

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on

Wednesday 1st September 2021
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

Present:

Chair	Cllr David Halliday
Vice Chair	Cllr Lizzie Mawson
Councillors	Cllr Catherine Harvey-Chadwick
	Cllr John Graham
	Cllr Ken Mawson
	Cllr David Moore
Clerk	Jill Bush
Public	Brenda Parsons
	John Spokes

1. Apologies

Cllr Eileen Eastwood
Lise Winterborne - co-opt candidate

2. Announcements from the Chair

- The Chair thanked everyone who is here
- formally welcomes Cllr Graham to the Council
- Clarification re meeting restrictions. These had been construed as an attempt to restrict participation by the public. This is far from the case. At the time the agenda was determined, the Covid rate in Copeland was rising and the format of the meeting is intended as a sensible mitigation to protect Councillors and members of the public in attendance.

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

None

4. Ratify the previous meeting's Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr Ken Mawson

5. Matters arising

5.1 (5.2) The number of new members to bowling club has increased from to 14.

5.2 (8.1.) The form to remove the green navigation sign has been filled in and submitted. Cllr L Mawson had offered to remove the sign and pole, but reported the sign and pole is very long and heavy and will arrange for a longer trailer.

6. Co-option

6.1 Lise Winterborne -

6.2 Brenda Parsons -

6.3 John Spokes - proposed by Cllr Moore, seconded by Cllr L Mawson and invited to join the Council
 As John Spokes was congratulated and asked to join the Council, comments were made by Brenda Parsons, but were not audible

7. To consider any planning issues

- 7.1** 4/21/2348/0L1 - Seascale Hall listed building refurbishment - SPC note the Hall is being refurbished sympathetically in line with grade listed building requirements and will be in keeping with the surrounding buildings. Based on these continued assumptions it formally submits No Objection.
- 7.2** 4/21/2367/001- Drummore, Drigg Road – Outline drawing for dormer bungalow – No Objection

8. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

- 8.1** There has been no F&GP working group meetings. There will be a meeting in November to discuss the following year’s precept.
- 8.2** There has been no Amenities meeting
- 8.3** Cllr Moore advised last years’ audit document has been submitted and the forms completed to claim the LLWR funding

9. Finance Report

- 9.1** The Chair reported the annual audits are completed and the external audit was passed with no issues and the clerk thanked.
- 9.2** RFO balance of the reconciled Cash Book Balance for July is £87,204.16. No outstanding receipts or payments.
- 9.3** RFO balance of the reconciled Cash Book Balance for August is £85,327.52. No outstanding receipts or payments.
- 9.4** There were a lot of June payments, subsequently there were substantially less payments for the period covering July and August

Npower	30.64	1.46	Library Electric supply
Copeland	648.00		Trade waste foreshore collection 15.04 - 30.09
Copeland	14.70		Trade waste library collection
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick	300.00		Foreshore litter bins
Waterplus	79.98		Toilet block water & wastewater
House of Flags	273.60	45.60	Seascale Parish Flag
Octopus Energy	23.04	1.10	Toilet Block Electric
Utility Warehouse	6.68	0.60	Library gas

10. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

10.1 Library

- The Chair reported the library is still quieter than before the lockdowns, possibly because some people are still reticent. The books will continue to be quarantined for 72 hours, until notified otherwise.
- The library is open 3 times a week – Monday and Wednesday from 10:00 - 12:30 and Friday from 2:30 – 5.00pm (enabling school children to access the library) and possibly why this session is the busiest.
- There has been a 6th form student on work experience, who was very positive and helpful. The library committee and the Parish Council take this opportunity to thank the student for their tremendous input and much appreciated.
- There are 2 new volunteers and the Parish Council thank them this community

contribution. It is hoped whilst the library opening hours are not as it was previously, there is optimism the library sessions can be expanded.

- There have been some issues regarding the machine, but as of that morning this appears to have been resolved.
- On a positive note the CCC Chief Executive will be visiting the library on 28 September in recognition of the positive action of being the first library to fully re-open. Cllr Moore volunteered possibly also another reason is Seascale have re-opened, whereas several libraries are unfortunately unable to do so. Also the plan to also use the library as a community hub as well. Renew enquiries to Morgan Sindall on the original offer to provide advice and plans on the best way to take the community hub plan forward. If not, an enquiry can will be made to the Cumbria Exchange for a donor to help with the cost of the upgrade.

Brenda Parsons interrupted the Council discussion to ask why it wasn't being completely funded by the Parish Council. She was advised the Cumbria Exchange exists to allow local businesses to offer services and make financial contributions that benefit the local communities. Brenda Parsons expressed disapproval to this proposal as she was of the opinion doing so meant it would not belong to the community and referred to the car park. Whilst Cllr Moore was expanding on what the Cumbria Exchange offer, she continued to speak. Cllr Halliday reported the library committee have expressed what they would like to see and will be part of the decision-making hub design process.

10.2 CCTV

The Chair wanted it recorded the Parish Council thank Julie Savage, a former Cllr who has agreed and is happy to continue as administrator. Her contribution is much appreciated. Cllr Moore also reported also investigated the footage of the Copeland refuse truck hitting and damaging the toilet block wall and this will be supplied to relevant Copeland department.

10.3 Play Areas

Senior RoSPA reports have not received (update: report received and forwarded). Both play areas continue to be popular and are well used. Cllr L Mawson suggested the Coniston Avenue play area would benefit from the addition of small swings. Cllr Moore believed there were some stored and these could be checked to establish if they were still serviceable. If so, they could be added to this play area.

10.4 Toilet Block

The wall has been damaged for the second time. On this occasion it was damaged by a Copeland vehicle (also see item 10.2 above). The details have been forwarded to Copeland BC, who have advised the repair will be carried out through their insurance. Should Copeland just provide the monies, the Parish Council may consider taking the wall right back to the footings and rebuild it, making it more robust to withstand these knocks. It also considered replacing the wall with rails.

10.5 Christmas Lights

Cllr Moore reported there are supply issues, resulting in the existing stock choice is poor and some are overly expensive. The Parish Council is looking into alternatives, such as a string of lights around the toilet block and the feasibility of putting lights around the boat.

10.6 BMX track

The Track is popular and well used. The volunteer group are putting together a business plan and funding estimates are being collated, including the possibility of the track being tarmacked. However getting repair costs continue to be difficult to obtain. It is possible the original track plans are with Shackles Off and Mandy may be able to confirm if this is the case. If not, it will result in searching through the historical documents in storage.

11. To consider matters relating to Highways and Transport

- 11.1** Whilst not strictly a highways issue, the Parish Council acknowledge there are some potholes near to the dropped kerb by the library.
- 11.2** Cllr K Mawson reported that it would appear another HGV has hit the Arch Hill area and further loosened the stonework previously damaged by a similar vehicle, whereby it is now in a dangerous condition. Network Rail to be contacted with an emphasis that this is now a danger to the public and recommend an inspection and that action is quite urgent. **Actioned**
- 11.3** Cllr Harvey-Chadwick reported that the member of the public who had previously contacted the Parish Council regarding her concern using a mobility scooter and the lack of footpath under the bridge and the problems concerning alternative route of the footpath at the end of the Dell adjacent to the rail lines which is in a poor condition. Whilst the Parish Council made enquires with the relevant departments, the response had not been particularly helpful for people with disabilities, or indeed those with prams and the general public at large. Whilst dropped kerbs have been put in place these do not mitigate the problems mentioned above.

Brenda Parsons interrupted the Council debate again to complain about potholes at the end of the Del, adjacent to the rail lines and the paving along South Parade. She continued to complain at length, about lack of funding and the lack of walkway in the foreshore car park, delivery vans parking outside shops on the pavement, lack of footpath under the bridge. Despite after speaking for several minutes, the Chair advised, unfortunately the Parish Council had no control over any of this and asked Brenda Parsons to cease, so that the meeting could continue. She continued to speak talking loudly over the Chair, complaining the Parish Council should do something.

Cllr K Mawson and Harvey-Chadwick both asked who was responsible for the overgrown and poorly maintained footpath at the end of the Dell by the rail lines? Cllr Moore advised as it was a right of way, it was the responsibility of highways. The path in front of the Boat House is not recognized or listed on any of the maps. Brenda Parsons continued to interrupt the discussion.

12. Urgent items raised by Councillors

12.1 The trade waste bin problems

- Locks being broken and being used to dump large household items (fly tipping) and recycling etc, unfortunately the fly tipper was not caught by the CCTV.
- The emptying of the trade waste bins - Whilst there are some teething problems with Copeland trade waste collection contract, currently on Wednesdays and Saturdays in peak time, the Parish Council are of the opinion this will be resolved.
- Cllr Harvey-Chadwick reported a volunteer is helping
- Copeland litter bin emptying is £6.00 per bin per emptying and not a viable cost, whereas this new system makes a saving of approximately £2,500 p.a.

Whilst this was being discussed Brenda Parsons interrupted the Council discussion yet again. The Parish Council pointed out this was not a public participation item, the Parish Council cannot be held responsible for everything and was repeatedly asked her to cease, so the meeting could continue. She refused, claiming she had the right to speak and continued to do so for a good period. She was very loudly spoken in her accusation the Council have been fly tipping and criticism of the Council in general. Also stating the litter bins are over-flowing more since the Parish Council took over the responsibility of this task and the foreshore looks a mess because of it. It was also accused of the mess caused by recycling despite the fact she has been advised on numerous occasions, recycling is a Copeland BC responsibility and is

aware of this problem, which has been exacerbated by a shortage of drivers and waste collection related staff.

The Parish Council dispute her accusation it has been fly tipping and further advised the litter bin contract with Copeland meant they were emptied on specific days, not as required. Whereas now, the litter bin system is more flexible with the litter bins being emptied once they are full, rather than left to overflow sometimes for days before collection. Cllr Moore advised he will be meeting Mrs Proctor-Dow on site to discuss the recycling and trade waste collection issues.

12.2 Cllr K Mawson ask to raise not an urgent matter, but a comment of interest. He was in the car park and noticed four or five coastguards and an ambulance, also someone in a uniform. He asked the unformed gentleman what was going on. He advised he was not involved with that and that he was inspecting the beach. He further confirmed he was very impressed by the condition of the beach.

12.3 The Council also thank Cllr K Mawson for fixing the uneven and loose step in the Dell.

13. Correspondence

One email from Mr Lee received on the 16 August regarding the May meeting minutes, which listed his attendance only using his first name and asked for the minutes to be amended. The clerk advised this was a remote meetings and what members of the public used to sign in as was minuted accordingly. Minutes can only be amended by the councillors, and these have now been ratified. This item is to clarify Mr Andrew Lee attended all the remote May 2021 meetings.

14. Members of the public questions submitted to Council

One email received - The Parish Councils copy the full email submitted (in red) and its responses to the questions raised are in black. Please note some of these questions have already been touched on.

Brenda Parson Mon 30/08/2021 10:01

Questions for the meeting.

BMX.

1. Have you prepared a legally binding contract to be signed by the secretary of the official named Team that are taking over the BMX Track? What actual procedures are in place and agreed?

There appears to be a misunderstanding here. A legally binding contract is not required. All that has occurred is that a group of residents have offered to help on a voluntary basis and submit improvement suggestions to SPC, who remain the decision making body.

2. Continuing with the same theme. The Seafront Amenity area.

From the outset Lizzie Mawson as a member of the public reasoned the existing area was tired after 30 years and needed replacing.

The fact now is the subsequent development is a mess. Initially the project failed the required marks for receiving the Copeland Community Funding of £63,360. However the reasons for the failure were one by one in a closed meeting counteracted by the Community Development Worker. To justify their actions 8 very stringent conditions were imposed by the committee and agreed by Lizzie Mawson.

- A maintenance plan and funding package for the future of the site to be provided and approved by Community Development Team.

Why hasn't a copy of that agreement and the maintenance package been discussed at a council meeting and adhered to?

There is only one maintenance agreement and that is between SPC and Copeland BC and has been ongoing for many years.

Was the use of herbicide part of the package? If not why are you paying CBC to use it?

There is no 'herbicide package'.

Only when Lizzie Mawson was having all the previous equipment, tables' seats and concrete bases removed has it looked more of a mess than it does now. What are the estimated costs to clean it up?

Any clean-up costs whilst the refurbishment was taking place was managed by a charity over 2 years ago. There are now only maintenance and repair costs.

3. When did Seascale Team PC decide to give a further free facility to the mobile home visitors?

There is no Seascale Team PC. SPC advise the water bills do not reflect any significant increases in water usage during the summer season and it would appear the majority of people do not begrudge visitors the basic need of water.

Adding to the free all day parking, overnight stay, now that of filling their water tanks, by using a hose adapter to fix to the tap in the toilets, fill a watering can and pour the water into their tanks.

All this has to be paid for by the residents along with the free unlicensed waste dump. Yet the council happily lose thousands of pounds in lost revenue from the car park.

3. During any Highways discussions never once do you show any concern for pedestrians wanting to use the pavement along South Parade. Leading from the tunnel at the bottom of Arch Hill is the road called South Parade leading to Drigg Road. This area is notorious for pavement parking.

Why are the councillors not concerned the pavement is used as a third lane? Why you are not concerned about the pedestrians? Why are you not concerned about the pavement parking on the blind corner?

You have raised this numerous times and for the last time SPC advises, parish councils do have any jurisdiction regarding illegal parking on a public road. It is a police matter and only the witness can report this.

4. It is getting close to another 6 months since you cruelly brought Eileen Eastwood to a meeting to stave off not only the need to co-op another Cllr but keep up the on-going policy to prevent me from filling the vacancy. Will you be doing the same again for a further 6 months?

Cllr Eastwood attended the June meeting.

Regards

Brenda Parsons

The audit minutes record Brenda Parsons also talked throughout the formal response to her questions.

The Chair confirmed the entire email will be published in the minutes, much of which the Parish Council is under no legal obligation to respond to and will leave the public to make up their own minds on its content.

Brenda Parson continued to express her discontent not only about the answers given, but also complained about the meeting and the Council in general for several minutes.

Eventually the Chair was able to speak and pointed out she had spoken throughout this meeting when she should have been keeping quiet. She has continually accused the Council of never answering her questions and shutting down dialogue. He further pointed out he had been more than indulgent allowing her to speak, however was again interrupted by Brenda Parsons accusing the Council of not answering her questions.

15. The Chair declared the meeting closed and that the **next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 October.**