

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Tuesday 6th September 2022
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

Present:

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

P Cater
C Cornall
M Franks
J McElroy
P O'Hanlon
Z O'Hanlon
B Parsons
F Pringle
P Tyson

Meeting is recorded for minuting purposes

Vice Chair Cllr L Mawson asked the Council and members of the public to stand for a minute's silence in commemoration of Chair Cllr David Halliday

1. Apologies

Cllrs Eileen Eastwood and John Spokes

2. Announcements from the Chair

It is with great sadness and regret that I find myself sitting in this chair this evening, due to the tragic and untimely loss of our Chair Cllr David Halliday. David was a truly excellent councillor and Chair. He brought many unique skills to his role from his own life and experiences and will be hugely missed by us all the loss felt by his family and to our parish. As well as his duties as Parish Chair, David was also a keen fundraiser for the Rotary Club. The Phoenix Youth Centre and a champion of the Blood Bikes Association. He was the driving force behind the takeover of the library and pivotal in it becoming a successful community hub it is today. The Parish Council will of course continue the delivery of the project to the vision that David inspired.

We welcome everyone back after an extended break, as meetings are not held in August. It is lovely to see so many of you who have joined us this evening.

We have never in living memory experienced the loss of a councillor like this, let alone our Chair. We will adopt the same process as when a Chair has recently stood down, so as Vice Chair I will

act as Chair until the election in May, taking on the roles and representations David filled. This leaves us with a role of councillor to fill. Copeland BC were notified on 25 August, allowing 14 working days this takes it to 15 September, when Copeland will notify the Parish Council as how to proceed at this point, either by election or fill the vacancy by co-option.

The C2C event was again a huge success, due to John McElroy's commitment and organisation and all the volunteers involved. The Parish Council take this opportunity to express their pleasure and gratitude to have so many community minded people committed to making this event such a success every year.

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

Item 6.4 Cllrs K Mawson and L Mawson

4. Ratify the previous meeting's Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr Harvey-Chadwick

5. Matters arising

(8.3) waiting replacement goal nets for Coniston Avenue playing field. Also see item 9.2 below
(10.1) Cllr K Mawson reported work on the Viking Way has been carried to a good standard, however, the rough ground near to Seascale has not been cleared and weeds such as Giant Hogweed has not been cut back

(11.2) Cllr K Mawson reported the St Cuthbert's flower bed has been weeded and replanted and looks splendid. It is understood the same couple also maintain the foreshore boat. Cllr Moore also reported the amount of work this couple put in is reflected in the amount of weeds they dug out of the flower bed and were at a loss as to where to dispose of the weeds. Cllr Moore agreed to move the bags of weeds. There was so much it filled half a dumper bag and had to use the trailer to move it. The Parish Council commend their community spirit and they are a credit to the village.

(11.3) The foreshore footpath previously reported a hump, which appears to be because the gabion baskets have failed. As this was laid by highways, they are to be informed of the fault. Yellow warning markings have been put down. The authorities have been notified.

(11.5) 5 streetlamps have been removed between the Cumbrian Lodge and Seascale Park. This is making the area the school area very dark and dangerous for the schoolchildren crossing the road. It would appear the reasoning is because of the cost of electricity. It is hoped when the new Council commences this may be reviewed.

(12.2) Cllr K Mawson reported he attended the interesting Sellafield police open day. And excellent day out. It has a very large and excellent national training centre.

6. To consider any planning issues

6.1 4/22/2331/0F1 - 29 Gosforth Road - No Objection

6.2 4/22/2339/0F1 - Sellafield proposed demolition of fabrication workshop – Proposal Noted

6.3 4/22/2340/0F1 - Sellafield proposed demolition of engineering workshop – Proposal Noted

6.4 4/22/2343/0F1 - Baileyground Hotel - Brenda Parsons asked if it was temporary and did it overlook the bungalows at the rear. She was advised, it is temporary for the tourist season, advising this is becoming increasingly popular with hotels. No, the bungalows were not overlooked, and no objections had been received from those living in the bungalows. - No Objection

6.5 4/22/2352/0F1 – Seascale Hall Farm (listed building) – No Objection

7 Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

7.1 Community Partnership Meeting –

Cllr L Mawson will be representing Seascale Parish.

The offshore seismic survey was successfully completed on 17 August. No shipping was disrupted. The Gosforth Agricultural show had been a successful event, approximately 150 people engaged with the Community Partnership team on the day. The previous recruitment process had successfully appointed a new business sector member to the Partnership but would like to widen the representatives and invite Youth, Farming and Tourism to the group. Community Engagement pop in events will commence 27th September to 20th October, the members agreed to some additional targeted events offering specific information on CIF, membership recruitment, meet the partnership members etc.

A total of £110,318 was awarded to seven different organisations:

Seascale Tennis Club £7,541

West Lakes U3A £2,300

West Cumbria Rivers Trust £9,983

Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team £75,497

Gosforth Indoor Bowling club £3,483

Gosforth Amateur Dramatic Society £9,500

Drigg Local History Group £2,014

This would be very useful funding for the library refurbishment and community hub. The partnership receives £1 million each year and is possibly of a 15-year duration. This will be an ideal opportunity to submit a request for funding for the library refurbishment.

7.2 Cllr Graham reported that a meeting had been arranged with representatives from SL and the Parish Council to discuss the transport arrangements and changes to the site access and how it would impact the surrounding villages, and particularly Seascale. The meeting took place on Monday 5 September.

As we know there has been an increase in the volume of traffic over the last 2 or 3 years with Contractor's vehicles, cars and shuttle buses passing through the village.

This had led to more instances of speeding and selfish driving and parking behaviours.

The sea front carpark being a cause for concern with an increase in traffic and shuttle buses driving in and out on a daily basis, Monday to Friday.

Also the layby on Gosforth Road, adjacent to the bowling green and cricket pitch was being utilised all day by workers leaving their cars and catching the shuttle bus. This is to the detriment of local people who can't park to attend functions at the church, church hall or on the bowling green or any other facility.

Although SL (and not one of the Contracting firms, as wrongly assumed) pay for the use of 45 spaces on the carpark, this wasn't being properly managed.

The purpose of meeting was to discuss and request from SL the following. However, please note in the detail below, under some of the points raised, questions asked by members of the public and Cllrs answered as far as they were able:

- Redesignate 45 spaces on the carpark, clearly identified in blue, to be used by SL workers.
- An introduction of some sort of permit, managed by SL, to monitor this arrangement.
- SL to mark up the carpark and post signage re: use of parking bays etc.

- A designated bus stop, near to the SL allocated spaces to pick up/drop off passengers, away from the main route of the carpark, therefore not blocking these routes for other traffic.
- A proposal to introduce limited waiting in the layby, so vehicles cannot be left there all day (This must be done through the County Council and is with them). It is understood this is likely to have a 2-hr limit. Cllr Moore agreed it is likely to have a 2-hr limit, however, there would appear to be a split between some residents preferring a 4-hr limit and others satisfied with a 2-hr limit. Cllr Moore advised this can be discussed, when highways organise the consultation, though it is likely to have a 2-hr limit. Further, the yellow lines will not be put in until the traffic order is in place and this will be after the consultation. The consultation will only be about the layby, and it is believed to be open to the residents.
- Internal comms from SL informing people not to use Seascale as a drop off point for vehicles and continue their journey on to site. People are being asked to apply good will, to drive and park responsibly and be considerate of residents.
- There has been a problem of vehicles being parked outside residents homes all day. Unfortunately, it is a public highway, but employees and contractors are encouraged to use Yottenfews. There is also the problem of people parking in Seascale and cycling to work.
- We are informed that there is adequate room to park at Yottenfews, Kangol or Lillyhall. There is no need to park in the villages.
- The shuttle bus is only for the residents who work at SL. Passes for these residents should be something SL should implement to deter workers from other areas driving in and parking all day in the surrounding villages.
- Only registered works vehicles/buses are allowed at Caldergate and it has to be full.
- Sadly, if people want to park in Seascale we can't stop them, but measures, such as those proposed above, being implemented will help deter selfish behaviour.

The majority of the Council are satisfied with the proposed arrangements and most of the suggestions given this evening.

Brenda Parsons: Believes the current arrangement with SL should only be of a 6-month period. There is no legal document for this arrangement. She was advised there is such a document. Brenda Parsons stated that the Parish Council must have a copy. She was further advised it is not available to the public.

The shuttle buses are running more often for longer and causing problems. Also, there was a disabled woman had to park the far end and had to walk the length of the car park, because there were no disabled spaces left and one of these spaces was occupied for 24 hours. She continued to complain about the car park. Cllr L Mawson advised this summer the car park was rarely at full capacity. She disagreed and pointed out she lives opposite, however, Cllr Mawson advised she works there as well.

Another member of the public expressed concern, not so much about the car park, but Gosforth Road is heavily over parked and doesn't appear to be enforced. He was advised the responsibility of over parking is with highways and this is ongoing and perhaps civil enforcement, and this can certainly be communicated to highways.

Brenda Parsons again referred to people parking all day in the car park. She was advised this is what is trying to be resolved and with the buses. Brenda Parsons stated, "it is only a small car park". Some Cllrs and members of the public people disagreed. Brenda Parsons continued to complain. Cllr Graham reiterated some of the points raised above and also referred to the problem created by the closure of Greengart, due to the charge being proposed. However,

processes are being put in place to reduce the parking elsewhere. Seascale also has CCTV which will capture any inconsiderate behaviour, parking and driving irresponsibly.

Another member of the public raised the question of proof of the existence of the contract. The clerk advised this is already registered in the minutes. It is classed as commercially sensitive by SL. A further concern raised was that some people using the car park are happy to pay to use it, but there is no enforcement. Cllr Graham advised it is hoped permits will be issued to SL workers to only use the blue spaces and with regard to those wanting to pay for the use of the car park, there is a box available to make a donation and this is well used.

8 Finance

8.1 The reconciled Cash Book Balance for July is £80,063.87. There are no outstanding payments or receipts

8.2 The authorised August payments are listed below

Copeland BC	702.00	Trade waste foreshore collection Jul - Sept incl
Waterplus	30.77	Toilet block water & wastewater - Jun - Jul
Waterplus	75.38	0.79 Library water x 4 charges - Jun- Jul
WF Cascade	68.26	11.38 Litter bin bags
TRPublishing	250.00	Parish Magazine
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick	90.00	Foreshore litter bins - July
Louise Elsom	90.00	Foreshore litter bins July
PKF Littlejohn	360.00	60.00 External auditor 2021-22
Octopus Energy	41.87	1.99 Toilet Block Electric - July
Sellafield - DVA	7500.00	03/10/2021 to 02/04/2022
Utility Warehouse	10.02	0.76 Library gas - July
EE Ltd	19.67	DAV monthly SIM maintenance

The reconciled Cash Book Balance for August is £85,325.90. There are no outstanding payments or receipts

To date the authorised September payments are listed below

Creditor	Credit	Debit (gross)	VAT	Comments
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick		100.00		Foreshore litter bins - August
Louise Elsom		135.00		Foreshore litter bins - August
Waterplus		126.69		Toilet block water & wastewater - Jul - Aug
Waterplus		73.86	0.32	Library water x 4 charges - Jul - Aug
Npower x 3		220.49		Library electric Jan, Jun, Jul
Craig Ashton		41.09	6.85	COM Domain renewal
PATA		23.85		Payroll service
WF Cascade		68.26	11.38	Litter bin bags
Octopus Energy		41.62	1.98	Toilet Block Electric - August
Utility Warehouse				Library gas - August
EE Ltd		19.67		DAV monthly SIM maintenance
WF Cascade		225.60	37.60	Toilet block supplies

8.3 The 2021/22 internal audit, carried by a retired Finance Director, was signed off with no issues in May. The external audit has also been signed off with no issues in August.

Update: Several residents have made a donation for a new Union flag. An amazing £160.00 has been donated. The total cost of the flag is £237.60, so the donations go a long way to help for it. The Parish Council expresses its thanks to all those who donated.

9 To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

9.1 Library

- The Committee Chair Mitch Franks reported the following: With the sad loss of David, there is now a vacancy for treasurer.
- There has been an increase in membership, with approx. 18 attending each session.
- Saturdays are very popular for families, allowing children to browse for books of their choice.
- There are currently 18 volunteers.
- There have been a couple of very successful coffee mornings
- A history project of photos and documents from the past is being created. This will be open to the public and available in the library in the autumn.
- The footprint/rebuild plan is with the architect, the library trustees will receive this first, then it will go to the volunteers and then out to the public at large. The charity is looking to the Parish Council for support in this project. The core of this refurbishment is that the building will always be a lending library, the community hub is a bonus.
- There will be a Parish Council representative at the AGM. Cllr Graham has volunteered to take on this role and work as an intermediary between the two groups.

The Parish Council thanked the Library Committee Chair for his report.

9.2 Play areas

- Cllr L Mawson reported no issues, but another busy summer season of locals and visitors alike enjoying the village and amenities. We are waiting for replacement nets that got damaged since some work was carried out, but that has been sorted. Many positive comments received about the free car parking, toilets and exceptionally beach and foreshore. Our thanks to the dedicated team, Catherine and Louise and volunteers work so tirelessly to keep it well tended and litter free. Also special thanks again to the volunteers that have tidied the boat and the jubilee border during the summer, they look amazing and to be commended.
- The replacement foreshore litter bins are larger and lockable and will have concrete bases. Due to the complaints received about fly tipping, there will be an enclosed unit for the trade waste bins, with only SPC and Copeland having an access key.

9.3 Toilet block

Problem with the water pressure causing tap problems, in the process of getting a tradesman to fix the problem. There is absolutely no need for a bigger header tank or replacement taps.

9.4 BMX track

There will be a site visit with the contractor, which will hopefully resolve the issues relating to the poor quality of the track. The litter bin has not been emptied. Copeland BC have been notified of this omission. Apparently, the problem is due to staff shortages.

9.5 CCTV

Nothing to report, however, the Council wishes Cllr Spokes a speedy recovery from covid

9.6 Planting for pollinators scheme

An expression of interest was submitted and also a request for some specific advice. Unfortunately this was not forthcoming. Clerk to make further enquiry. Update the scheme ended on 31 July.

10 To consider matters relating to highways and transport

10.1 Damage to foreshore wall has been repaired to an excellent standard. Damage to railway arch wall to be organised

10.2 Highways have advised the arch mirror does not require replacement. Contact Cllr P Turner to find out why it is not being replaced, as this creates a road hazard. Particularly so given there is no footpath. Actioned

10.3 Cllr K Mawson reported the shatterproof glass on the railway shelter has again been vandalised

11 Urgent items raised by Councillors

None

12 Correspondence

- 12.1** Drop-in sessions in the local libraries, including 3 sessions to be held in the Seascale library, these are on 14 September, 26 October and 7 December, all between 10.00 – 12.00. A poster was given to the library committee Chair, and a further was given to Cllr L Mawson to put on the wishing well notice board.
- 12.2** Updated Code of Conduct proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr L Mawson
- 12.3** An uneven footpath on Santon Way, also an overgrown tree causing more problems. The clerk was provided with some information by Cllr Moore, and also made further enquiries and collated links required to report these problems. This information has now been passed on to the resident.

13 Members of the public questions submitted to Council

- 13.1** Zoe O’hanlon – library keys – Process is be put in place to manage this. Previously David, would let the committee know when keys were being used, for other groups to access the building when the library is closed
- 13.2** Mitch Franks – Cars driving over the footpath to park on the verge by the chemist. Contact C Cllr P Turner as this is likely to be a highways matter. Clerk to action. Actioned
- 13.3** Brenda Parsons – despite raising questions about the car park under item 7.2 above, she insisted on asking two more.
- A Sellafield worker is parking in one of the disabled bays, subsequently, it was reducing the number of disabled spaces. She stated it is “only a little car park” and asked why should a disabled Sellafield worker use this space and why can’t they use one of the 45 blue bays? The Council advised anyone with a blue badge is entitled to park in a disabled bay. Ms Parsons disagreed and believed if they work at Sellafield they should only park in a blue bay.
 - Asked if there would be new signage in the car park. The Council confirmed there would be. Also see item 7.2 above
 - Complained about the litter bins and why there wasn’t one on the play area? The Council advised there are plenty of litter bins along the foreshore.
 - Complained there was no picnic bench on the play area and that this took no account of the elderly and those who cannot walk far. The Council advised there are plenty of picnic benches on the foreshore. (these are located by the boat, which is located on the left side of the footpath leading down to the beach, and the play area is next to the car park, which is to the right of the footpath)
 - Complained about the recycling area and how people used to be able to sit on the grass, but that area is now what she insists on calling a waste dump
- 13.4** Christina Cornall expressed concern about the lack of bus timetables, there were tiny ones on posts, but they have been taken down. The Council advised it was available on the website. However, not everyone uses the internet and asked how they can access the information. She Rightly expressed concern if the service is not used, it will be removed. The Council agreed and a timetable will be located in the library.

14 Dates of forthcoming meetings

Full Council Meeting Tuesday 4th October