

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Wednesday 2nd February 2022
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

Present:

Chair Cllr David Halliday
Vice Chair Cllr Lizzie Mawson
Councillors Cllr John Graham
 Cllr Catherin Harvey-Chadwick
 Cllr David Moore
 Cllr John Spokes
Clerk Jill Bush

Members of the Public

Jane Gaythorpe
Brenda Parsons
Mandy Taylor
Rachel Thomson
Plus one other member of the public

County Cllr Paul Turner

Meeting is recorded for minuting purposes

1. Apologies

Cllrs Eileen Eastwood and Ken Mawson

2. Announcements from the Chair

The Chair welcomed the members of the public and expressed pleasure to see more than usual at the meeting

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 John Graham

5. Matters arising

(10.2) Cllr L Mawson spoke to the owner who confirmed the van will be removed from the car park

6. To consider any planning issues

- 6.1** 4/22/2025/0F1 – the council received 2 letters, an objection and a support of the application. Members of the public attending this meeting also reflected support and objection. The Cllrs mindful

this is a temporary application to change a residential property to commercial use for a period of 2 years. Also acknowledged the efforts of the applicant (Shackles Off) to find a suitable alternative property, as the owner is putting the property it currently uses up for sale. The Council will therefore submit conditional support - The property automatically reverts to a residential property after 24 months and a new temporary planning application must be submitted to extend this period.

7. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

- 7.1 Community Partnership Meeting** – 2 Cllrs attended, however whilst Cllr Halliday was representing SPC, D Moore was representing Copeland. There will be a 3 week off coast geological survey commencing in July and a compensation scheme will be in place for those directly affected. The group membership consists of the Chair, RWM, Copeland and Parishes, however, the group as a whole would like to add a social value to its endeavours and would welcome the youth and younger people to interact in community engagement at venues; these will initially be held in the library. The interim funding panel is the community Chair, RWM, David Moore representing Copeland and Andy Pratt representing CALC. Finally, Cllr Halliday advised receives briefing notes in advance of the meetings, which will circulate to the rest of the council to enable questions being submitted at the meeting.
- 7.2** Cllr Moore attended the SRA AGM and advised the ownership of the field is under reconsideration. This may be due to receiving covid funding, however, this would explain why the transfer process dried up. SPC will not press for the transfer to continue and will remain open should it be approached, at a later date, for the process recommence.

8. Finance Report

- 8.1** The reconciled Cash Book Balance for January is £106,342.14. No outstanding receipts or payments. The reason for the rise in the bank balance is due to 3 receipts - £7,500 from Sellafield, £2,633.39 VAT refund from HMRC and £75.00 for room hire.
- 8.2** The transfer of funds to the general reserve account has been completed. This means funding for specific projects such as the community hub, library refurbishment and the cycle track project are now separate from day-to-day costs, which gives greater clarity when the accounts are submitted to the annual external auditor.
- 8.3** To date the authorised February payments are listed below
- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|---|
| Waterplus | 154.25 | Toilet block water & wastewater - Dec-Jan |
| Waterplus | 75.58 | Library water x 4 charges - Jan |
| Catherine Harvey-Chadwick | 80.00 | Foreshore litter bins - January |
| Pelleymounters | 210.94 | Xmas tree, lights & cleaning supplies |
| Copeland BC | 925.25 | Foreshore returfing |
| Copeland BC | 510.24 | Concrete bases for 2 benches |
| Jay Halliwell | 1616.92 | Library electric heater installation |
| Octopus Energy | 24.07 | Toilet block water & wastewater - Dec - Jan |
- 8.4** The library charity has completed the banking application and £595.00 library donations held by SPC have now been transferred to their account.
- 8.5** The Copeland BC invoices have been queried as they are substantially higher than the estimates. **Update:** A refund has been confirmed against one of the invoices and SPC await confirmation of a refund against the other invoice

9. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

- 9.1 Library** – The new heater system was installed the week before this meeting. It is understood whilst the heaters are electric, they will be cheaper to run than the standalone floor that were being used. The feedback has been very positive from the volunteers and the users.

The Dementia group and Youth alliance are again using the library. As mentioned under item 7.1 above, RWM will hiring room space from March to run community engagement sessions. The library will also open one Saturday a month, this is because of feedback received that there is a need for it. A couple of grants have been applied for. There will be a coffee morning on 14 February. More volunteers would be most welcome.

9.2 Play areas

Cllr L Mawson reported a meeting with Jacobs ground services (who kindly painted the foreshore street lights) will go into 'partnership' with SPC. This will mean they will carry out works such as re-staining seating, replacing the Wishing Well seat and repairing the roof, pressure wash the castle etc, they will use waste resources, which means surplus materials/man hours surplus from other jobs, with labour subject to availability foc. SPC will supply paints for other works they could carry out. Welcome back fund will provide an additional picnic bench, but this is likely to be installed, possibly on the BMX track, because it is a different style to the existing ones. There will also be 3 bench type seats installed along the track. These will be installed following the track refurbishment.

9.3 Toilet Block

The disabled toilet light needs to be repaired.

9.4 BMX track – A grant has been applied for from the Geological Disposal Facility Community Partnership, who are meeting on 9 February. SPC has got until the 14 February to guarantee prices, so the dates tie in well for the go ahead. However, the officer has advised it is paid quarterly in arrears. Whilst SPC have sufficient funds to be able to do this, there will be many parish councils who cannot. Cllr Moore agreed and also expressed concern because that is not the way this funding is supposed to be released and will raising this concern.

9.5 CCTV – The upgrade will commence on 8th February. An electrician is also required for some of the work.

9.6 Cllr Moore reported the Pavilion have asked for security lighting outside the building as currently the lighting is insufficient. He agreed this was the case when he attended the above-mentioned AGM, see item 7.2. He proposed SPC pay for this as that was what the funding it receives for, to improve the parish assets, Cllr L Mawson proposed this work was carried out as soon as possible. Agreed by council

9.7 Cllr Moore also reported the edges of the football field are over-grown and the fence behind the goal post is falling down and needs repairing/boards replaced. Whilst no formal football team uses it, it is very popular with small groups of youngsters gathering to kick a ball around. As above SPC has the funding to improve this area and Cllrs Moore and L Mawson could speak to Copeland to get this work done. Agreed by Council

9.8 Christmas lights. Cllr Moore suggested he could forward the brochures he received to the rest of the Cllrs to browse and suggest different options (some of these lights are only used for one year and sent back to the supplier for refurbishment and then resold at a more competitive rate, with a year's guarantee). Agreed by Council Cllr Harvey-Chadwick also offered she knew of another resident who could do some online searches on behalf of the Council.

10. To consider matters relating to highways and transport

10.1 County Cllr Turner reported that Sustrans is not responsible for maintaining the Viking Way. CCC has decided to carry out this work, however, it is likely they will require reminders to ensure the work is carried out as required. Cllr Turner expressed frustration that Copeland, via the highway fund, give Sustrans £15,000 a year for maintenance, but appear to do very little work.

10.2 A parking area has to be designated on Gosforth Rd in the bus stop near Cross Lanes, once that is in place, it is ready for the camera van to come. Bus stops with yellow thick lines are clearways and it is illegal to park there at any time under any circumstances, only buses can park there. So for a camera van to park there, it has to be designated for a police vehicle. Once the green paint is in place and legal process carried out the camera van will be there with a vengeance. Cllr Graham noted he had seen a couple of people being spoken to by the police.

10.3 Parking by school is being discouraged

10.4 1 streetlight completely fell out and reported, and second is also not working and has also been reported. To date no repairs have been carried out.

10.5 CCC ask that highway faults are reported via its online service, rather than contact highway engineers etc.

10.6 Rail arch traffic issues – there has been one accident. The main problem appears to be when drivers do not give way, traffic lights will not resolve the problem, all that is required is common sense and some consideration, as many residents have used this stretch over the years with no problem. Cllr K Mawson used to regularly clean the mirror but is not as agile as he used to be. However a larger mirror would be of benefit.

11. Urgent items raised by Councillors

11.1 Cllr Harvey-Chadwick suggested that now SPC are in receipt of the community litter pick, 2 could be organised. 1 one the beach and foreshore and another along Viking Way. Several Cllrs advised if it took place over a weekend, they would be happy to do this. Dates to be arranged and once confirmed Copeland can be contacted and advised of litter waste bags at set locations and they will collect them.

11.2 Cllr Harvey-Chadwick also reported the trade waste bins are occasionally have other rubbish dumped in them. Combination locks is an option to consider. Cllr L Mawson will speak to Jacobs and consider an alternative compound option.

12. Correspondence

12.1 A resident sent a letter expressing thanks to each member of the council who give their time willingly and freely of their time. And that this was placed on record that they and other parishioners are grateful for all the councils' efforts.

12.2 The Chair advised he had a cold call from a company called Creative Carparks and how they can improve this asset (and it was noted this would be for a generous percentage, taking the bulk of income). He advised the Company he would raise this at the next meeting. SPC remain of the opinion that the carpark and toilet block remain free to the public and should the company phone him again he will advise them accordingly.

12.3 Cllr L Mawson referred to the asset upgrades, such as the BMX track and the electronic scoreboard for the cricket club, the playing field and reported she and Andy Lee have been discussing the Sports Hall and the area taken as a whole. They were of the opinion it didn't make sense to upgrade a bit and come back later with a further addition, which may not work. A meeting with the Sports Hall, the cricket club, the BMX track and dog club discussed what they would like. The best way forward would be to bring in a consultant who could look at the area as whole and how it could be developed to achieve its full potential. A consultancy has been found who has done work in Copeland before and is currently working in Keswick and could carry out a survey, mindful of retaining green space.

13. Members of the public questions submitted to Council

Brenda Parsons requested her first question was directed at Cllr Graham:

- Last year he offered to meet me and hasn't done so, and the reason being? He advised her daughter who lives in the same property had also contacted him over the same issues, sometimes up to 8 times a day and was asked if she was passing on the information discussed to her mother, which she confirmed she did. Brenda Parsons did not accept this and claimed he had agreed to meet her and hasn't and why was he speaking to her and not to me and asked if he would contact her? Cllr Graham asked and to do what? Brenda Parsons stated, "that wasn't necessarily what she wanted to talk about...asked if you could do a walkaround and discuss the situation...not necessarily and always about the car park". Cllr Graham advised he had agreed to discuss the complaints she had raised about the car parking and traffic and was somewhat at a loss to understand what else needed to be discussed now as this had already been extensively covered. He did arrange meetings with the Sellafeld transport people and shared this information in the following council meeting. He felt he had taken this as far as he could. The clerk advised an email had been received specifying only car park issues. Brenda Parsons said her daughter had not sent any emails to the clerk. **Update:** The clerk refers Brenda Parsons to the emails she, not her daughter, had sent on 24 November 2021 @ 10.49a.m. requesting an email she had sent on 23 November 2021 @ 13.59, which was only about the car park and Sellafeld's socioeconomic responsibilities was specifically forwarded to Cllr Graham. Brenda Parsons had also previously asked if a Cllr would meet her and walk around the areas she has complained about, and this was declined by council. Reference 6th October 2021 minutes item 13. Sections 14 and 17.6 applies
- The new Seascale flag, which cost £273.00 was only flown once, it got very ragged, has a rebate been requested? Cllr Harvey-Chadwick advised it had been on the flagpole for approximately 6 months and unfortunately that is the nature of Seascale in that it does experience big winds. It does require some repair work, similar to the Union flag and this had unfortunately been delayed due to other priorities. However, she did advise this work would be carried out shortly. Cllr Harvey-Chadwick also advised if she had any queries, she could speak to her, as she was in the foreshore area on a regular basis. **Update:** There is no difference in the quality of the flag.
- Why is the Carpark no longer on the agenda? She was advised a Point of Order had been raised to remove it from the agenda – as this would allow the parish council the time to concentrate on other parish matters, given the car park had been extensively covered in the previous month's meeting. Sections 14 and 17.6 apply
- It is the only asset the council can get money and it is losing £1,000's from not charging. The car park is supposed to be for tourism and locals but filled with Sellafeld employee cars and more could be raised by charging. The clerk attempted to explain, but was talked over by Brenda Parsons, who then moved straight onto the next point. This was explained at the end of the meeting. She was advised this had been discussed before with County Cllr Turner who advised this could be done. However, when asked what financial gain the parish council would get from this, after the expenses and profit had been taken from the group managing the car parking charges, he acknowledged this would be very little. Cllr Turner affirmed this was the case. Sections 14 and 17.6 apply.
- Accused the parish council of describing her "as a crazy old lady. When are you going to apologize for your abhorrent behaviour? It is unlawful and unaccountable to use an insulting phrase against a member of the public and then putting it on facebook." Brenda Parsons continued at length with her accusations, until the Chair was finally able to say he would like to respond to her question.

Parish Council formal response to this accusation:

The Parish Council did not say this. It was in a letter, which was not concocted, it was written by a visitor to the area, who has spoken to at least two others (C Cllr Turner and the police being two of them) Section 14 and 17.6 apply

Brenda Parsons asked why permission wasn't sought before making it public?

Parish Council formal response:

The Chair advised Brenda Parsons has made numerous unsubstantiated allegations against the parish council and these have been published in the minutes. Subsequently, the parish council is somewhat at a loss to understand why this letter requires permission to be published and whose permission should be sought, as the letter does not name anyone? Or is Brenda Parsons suggesting her permission should be sought about a situation she has claimed never occurred? Sections 14 and 17.6 apply.

14. Date of forthcoming meetings

Full Council 2nd March