do or speak to this would be much appreciated”.

Answer: Concerns were raised by some of the Cllrs about the reduced space in the carpark, excessive litter accumulated on the foreshore area, the legal aspects of the licencing and a preference to have shops opening. It was noted this was not the first request for permission to have a chippy van in the carpark and the previous request was refused on the same grounds.

Should this be reviewed and because SPC has received more than one request then, in fairness, this would have to be put out to tender, but now was not the time now. This was the majority opinion of the councillors and voted on accordingly. One Cllr expressed disappointment but acknowledged the majority vote.

14 Dates of forthcoming meetings

Full Council meeting Wednesday 7th April 2021