

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on

Wednesday 2nd June 2021
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

Present:

Chair	Cllr David Halliday
Councillors	Cllr Eileen Eastwood Catherine Harvey – Chadwick Cllr Ken Mawson Cllr David Moore Cllr Julie Savage
Clerk	Jill Bush
Public	Janet Hey David Hopkin Brenda Parsons
Copeland	Cllr Andy Pratt

1. Apologies

Cllr L Mawson

2. Announcements from the Chair

This is the first face-to-face meeting in 15 months and pleased to welcome the members of the public tonight. Whilst these meetings have recommenced, there are still restrictions in place.

- Maximum of six
- Please give at least 24 hours' notice to the clerk clerkseascalepc@gmail.com of your intention to attend. This allows the Council to set up the room for the distancing requirements for a known number of attendees. Members of the public are requested to remain outside the building until the room set up is completed.
- Please send your questions to Council at least 3 days before the meeting to the clerk, see address above.

On a final light-hearted note, the Chair didn't expect his first evening out in over a year to be a parish meeting.

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

Cllr Savage

4. Ratify the previous meeting's Minutes

Proposed by Cllr K Mawson, seconded by Cllr Moore

5. Matters arising

5.1 The Chair announced due to personal reasons Cllr Leggett has submitted her resignation and

it was with regret that it has been accepted. Brenda Parsons asked if she could become a councillor, or would she be treated differently. The Chair advised the vacancy was open to all and that every candidate would be treated the same.

- 5.2 (7.4) The flagpole has been delivered, the day before the Bank Holiday, so subsequently there has been a delay in having it installed.
- 5.3 (7.7) Cllr Moore reported the legal transfer of the cricket field from the SRA to SPC is now in progress.
- 5.4 (12.3) Cllr Moore reported he has repaired the 2 potholes in the car park. The Council expressed their thanks.

6. To consider any planning issues

- 6.1 4/21/2192/0F1 - Calder Rigg, The Banks – No Objection
- 6.2 4/21/2224/0F1 - 4 Wastwater Rise – No Objection

7. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

There has been no F&GP or Amenities group meetings

- 7.1 Councillors Halliday, Moore and K Mawson attended a meeting with LLWR regarding its exploratory works and explore opportunities of taking on additional intermediate, and high activity, waste. It was explained it was expected the disposal area would now be filled, but also want to expand the facility through to 2028. It gives the impression of ‘backdoor’ behaviour, whereby a small change is made, then another, until it becomes difficult to object. The Cllrs expressed concern to LLWR and NPA that this is being done without any formal consultation. The Cllrs believe it is right to raise the concerns now and intend to keep the pressure on to ensure the correct procedures and protocols are followed. There will be more informal meetings regarding storage. This was Cllr Halliday’s first meeting with LLWR and found it interesting and informative. LLWR stressed that this proposed activity is entirely separate from the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) consultation that is currently taking place.
- 7.2 Councillor Halliday attended a 3 Tier meeting where the GDF consultation was discussed. County Highways gave a demonstration of their improved Management Information System. Anyone can report a fault and you are given a reference number, which allows you to track the progress. The system also has a very good mapping system, where you can ‘drill’ down and view the actual site. Copeland BC Cllr Pratt further advised to please note, this does not go live until 29 June, until then the existing system is still active.
- 7.3 Brenda Parsons said the drain by the wishing well keeps overflowing, when it rains. Cllr K Mawson advised the fault appears to be further down, because when the lid is lifted, it is clear. He noted that when there is heavy rain the flooding is excessive and seeps onto the road, though it does clear away quickly. Cllr Moore advised he would look at this as it appears the outflow is blocked.
- 7.4 Cllr Pratt gave an update on the Covid Social Support and the Copeland Local Community Plan.
 - Social Support: Requests for support have mainly come from the built-up areas. Very few from the rural areas, for example, there has only been one request for help and support from Seascale. This facility is still open to people who are struggling. All that is required is for the requester to phone Copeland and ask for help. Cllr Harvey-Chadwick reported the volunteer groups were very active, helpful and has been greatly appreciated by the residents.
 - Copeland Local Community Plan - Land for development, is still under review following the consultation process.

Highways: see item 7.2 above and 10.2 below.

- The final draft is due to be released in September.

- 7.5** Cllr K Mawson reported the cricket club there have been so many youngsters joining, it is starting another team.
- 7.6** The Bowling Club now has so few members it has had to withdraw from the league.

On a more positive note British Bowling has invited Councillors and members of the public to an open day on Saturday 26 June, commencing 2pm. There will be a Target Bowl demonstration and also a Fun Bowling to encourage younger people to take up this sport.

8. Finance Report

- 8.1** RFO balance of the reconciled Cash Book Balance for May is £95,980.24. No outstanding receipts or payments

- 8.2** The payments submitted for approval are:

Jill Bush	9.17	Postage & hand sanitizer
Zurich Insurance	3532.54	Annual Insurance subscription
Mrs Julie Hartley	150.00	Internal Audit
Unblock Cumbria	258.00	Sports Hall & Pavilion drain clearance
Network Rail	38.53	Landscaping annual fee
TRPublishing	250.00	Parish Magazine
Litter bins (C Harvey-Chadwick)	160.00	May emptying
Orian	102.59	Library fire extinguisher servicing
Waterplus	367.83	Extortionate water charges
Octopus Energy	17.02	Toilet Block Electric - May

- 8.3** The internal audit is completed, no issues. It was suggested the external auditor would possibly like greater detail in the general reserve. This has been done, approved by the internal auditor and the accounts have been sent to the external auditor.

- 8.4** Whilst both auditors scour through the website for confirmation requirements have been met, the external auditor uses a different approach to audit the accounts. Different forms and excel workbooks and it requires a breakdown of the general reserve expenditure. If the reserve is more than double the precept a reserve breakdown should be supplied. This is required and carried out every year. Last year the reserve was for the library community hub and Coniston Avenue play area refurbishment, but due to lockdown the library upgrade did not take place and this reserve was in part transferred to Coniston Avenue additional works and the unexpected and substantial cost hike in the litter bin contract. This year the reserve will go to the library upgrade, the flagpole, foreshore refurbishments and a provisional amount was put down for the refurbishment of the car park, perhaps repainting the lines etc. Concern was expressed by Cllrs at the direction of change and what appears to be an expectation of spending for 'spending sake'. In the past a reserve was encouraged, and capital was held in reserve for emergencies and unexpected repairs and upgrades. Copeland BC Cllr Pratt advised that another local parish holds over £300,000 capital in reserve, however this capital is held in a separate account, linked to, but separate from the parish council to ensure emergency funding is held secure. Some of the funding SPC receive is based on that principle. SPC will explore options that allows it to uphold that obligation.

9. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

9.1 Library

The Chair reported despite the preceding 2 week rush to meet all the opening compliances, such as the risk assessment, training for the volunteers etc, he was pleased to report the library is now open.

There will be 2 sessions a week, Monday AM and Friday PM. The reason for this is because there is a 72-hour decontamination period. Returned books are placed in a receptacle and they remain there until the following session when they can be removed and placed back on the shelves. The less positive news is that there were originally 28 volunteers, but due to the understandable age and shielding concerns, half of the volunteers had to stand down. Nonetheless, SPC is grateful and thank them for their enthusiasm. It is hoped the library can be opened for a third session and would welcome new volunteers.

The feedback from the users has been very positive and it seems everyone is pleased to have it open again, not just as a library, it is also social, a place to meet and talk with others.

The volunteers are very keen to get the community hub in place. With the ongoing relaxation of restrictions, enquiries can now be made for plans to be drawn up.

9.2 Play Areas

Cllr Harvey-Chadwick reported the roundabout needs repair. It has been arranged for the Copeland Inspector to view and organise the repair. Ms Parson said she reported this to the clerk, who did not answer her email, never answers her emails and that she has been told to ignore me. Several other unwarranted comments were made. The clerk advised Brenda Parsons she does not reply because of the tone and language used. Update: The roundabout has been repaired

Cllr Harvey-Chadwick reported the problem with the BMX track litter bin emptying has finally been resolved.

9.3 Toilet Block

Nothing to report

9.4 CCTV

No problems. Cllr Moore reported he had met with PC Huck, who was not aware Seascale had this facility, but was impressed with the system. He asked who to contact if the police needed to contact SPC. Cllr Moore advised himself and also Cllr Savage. PC Huck is also working with Shackles Off.

9.5 Christmas Lights

Still under review. However, a separate meeting to study the brochure, discuss and decide options. The general reserve has sufficient funding for this.

10. To consider matters relating to Highways and Transport

10.1 Cllr K Mawson expressed disappointment that the list of dropped kerbs excluded the request for one each side next to Stanley Villas into Railway Terrace. This point has the greatest number of accidents - there has been 3 wheelchairs and 1 pram overturned. Cllr Mawson is at a loss to understand why these were not considered. Contact CCC Cllr P Turner to request this is added to the list. Actioned

10.2 The B5344 road was closed by Northern Gas Networks to carry out work in Drigg village. The only access to the south side of Seascale is through Drigg village, as these vehicles cannot get under railway arch. It was supposed to be reopened overnight for access to blue light services and HGV's. Unfortunately, last Tuesday and Wednesday the road remained closed overnight, cutting off services to local businesses, refuse collections and the fire service, effectively cutting off some essential services for up to two days. Frustration was expressed with highways, as it appeared to fail to manage road closures effectively, to ensure the utility companies followed a procedure which caused minimum disruption. Clerk to submit a formal complaint. Actioned

10.3 Cllr K Mawson reported new road signage warning 'single file traffic' by the car park entrance to the arch and a better sign would be to state Give Way from a specific direction.

11. AOB/Urgent matters raised by Councillors

11.1 Cllr K Mawson advised whilst acknowledging it is not urgent, he wanted to report that last Friday Sellafield representatives were carrying out a beach clean. Cllr Savage received the original notification and will send an email of thanks to all concerned.

11.2 Cllr Harvey-Chadwick reported the original blue bins have become rusty, rough and leak and asked if these could be replaced with ones like the newer wooden ones. Cllr Moore will chase the relevant department for replacement bins.

11.3 When the trade waste containers are replaced the lids are not being locked down and the catches are being damaged. Cllr Moore look check the locking catches and make further enquiries

11.4 The Chair reported an opportunity to develop the Community Hub aspect of the library. Cumbria Recycling, based in Workington, have expressed interest in working in partnership with the library. The suggestion is that they may be able to site a recycling receptacle in the library for smaller electric items which they will empty periodically. This could be a useful service for residents who are unable or find it difficult to get to the re-cycling centre in Frizington. There is also a possibility they may be able to collect larger items by prior arrangement. Discussions are at an early stage and Cllr Halliday will report back on progress, He thanked Cllr Harvey-Chadwick for the introduction.

12. Questions submitted by members of the public

12.1 One email was received. The clerk advised the meeting because of its length, the complete email would be copied verbatim to the minutes. The highlights in red are the formal response from SPC.

Brenda Frances Parsons

29 May 2021, 13:02

Full council Meeting June 2nd 2021

Due to decision being made at private gatherings there are matters of the last meeting that cannot be substantiated.

1. Re the litter. There is no evidence the residents consider it a positive change. Prior to introducing the coal bunker type bins Lizzie Mawson did so without any apparent discussions or agreement with CBC to double the amount of receptacles. She expected them to be emptied for the same payment. If I am wrong please explain.

Amendment to the original agreement was discussed and unanimously agreed by Council in the May Full council meeting <https://www.seascaleparish.com/meeting-archives/> SPC is somewhat at a loss to understand why you appear to object to its decision and endeavours to keep the foreshore litter free. - Brenda Parsons interrupted the clerk as she was speaking. The clerk advised you have followed the correct procedure set out in the agenda. You sent me your email within the required timeframe and requested it is raised in the meeting. I am trying to give the Council response. At present, questions are not raised in the meeting.

Residents in their CT do not pay to have Cllr Chadwick emptying bins and transport the contents across the car park on the trolley to an unlicensed Trade Waste collection point. Then collected by a Trade Waste vehicle. Meanwhile CBC have their men attending their unlicensed site several times a day to clean up the mess. Why do you consider this a positive change?

The reason for the change was reported in the April Full Council meeting, see link above. The residents pay Council Tax for litter bin emptying. There is no legal requirement that this must be done by Copeland BC. To date, only one resident appears to have an issue with the new arrangement.

Why are you agreeing through the Welcome Back programme [not that people ever went away] to more wheelie bins in the car park albeit they are (colourful)?

There have been visitors to all the coastal parishes during lockdown. The Welcome Back Programme is available to all parishes in Copeland and with the onset of summer there will be more visitors. The offer of an additional bin was accepted to ensure there are sufficient receptacles on the foreshore to reduce the risk of litter.

All through the lockdown visitors filled the car park. The queuing for essential ice cream went on day after day.

SPC feels obliged to remind her this is not the first time she has submitted the “essential ice cream” comment to the Parish Council in a meeting. Notwithstanding, it is still somewhat at a loss to understand the point of making it.

2. The bucket for the gravel pit is the least of the problems. What Lizzie Mawson has done to the that area of open space is nothing short of criminal damage. See attached. Where are the new benches from the Welcome Back Programme going to be?

They will be located along the foreshore, exact locations not yet confirmed.

3. It is hypocritical for Ken Mawson to praise the work done on the Viking Way. He should take a look behind the 20 room lodge backing onto the Dandy Path it hasn't been cleared since Richard Mawson blocked off the Right of Way. Furthermore it is shameful of Lizzie Mawson to give advice on Wild Flowers in the Dell after the permanent ecological damage she did to the foreshore.

SPC advise Brenda Parsons that repeatedly making negative comments about named individuals on a public forum is understood to constitute a hate crime.



Brenda Parsons

13. Other Correspondence

None

14. Dates of forthcoming meetings

Full Council 7th July 2021