

**Draft Minutes**  
of the  
Seascale Parish Council Meeting  
held on  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021  
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

**Present:**

Chair        Cllr David Halliday  
Vice Chair   Cllr Lizzie Mawson  
Councillors Cllr Catherin Harvey-Chadwick  
                 Cllr John Graham  
                 Cllr Ken Mawson  
                 Cllr David Moore  
Clerk        Jill Bush  
  
Public        B Parsons Waste Dump Road

The meeting is recorded for minuting purposes

**1. Apologies**

Cllr Eileen Eastwood

Cllr John Spokes

CCC Paul Turner

**2. Announcements from the Chair**

None, however advised there was a significant number of lengthy items to report

**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 Graham

**5. Matters arising**

(8) The debt collection agency used by Waterplus has again set out a repeat request for the same information, which Waterplus also has in its possession. The Chair reported the legal advice he received was that the full complaints procedure needs to be followed before it can be escalated to the Ombudsman. Should SPC be contacted again, the stage to contact the Ombudsman will have been reached.

(10.2) Cllr K Mawson hoped the bench which is to be placed in the Tinkers Hill layby along the Viking Way, is well installed with a solid and robust foundation. This is because 2 double gates had recently been stolen in the same vicinity. To remove those gates required heavy equipment and a large vehicle to take it away.

(13) The Chair advised the bin outside the shop on South Parade is not and has never been an SPC responsibility. Sadly, that didn't stop a resident blaming SPC for not emptying it. Cllr

Harvey-Chadwick demonstrating her natural good community spirit, had on occasions empty it when she noticed it was overflowing. Mrs Proctor Dow has confirmed this bin is back on Copeland's Street round.

## **6. To consider any planning issues**

**6.1** 4/21/2453/0F1 - Garage compound off Lingmell Crescent, Seascale – No Objection

**6.2** 4/21/2430/0F1 - Additional & updated information to proposed dormer bungalow - Drummere, Drigg Road, Seascale – No Objection

## **7. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups**

**7.1 Copeland Local Plan meeting** – Plans for the village – 3 locations for development were discussed

- Persimmon – the application needs to be revisited there is a problem with access. The bottom corner is covered by Sports England
- Behind the fire station – access and flooding issues, except for the top area, but requires further investigation
- Town End – Planning issues due to flooding. However, the Catholic Church may agree, as could be beneficial to have a footpath in front of the Church

The Parish Council also discussed a water attenuation scheme and a development limit. It also provided the Local Plan representatives with a history of the area. This further information is considered useful and for consultants to revisit the area. The Parish Council reiterated retirement style bungalows would be more beneficial to the area, as some elderly would like to downsize, but do not wish to leave the village. This would free-up the larger properties for families wanting to move here. However, the Parish Council acknowledges there is a lower profit margin to the developers, as the land used to build a bungalow would accommodate a larger 2 storey property. The consultation document will be available end December/beginning January and an objection can be submitted.

Change to Councils in Cumbria. Allerdale, Carlisle and Copeland areas will become Cumberland Council, while Westmorland and Furness Council will cover Barrow, Eden and South Lakeland. The Copeland area will have 12 Cllrs

**7.2 Geological Working Group meeting** – The Copeland working group have completed conclusions with 3 possible sites in Copeland, if one of these sites is eventually selected, Copeland would be the principal authority. The Community Partnership will investigate the best possible site, up to 22 miles of shore, this is expected to run for at least 10 years. At the end of this phase a test for public support will be taken. This is most likely to take the form of a public referendum for the community involved, though it is not known what the 'for and against' format will be. i.e. 60 v 40 % or 80 v 20%. Following this, will be a 10 – 15-year planning process of the geological survey work. The different communities involved can join the Partnership and in doing so, they provide a voice for the community they represent. Declining to join the Partnership does not mean their community area is excluded from these investigations, merely that they have no voice. There is a financial benefit to the communities who agree to get involved in the decision-making process. It is understood if a site in your community is selected and agrees to exploratory bore holes investigation there is a further financial benefit.

The Parish Council need to decide by the 2<sup>nd</sup> December if they want to represent the Parish in this Working Group, as the next parish council meeting is not until 1<sup>st</sup> December, a decision needs to be made at tonight's meeting. If it decides to be part of this working group, it will also need to vote for a representative. Though it is recognized whoever is voted for can only represent the parish while they remain on the Parish Council. If they are

voted out in an election, another representative must be voted in.

- 7.2.1** To be part of the Community Partnership Working Group, proposed by Cllr Halliday and unanimously agreed by Council
- 7.2.2** Elect a representative Cllr Halliday proposed by Cllr Moore, seconded by Cllr L Mawson  
RWM have been notified

It is noted all administration is carried out by the RWM, no additional costs placed on the individual councils. Further information about the GDF Working Group can be found here: <https://copeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk/>

- 7.3 Seascale school Walking Bubble proposal meeting** - Mrs Spencer is mindful of the problems caused by parking and would like to encourage a 'walking bubble' covering approximately a 5-minute walk radius and has asked the Parish Council to include this in the minutes of its next meeting. Whilst the Council supports the idea, it has reservations about how many parents will support encouraging their children to walk to school. Some Cllrs noted that some parents do live close enough to be able to easily walk their children but opt to drive them instead and this does exacerbate, the sometimes indiscriminate, parking by the school. It also noted that there are parking issues around the fire station and the co-op, however, the walking bubble proposal put forward by Mrs Spencer does not extend this far. Please see the addendum at the end of the minutes for the walking bubble plan.
- 7.4 Parish Forum meeting** – Seascale and Gosforth Parish Councils expressed their continuing dissatisfaction regarding the parking problems and frustration over the delay in resolving this unacceptable behaviour. The elderly residents wanting to park near the shop in South Parade are particularly affected and being forced to walk too far. There has also been problems for the delivery vans being unable to unload supplies outside the shop, forcing the shop owner to have carry supplies from the other side of the carpark. The Parish Councils were advised one of the offsite carparks was re-opening and it was expected this would alleviate the problem. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation. Cllr Graham, who lives in Seascale and works at Sellafield has seen first-hand the problems this is creating. He advised he will also be taking the matter up internally as well.

It was understood that the boiler park planning applications were to enable the removal of the very noisy gas turbine, which is affecting the quality of life for those living in proximity. Disappointingly, Sellafield advised they intended to keep the gas turbine insitu for another 9 years! This is unacceptable and defeats the purpose of the onsite boiler park keeping this aging and very noisy turbine in place, with no consideration for those who live close by. One household has not been able to open their windows for years, because of the noise it creates. The Parish Council are of the opinion the Environmental Agency should get involved and the acoustics be checked before an onsite visit.

- 7.5** There is also an external meeting at the end of the month, unfortunately this clashes with the F&GP meeting, which needs to take place to discuss the detail and requirements of the next years Precept. Also see item 9.2 below.

## **8. Finance Report**

- 8.1** There was a lot of financial activity in October. The parking donations and BMX track donations were received and deposited. The latter kept separate from current account and deposited into the general reserve fund. There was also a credit of £64.09 from Octopus Energy. On the debit side there were five quarterly bills, along with the usual monthly payments. the reconciled Cash Book Balance for July is £97,123.46. No outstanding receipts or payments.
- 8.2** Two payments have been made to Waterplus, for the same reasons as last month, the bills

are taking up to 9 days to arrive by post and there is only a 14-day payment period until a £40 late payment charge is added to the account.

- 8.3** Excluding the Waterplus payments above there are only 2 payments to be made, one for the litter bin emptying and the other for drainage repair on the playfield, totalling £280.00.
- 8.4** Cllr Halliday proposed the library accounts should be brought in line with the Parish Council accounts year end On 31<sup>st</sup> March. Seconded by Cllr Moore
- 8.5** The BMX refurbishment donations have been deposited into the General Reserve Fund account, to separate it from the day-to-day precept costs.
- 8.6** Bills for the full amount of non-domestic rates for the library have been received. Copeland was advised the necessary documentation they required to cancel these payments, would probably be in its possession before the next meeting, which would be when these payments would be approved. In the event the above occurred, it is likely the payments would be refused by Council. This explanation was accepted by Copeland. The payments are submitted to Council based on confirmation the requested documentation was submitted and accepted by Copeland before this meeting. Payments refused by Council.

## **9. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets**

### **9.1 Library**

- The first coffee morning, after lockdown, was very successful and received £84.15 in donations. Cllr Halliday asked if the library charity could keep this to enable it to open its own bank account. This was unanimously agreed by Council
- Cllr Halliday reported the heating timer was faulty, whereby the heating ran 24/7 or not at all and asked if the Council would agree to bring in a contractor to fix it. Unanimously agreed by Council
- Dignity in Dementia would like to re-introduce Memory Meeting Groups using the library to test the interest. The Council agreed this was an excellent idea and no doubt a benefit to the community. It has been suggested that the Library Charity might be eligible to apply for a grant of up to £1,000 that they could then use to offer to groups such as Dignity In Dementia free of charge, which could encourage greater community use of the building prior to its development as a community hub.

### **9.2 Play Areas**

- Cllr L Mawson reported the annual play area inspection reports had been received and an onsite meeting is to be arranged with the open spaces team at Copeland to discuss repairs and maintenance on areas of the park that have been eroded due to heavy footfall during the summer months. On completion, a request for a quotation for the works that need to be carried out.
- Cllr L Mawson also advised there is some grass matting in store
- Cllr L Mawson reported the Coniston Avenue play area would benefit from an extension. Due to time restraints this will be discussed further at the F&GP meeting
- The Seascale Cricket club is the only one without an electronic scoreboard. It is possible the funding received for the BMX track may also extend to funding the scoreboard. Cllr L Mawson to liaise with Dawn and discussed further at the F&GP meeting

### **9.3 Toilet Block**

A dripping hot water tap is reported. This is a disappointment as these taps were replaced quite recently.

### **9.4 BMX track**

See items 8.5 and 9.2

Due to the extensive business that needed to be reported and discussed, the Chair felt Brenda Parsons had sat long enough and would defer the items 10, 11 and 12 to allow her to speak before the two-hour deadline was reached.

**13 Members of the public questions submitted to Council**

Brenda Parsons read out a statement. On completion Brenda Parsons made further claims about being ignored and accused the Parish Council of issuing vexatious notifications because it doesn't like her. The Chair advised vexatious notifications are not against the person, it is against behaviour. Brenda Parsons stated she had the right to freedom of speech. The Chair replied that the Council has no desire to impinge upon anyone's right to freedom of speech. However, with rights comes responsibilities, in this instance to exercise the right to free speech judiciously. When this right is abused through making venomous attacks upon the Clerk and named Councillors purely for carrying out their duties, then the Council has the right to point out that such attacks are inappropriate and unjustified.

The statement was handed to the clerk, please see below

Questions and matters for Meeting Full Council November 3rd 2021.

To be made available to my MP Trudy Harrison

1/ RE. November 11<sup>th</sup>. Since the formation of the British Legion it has progressed to helping veterans of conflicts other than those of the 2 world wars. But it must never be forgotten what Britain and the Commonwealth were protecting by those who suffered war wounds and those who gave their lives. It was to protect our democracy, not to live under a dictatorship, and have freedom of speech.

Therefore I am reminding this council your actions are shameful and unlawful by engaging in dictatorial methods. One, is by manipulating the electoral system to keep me off the council. Two. it is not democratic for the council to use false information to fit a section of the Access to Information Act, for the purpose of preventing me from speaking or having information on matters you do not want to be held accountable for.

2/ CLIMATE CHANGE.

Has the Council's attitude towards global warming now changed?

Approximately three years ago the Chairman Cllr Halliday dismissed the idea that SPC need be a part of any contribution to climate change. What is now not acceptable is to knowingly contribute to global warming for monetary gain.

SPC has £99,000 balance recorded in the cash book. The bulk of that comes via the nuclear industry. For that the nuclear industry expect to have support for any or all of their policies and projects. This reliance for support on the SPC council comes in varying forms. The latest is the Geological Disposal Facility GDF. It is disconcerting to find it is the same company that want to open the coal mine are heading the nuclear Waste disposal project. To get the required support Copeland council are seeking to engage further assistance in support of the NDA for the GDF to employ a Nuclear Liaison officer for £30,000 a year. But to only consult with elected members. Would we the public be informed if the salary of £30,000 was paid via the NDA? What was the scheme behind Cllr David Moore's visit to Somerset? It would be too much to hope he was interested in ending the disruption caused by Sellafield having priority use of our community's facilities. Hinkley report it is essential at Hinkley Point C workers get to where they need to be on a daily basis. It is vital to do it in

such a way that keeps transport disruption and environmental impact to a minimum for local residents. They have Park and Ride within the site perimeters..

What happened in Seascale? Because the workers cannot behave themselves the 'public' bus stop has been removed just as we are about to have a return bus service twice a week to Whitehaven. Did any Cllr and in particular David Moore object?

This behaviour are now our expectations with regard to Sellafield and the supply chain workforce. It is so easy for the NDA to take advantage of the residents as they do not have a voice. We did not have any say on the matter of 30 bus journeys a day using our only village car park, plus at least three other supply chain company buses using it as a bus stop. That is 180 movements x 2 in and out of the carpark each week. That is three full car park movements just for the buses. Plus the increased number of all-day free parking. This morning at six o'clock as I took my dogs out there were 4 vehicles parked waiting for a lift, engines running and music blaring? Then in came the 2<sup>nd</sup> bus of the day parked up and engine running. The smell of pollution is not acceptable. It is not only the residents that are paying the price due to the thousands of pounds made available to SPC? It is a huge unacceptable environmental impact to have cars/ buses / vans the most prolific polluters as part of a deliberate policy to have the pollution of site. The other overriding problem is, neither Seascale as a village, nor the car park have the capacity to be used as an operational work site. NDA have a site that is twice the size of Seascale.

The SPC and CBC are already causing litter pollution and extra car journeys by using the car park to operate an unlicensed Trade Waste collection site and rubbish dump.

The Parish Councils formal response to the statement:

Much of this is outside the Parish Councils remit and again reminds Brenda Parsons it has no control over decisions made by Nuclear Companies, its employees' behaviour, or Copeland Borough Council.

Brenda Parsons has made several unsubstantiated allegations against the Parish Council:

- Behaving unlawfully and engaging in dictatorial methods
- Manipulating the electoral system
- False information has been/is used for the purpose of preventing her speaking or having information
- Operating an unlicensed trade waste collection site and rubbish dump
- Also implied a named Cllr has behaved improperly

The Parish Council disputes these allegations and will leave the public to make up their own minds on the contents of this statement. It also reminds Brenda Parsons again, that if she is dissatisfied with any response received to information requested, she can refer to the Information Commission Office. <https://ico.org.uk/>

The bulk of monies received comes from Copeland Borough Council, not the nuclear industry. Nor is the Parish Council in receipt of, or eligible to claim carbon credits. The world's top five polluters are responsible for nearly 60% of global emissions. China alone generates about the same amount as the next four countries combined. And its output is still rising every year. In comparison the UK produces less than 1% of global emissions. The Parish Council is somewhat at a loss as to how it can realistically make any impact on the less than 1% produced by the whole of the UK, never mind the other 99% created by other countries.

The Parish Council acknowledge the recent problems regarding parking and agree what is happening is unacceptable. It again advises Brenda Parsons it has already contacted all the relevant people and expressed extreme dissatisfaction; over its badly executed parking decisions and its failure to deal with the problems this has created. Also see item 7.4 which records Seascale is not the only village who experiences this parking problem. Therefore, this attempt to claim Seascale Parish Council is somehow responsible, mistakenly credits it with a power it does not have.

**10. Date of forthcoming meetings**

**Full Council 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021**



# ADDENDUM – WALKING BUBBLE

