

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Wednesday 1st June 2022
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

Present:

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

Members of the Public

Brenda Parsons

Meeting is recorded for minuting purposes

1. Apologies

Cllrs Eileen Eastwood and John Spokes

2. Announcements from the Chair

None

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

(10.2) Railway bridge mirror is disintegrating. Highways to be notified. Actioned reference: EI/68954. Faults and problems can be reported via this link https://cumbria-chhost.onmats.com/w/webpage/highwaysenquiry?context_record_id=33858541&webpage_token=5450e5fa09aa92f2181bf5d7da27424cdd15f26f8717969eb4657260ff7c437a

At last month's meeting it was agreed to repaint the Car park, particularly because the exit signage is very faint, resulting in drivers leaving the car park not from the exit lane but via the one nearest the tunnel. Enquiries have been made; however, Cumbria highways now contract this work out. Search will continue to find a suitable contractor.

6. To consider any planning issues

6.1 4/22/2203/0F1 – Seascale Hall - No Objection

6.2 4/22/2236/0F1 – White Wings, Lingmell - No Objection

7 Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

7.1 Community Partnership Meeting – Cllr Halliday prior to providing a report from the last meeting 23 May made the following clarification:

At no time have I come out in favour of this programme. The purpose has been solely to be able to have a voice during the consultation process and to submit concerns proposed in the programme. If SPC had not opted to be involved in this process, then Seascale would have had no voice regarding proposals affecting the parish. 'I am but one voice. 'I represent Seascale Parish Council on the Partnership and in this role, I can reflect a variety of differing opinions'.

ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

The accountability framework is not yet complete, the discussion covered the following, starting at the broadest national level and focussing down from there:

- Government Policy and Programme Management
- Major Permissions responsibilities for the developer
- How we will work with Communities
- Siting Process
- What is a Community Partnership
- Community Partnership Role
- Community Partnership Chair
- Role of Community Partnership members
- Community Partnership Members Role
- Role of Relevant Principal Local Authority as Community Partnership Members
- Role of GDF Developer
- Engagement Funding – Public Information Provision
- Research and Insight Activities to date and going forward

Concern that it may get too large and the purpose of a community partnership is then lost in bureaucracy, but it would benefit from greater youth and farming involvement.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

There will be electoral ward boundary changes which impact Copeland. The current Community Partnerships are based on existing district electoral ward boundaries, which is in line with Policy. There was discussion regarding the implications that the boundary changes could bring, and it was agreed that the focus is and will continue to be the people in the communities and the clear sense of place, with two distinct communities within the current Copeland area separated by the geographical reality of the excluded Lake District National Park. It was also clarified that the Lake District National Park, whilst technically in the policy definition of Search Area, due to the large size of the electoral wards, remains excluded from the Area of Consideration. The new electoral ward boundaries will not take effect until April 2023 and the total transition period for the new Authorities could take 5 years. Whilst no immediate decision is required, the GDF Developer will provide analysis of available options to the Community Partnership members for discussion.

MID COPELAND SURVEYING

The Mid Copeland surveying proposed plan was shared with Community Partnership members and discussed. It was clarified that a proposed baseline survey would take place face to face and be carried out by a Cumbrian based supplier. The Community Partnership members felt that it would be beneficial to review the proposed questions, the intended locations as well as effectively advise the communities that a survey would be taking place.

EXHIBITIONS FEEDBACK

There has been a series of exhibitions, the one in Seascale golf club was well attended. It was well represented with professionals in specific fields and good communication with the local people. The feedback from the events was neutral to positive and the themes of the questions and statements was quite different to previous engagement events which could demonstrate the changing perception of the GDF, and a greater understanding of the information provided, particularly regarding Geology. From feedback, it has been agreed that additional visual exhibits are currently being sourced.

RECRUITMENT

The application process opened on 9th May 2022 and closes 1st July 2022, interviews will take place week commencing 18th July 2022. It was discussed and agreed that a letter advising of the membership recruitment would be sent to existing stakeholders and there will be a recruitment post on social media.

COMMS

The recent communications campaign around the Ask the Experts events was discussed and an outline given of potential future communications looking ahead. Misinformation on social media was also discussed and it was clarified that it is looked at on a case-by-case basis, with future communications addressing incorrect information. The Community Partnership members also requested information and assurances relating to the environmental case and justification for Marine Geophysical Surveying. The GDF Developer Team and Community Engagement Manager will provide the information as well as include this as an Agenda Item at the next Community Partnership Meeting.

8 Finance

8.1 The reconciled Cash Book Balance for April is £88,272.16. One £100.00 payment to be banked

8.2 To date the authorised May payments are listed below

Waterplus	69.72	0.21	Library water x 4 charges - Mar
CALC	323.79		Annual subscription
Julie Hartley	150.00		Annual internal audit
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick	60.00		Foreshore litter bins April
Louise Elsom	75.00		Foreshore litter bins April
WF Cascade	68.26	11.38	Litter bin bags
Gosforth Church	300.00		Church yard donation
Octopus Energy	21.67	1.03	Toilet Block Electric - April
Mrs Sloan	100.00		School Tarn field
SRA	1000.00		BMX Track donation
LLWR	5000.00		BMX Track donation
AS Design	467.00	74.50	BMX track signage
Zurich	2839.31		Annual insurance subscription
NBB Recycled Furniture	2286.00	381.00	BMX benches and tables
Seascale Methodist Church	150.00		Room Hire
EE Ltd	19.67		DAV monthly SIM maintenance
Utility Warehouse	13.38	0.93	Library gas - April

8.3 Two quotes submitted:

- O'Connor Fencing for BMX track 5 space cycle rack £1,347.50 & VAT is an extra and to be held pending until existing works have been paid.
- Austen Group Ltd to transport the litter bin bags to trade bin £99.98 Agreed by Council

9 To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

9.1 Library – Cllr Halliday was pleased to report the charity has received the formal notification for the enabling grant. This will allow the architect to carry out community hub assessment and proposal. Mitch Franks is the charity's new Chair. He has had a meeting regarding library stock servicing. There was a very successful coffee morning.

9.2 Play areas

Cllr L Mawson reported Jacobs continuing their community engagement, have sand blasted the wooden structures and will paint them, pending availability. The sourcing of the goalposts has proved problematic due to the long lead times. However, one supplier has been found meeting all the necessary requirements (can be easily moved due being on wheels with a sturdy but easy to manage wheel lock mechanism. The quote is for approx. £3,000 for 2 but will allow them to be delivered for the summer season. The Council was asked if this met with its approval. Agreed by Council to place the order. The RoSPA reports are showing no issues.

9.3 Toilet block

Nothing to report

9.4 BMX track

The tarmac finish is of a very poor standard and the surrounding area left messy. There will be a site survey to discuss and resolve the issues,

9.5 CCTV

Nothing to report

10 To consider matters relating to highways and transport

10.1 The pathway project communication from the Ponsonby & Calderbridge PC is an ambitious programme to create a pathway to join Calderbridge to Viking Way and asks if SPC will support this. SPC are happy to offer advice regarding its experience creating Viking Way, but recognise this proposal covers a substantially longer distance and they will need substantial funding to cover this. SPC strongly advise early engagement with Sustrans to get a route number, which is essential at the offset. **Actioned**

11 Urgent items raised by Councillors

11.1 Cllr L Mawson advised to help those carrying out the splendid job of emptying the litter bins and to manage the litter more efficiently she suggested that some of the bins should be replaced with larger bins, 4 in all and 1 single replacement. She further suggested these bins should be the same style as those recently installed. They are expensive will cost £5 -6,000 but the consistency would be more ascetically pleasing. Agreed by Council.

11.2 The foreshore wall near The Crescent was hit by a van and needs repair. The driver admitted responsibility and left his contact details, there is a police incident number. **Clerk to organise and action**

11.3 The railway wall has not been repaired. The clerk advised Network Rail are of the opinion it is the responsibility of the Council to repair this and want their surveyor present when the work is carried out. Cllr Moore advised this is not the original wall it was replaced by highways to install a footpath and be reported for them to carry out the repair. **Clerk to action**

11.4 Cllr Moore reported he has completed the Copeland Community Fund paperwork and is now pending the completion of the external audit.

11.5 The grass cutting by the railway is shoddy, a fence had been erected stopping mower access resulting in only a strimmer being used. This time a mower was used, and Council have been advised the fence will be replaced. Grass has been cut in the Dell, Coniston Avenue and the

playing field. Herbicide has been used on the foreshore grass; it should only be used on the pavement edges. Copeland advised a subcontractor had carried out this work and has now been advised to only use herbicide as mentioned above.

- 11.6** Cllr K Mawson reported an elderly person was bitten by an out-of-control dog resulting the person needing hospital treatment. It is not known if the police were involved.

12 Correspondence

- 12.1** Campaign for Fully Resourced and Consultant Led Coronary and Stroke Care Wards at West Cumberland Hospital. Far too often residents are having to travel to Carlisle for treatment.

The council fully support this campaign. Clerk to submit its support. **Actioned**

- 12.2** Request for permission to use the foreshore on 2 July between 10.00am – 12.00pm for craft activities and games for families to take part in. The Council fully support this and Mrs Waterhouse to be notified. **Actioned**

- 12.3** The clerk reported she had received a notification of the Jubilee Green 2022 Cherry tree plaque has been erected and showed a soft copy of this to the meeting. It was noted the American spelling of garden centre was used (center). Council commend Mr Rushworth's enthusiasm and commitment.

13 Members of the public questions submitted to Council

- 13.1** Brenda Parsons asked if she could be heard and was the meeting being recorded? The Chair confirmed both.

Reported she has now seen 3 rats around the foreshore area. A Cllr speculated if it was the same rat. The Council draws Ms Parsons attention to item 9.2 in the April full council minutes.

Reported she had seen, with unfailing regularity, motor bikes parking on the sea front next the Wishing Well and this can be a bit disturbing to say the least and believes something should be done to address the situation. The Council agreed they should not be parking there but speculated there may have been no space to use the car park. Notwithstanding this was a police matter. The Council will consider putting a sign there. Ms Parsons stated she had seen 6 bikes parked in a row one afternoon and claimed it was a risk to pushchairs and wheelchairs using the footpath and children running from the amenity area across the footpath and is of the opinion there is going to be a "pretty devastating accident in the future". She believed the amenity area should be fenced off. Whilst the Council appreciated, they shouldn't be parked; they were not riding about, they are just parked. This was not accepted by Ms Parsons. The Council reiterated it will consider putting a sign there.

Ms Parsons stated she had been talking to someone born and bred in Seascale that the foreshore now looked a mess. The herbicide they use around the edges and also that the grass is so worn it will never grow again. If she understands correctly the environment have agreed to a relocation of all the bins and getting rid of some, which she believes should never have happened in the first place. Anyway I said my piece to this other resident apparently agreed with her and was also of the opinion that all of this was to do with the ice cream parlour. The Council regard this second-hand conversation as hearsay.

She stated she had been coming to meetings for the past 6 years and complained about the structure of the meetings. She has also been a Cllr herself in the past and accused the Council of keeping her off this one. The agenda are always the same, there has been no difference in the last 6 years and there are 2 items that should have been on the agenda for

discussion. One is the closed meeting to the members of the public. The Chair tried to explain there are some items for discussion for Data protection reasons but was interrupted by Ms Parsons who disagreed and believed they should still be put on the agenda and the Cllrs decide if they wanted to be conducted in a closed meeting or not. The second the matter of the wall should have also been on the agenda. Also when the Cllrs speak, they speak in turn, they should stand and speak to the Chair. She was advised that is not in the Councils Standing Orders, similarly she should note members of the public are not requested to stand. Ms Parsons continued to complain about this and the agenda. Cllr Moore called a Point of Order that the 4 minutes public speaking time had been exceeded. Ms Parsons stated very loudly she hadn't and continued to repeat her complaints about the meeting structure and with condemnation of Cllr Moore, continually interrupting when explanations were trying to be given. Ms Parsons complained that Cllr Moore totally ignored her and never responds to her emails. She was advised he was not ignoring her, he has merely blocked her emails because of the vexatious nature and comments she has made about him in them. She asked about the access from The Banks to the landing path and when the Council will remove the wall. The Council advised it belongs to highways.

Cllr Moore proposed the Council moved to part 2 of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Halliday. Ms Parsons was advised members of the public are excluded, she asked if she was required to leave the meeting and was advised yes.

14 Dates of forthcoming meetings

Full Council Meeting Wednesday 6th July