

Draft Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Wednesday 19th October 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
 Cllr John Spokes
Clerk Jill Bush

Members of the Public

K Brierley
M Franks
V Halliday
M Hogg
L McKone
Z O’Hanlon
B Parsons
L Pegram
A Pratt
N Rollason
I Tallentire
K Warmoth

Meeting is recorded for minuting purposes

1. Apologies

Cllrs Eileen Eastwood

2. Announcements from the Chair

Welcomed the members of the public to the meeting.

An apology for the amended meeting dates, however The Chair confirmed the meetings will be back to their usual first Wednesday of the month, as from next month.

Commiserations to Cllr Eastwood on the sad loss of her husband Derek.

SWI are celebrating their movement which has reached 100 years. A letter of congratulations will be sent. Actioned

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

None

4. Ratify the previous meeting's Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Graham and seconded by Cllr Moore

5. Matters arising

(5 – 10.1) Cllr K Mawson was pleased to report the overgrown area by the layby On Viking Way has been cut back and looks splendid.

(5 – 11.3) Despite CCC Paul Turner being contacted and highways notified, the repair to the beach path by underground pumping station it still outstanding, and Cllr K Mawson reported people still stumbling on the uneven surface.

(7.2) following a consultation period regarding a 2-hr parking restriction to the layby by the cricket field in Gosforth Road, when SPC along with many objections to this restriction were submitted including from SPC, along with requests this should be increased to a 4-hr restriction, highways have agreed to a 4-hr parking restriction. Also see item 13.1 below

(10.2) Following SPC reporting the poor condition of the archway mirror and the related safety concerns, highways engineers stated it was still in a satisfactory condition. However, numerous other reports have also been submitted raising concern about its continuing deteriorating and unsatisfactory condition

(11.5) streetlights by the school have been getting a lot of publicity on the Gosforth and Seascale matter facebook page. Cllr K Mawson also expressed his concern that nothing has been done.

(13.2) parking by the pharmacy, not a lot can be done as it is on private land but driving across pavements is a problem and could be a police matter. The abuse of the yellow lines has been reported. There is not a great deal the parish council but add our concerns to those raised by others.

6. Co-option

The Chair advised there were elections in May next year, however there is a vacancy at present. There were 3 candidates, Ian Tallentire, Brenda Parsons and Louise Pegram. 2 received proposer and seconder, it went to ballot and both candidates received 3 votes. The Chair had the casting vote, a difficult decision as both candidates will make excellent Cllrs. The vote went to Ian Tallentire as he has lived in the village longer. On signing the relevant documents, Cllr Tallentire was welcomed and invited to join the Council for the rest of the meeting.

7. To consider any planning issues

7.1 4/22/2362 /OF1 – 14 Wastwater Rise – The Council request the Planning Committee conduct a site visit and a representative from the Parish Council is invited to this. A concern raised by Ms Hogg that whilst this will be different, it is fairly common . The Council advised it was not against the application and it has received no objections. However, by requesting this, it will be able to submit an informed opinion on this application.

7.2 4/22/2382/OF1 – Holmdale, Rueberry Drive – No Objection

8. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

8.1 Community Partnership Meeting – There was no meeting last month. However, it is noted that it is likely much of the £1 million funding will be used. In Seascale funds will be applied for the library refurbishment and Shackles Off. Copeland Cllr Pratt reported there is has been a positive feedback to the scheme. Cllr Moore reported a 39% positive response from Copeland, which is the highest in any area.

8.2 Cllr Harvey Chadwick submitted an estimate of £350.00 for the repair to the station wall. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Harvey Chadwick will contact the contractor. She will supply the clerks email address for the invoice to be sent to.

9. Finance

9.1 The reconciled Cash Book Balance for September is £83,717.85 There are no outstanding payments or receipts

9.2 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
WF Cascade		225.60	37.60 Toilet block supplies
House of Flags		237.60	39.60 Union Flag
J Bush		19.77	Stationery & postage
Pulic donations	160.00		Union flag
Catherine Harvey-Chadwic	20.00		Union flag donation
Catherine Harvey-Chadwic	20.00		Union flag donation
Utility Warehouse		10.02	0.76 Library gas - August
EE Ltd		19.67	DAV monthly SIM maintenence
Account 1		18.00	Service Charge
General Reserve Account	53.47		interest credit

9.3 To date the authorised October payments are listed below

Creditor	Debit (gross)	VAT Comments
Pelleymounters	31.29	5.21 Toilet block cleaning supplies
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick	70.00	Foreshore litter bins - September
Louise (Pegram) Elsom	50.00	Foreshore litter bins - September
Waterplus	463.93	Toilet block water & wastewater - Aug - Sept
Waterplus	86.41	1.17 Library water x 4 charges -Aug - Sept
Copeland BC	408.67	68.11 2 x concrete plinths - amended invoice
Copeland BC	31.85	Library trade waste bins Oct - Dec incl
Copeland BC	702.00	Trade waste bins Oct - Dec incl
Octopus Energy	56.05	2.67 Toilet Block Electric - September
Utility Warehouse		Library gas - September
EE Ltd	19.67	DAV monthly SIM maintenence

9.4 An additional authorising signatory is required on the banking system. Cllr Spokes has agreed, and the necessary documents were signed off. This will be forwarded to the bank for processing.

10. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

10.1 Library

- Cllr Graham has suggested he and Cllr Moore hold a consolidation meeting with the library representatives to discuss the refurbishment plans. Cllr Moore suggested SPC pay for the planning application, as this is at a reduced cost and advised planning permission was in place as soon as possible. This would enable the funding from NDA one off payment toward the refurbishment. The library email address to be forwarded to the Cllrs to enable an efficient contacting mechanism. Actioned.
- The noticeboard from the Welcome Back fund has finally arrived and been installed at the front of the library. This could host the Seascale interest map, along with other notices. Cllr L

Mawson will chase up the keys and that there are keys for both SPC and the library charity.

- 10.2 Play areas** – Jacobs, continuing their commitment to community engagement have repaired the wishing well seat, the concrete foreshore bench concrete bases are in place and the foreshore benches installed. Jacobs have also pressure washed the castle walls. It is amazing what a difference this has made. Subject to their labour availability they will also be carrying out some paint and wood restaining jobs. Brenda Parsons wished to respond to this and was asked to wait until the public participation item.
- 10.3 Toilet block** – Two toilet seats have been replaced and there some other small plumbing jobs to be done, but a different contractor is required for this work, which will be carried out soon. This work is in response to a rather higher than expected water bill.
- 10.4 BMX track** – Cllr L Mawson reported an onsite snagging meeting to be resolve the issues to be arranged. Cllr L Mawson also advised she will be liaising with the clerk on the spend to date to submit.
- 10.5 CCTV** – Cllr Spokes reported some minor adjustments have been required. This is a seasonal problem affecting the toilet block camera
- 10.6 SRA** (Seascale Residents Association) has decided to go forward with a Community Trust, in the form of trustees – Cllr Moore reported at a recent meeting it is looking for 5 trustees and have only two at present. Cllr Moore, as member of the public, has agreed to be one.

11. To consider matters relating to highways and transport

The matter of the arch mirror was raised under item 5.

12. Urgent items raised by Councillors

- 12.1** Installing a defibrillator was discussed at the cricket club meeting. There is one by the fire station, but additional ones would be a benefit. Given the activities, Cllr K Mawson proposed there should one by the Sports Hall and one down by the car park, perhaps using the phone box. This was seconded. There are grants available, but it is knowing which one. Cllr Pratt recommended to opt for the better-quality type. Cllr Moore will make enquiries.
- 12.2** Cllr K Mawson reported the oldest house in Seascale is up for auction. It is an interesting house because it has a figurehead off a ship and is used in Seascale photographs. It needs some work, though not necessarily its foundations, however its rear boundary wall facing the foreshore has been removed. Not grade listed, so could be demolished, which would be a shame as it could have heritage status. Cllr Moore agreed it is worth considering.

13. Correspondence

- 13.1** Lay-by 2-hr parking restriction objection and request this is changed to 4-hr submitted by the Parochial Council of St Cuthberts Church. Also see item (7.2) above
- 13.2** Muncaster Parish Council contacted SPC regarding approximately half of the car parking spaces in Ravenglass had been allocated to Sellafield. This was agreed with the LDNPA, because they own it. MPC expressed its disappointment it had not been consulted at all until the agreement was reached. This is a pay and display car park and the revenue of this goes to the LDNPA, so too will the revenue from this agreement. SPC Cllrs noted this car park is not well used anyway because you have to pay to use it, resulting in indiscriminate parking in the village.
- 13.3** Great North Air Ambulance Service asking for central donation points. The Chair advised SPC cannot just given donations. However they could set up a stall at a local event and if they would like to give a presentation at one of the councils meeting, SPC could provide a donation and possibly some of the public attending the meeting would like to give a donation. Actioned They also ask if community hubs could become a central donation point for its clothing campaign. The parish council are unable to help here as it does not operate from a building, but

enquiries have been sent out to a couple of groups who may be able to provide this type of support.

14. Members of the public questions submitted to Council

14.1 Brenda Parsons asked who the Councils monitoring officer was? She was advised Parish Councils do not have one, it is provided by Copeland BC and Clinton Boyce is the contact. She asked for confirmation and was again advised it is definitely him.

- When will the honesty box be emptied? She was advised it will be emptied on Friday and the process is as follows. 2 Cllrs empty the box, this is counted and witnessed by another independent witness. The cash is banked into one of Cllrs personal accounts and then transferred to the Parish Council account. This process is required because SPC has an online account and there is no facility to transfer cash directly into the account.
- Why does the Council use Sellafield contractors not use local tradesmen to carry out the foreshore work and are they being paid? SPC again advised they are not being paid for the work they carry out. Whilst this was being explained Brenda Parsons kept interrupting and also asked why local tradesmen weren't used. She was advised enquires were made but there were no tradesmen to do the work. Brenda Parsons responded, "that doesn't say much about Seascale Parish Council does it"? She was asked if she had been able to get hold of any local tradesmen, she claimed she could. However, one of the Cllrs noted the firm currently carrying out work on her home is from Carlisle.
- She claimed Jacobs has "decimated the eco system" the "area has been butchered" there are no longer any flowers. Again, any response by SPC was talked over by her.
- She told the Council to "get a grip on the car park or that will be lost forever and has it sought legal advice", because she believes half of it will be given over Sellafield?
- She believes Seascale has this toxic problem for the next 100 years. What about the children and it is "only a small car park in a small village". That SPC is only concerned about income. The Chair advised her that this has already been explained to her, but again Brenda Parsons interrupted.

She was advised there will be a formal response about the car park when she has finished.

- Accused the Council of no transparency. Why were there no committees with agenda and meetings? She was again advised there are working groups, which worked well and reported monthly at the full council meetings. Brenda Parsons again interrupted the council as it replied to her question.
- When are the recycling bins being delivered and the recycling area removed, because it will no longer be required and stop people from miles away using it? Copeland Cllr Pratt was able to advise the bins were in the process of being delivered. The recycling area will remain in place, as some properties are not able to accommodate the recycling bins and will continue with boxes, which are not always sufficient for all their recycling. Continued interruptions from Brenda Parsons.

14.2 Ms McKone asked whilst separating out recycling into different bins, when they were collected will they be mixed when emptied? Cllr Pratt advised, no, they would not. They are collected and sorted at either Lillyhall or Carlisle.

14.3 Formal response to Brenda Parsons comments about the car park made at Council meetings and on the Gosforth and Seascale Matters facebook page, where she has claimed she is using facts. It is not, it is opinion. SPC again confirms there is a signed agreement, however it is not available to the public because it is classed commercially sensitive...Brenda Parsons started to interrupt and advised the clerk is speaking...She is aware of this and has been advised of this at least twice. The agreement is for 45 Sellafield employees, not contractors, to use the car park and these spaces are marked out in

blue. But if vacant after 9.00am, they are available for public use. They are also available for public use at the weekend. The fact that she cannot view this document does not mean it is not signed or does not exist. And using provocative language, to perhaps invoke support, will not induce SPC to breach this.

However, because the markings have faded, they will be repainted in the near future. That is why 2 Cllrs recently had an onsite meeting with Sellafield representatives, to discuss not only the location of these 45 blue spaces, but also a designated bus stop for the shuttle bus, directional arrows and clearly marked entrance and exit signs, to facilitate free flow of traffic and reduce any congestion in and out of the car park. Brenda Parsons tried to butt in on this site meeting and was advised it was not a public meeting. That does not make it a “secret meeting”. It is standard procedure to have an onsite meeting to discuss the detail of work that needs to be carried out. And the questionable attempt to link this, to a response sent to Avison Young regarding their enquiry, over 7 months ago whether there was any available parking/land south of the site is at best, vexatious. SPC reported it had met with Sellafield representatives the day before the September Full Council meeting and repainting the car park was part of this report. Please see item 7.2 of the September meeting minutes, Reference 06.09.22 Minutes Full Council, here: <https://www.seascaleparish.com/meeting-archives/> Note: Minutes show Brenda Parsons attended this Council meeting.

It is acknowledged the contractors also park here and can be a nuisance, because it reduces the spaces available to residents and visitors alike, especially during the high summer season. Despite what Brenda Parsons may claim, SPC do not support indiscriminate parking. By her comments she would have others believe the problem is because there are 45 spaces available for Sellafield employees. However, there is also indiscriminate parking in all the surrounding villages, something she is aware of and has been advised of multiple times. Is SPC responsible for this as well? Of course it isn't. Any more than it is responsible for what is happening in Seascale.

Whilst the Council minutes can record her comments made in meetings and respond accordingly to any accusations and inaccuracies, Brenda Parsons uses the facebook page referred to above, to continue making disingenuous statements about the Council.

Finally, enquiries were made to Cumbria Cllr Turner a few years ago about pay and display, however he acknowledged, by the time the business controlling the monitoring/management costs and profit margins were factored in, there would little or no remuneration for SPC. Without this, it would not have been able to carry out the refurbishments of the toilet block and other parish assets. Whilst fewer cars in the car park may make the view from South Parade windows more pleasing; it is at a cost to all the other residents who live beyond walking distance and park there to pop in for a newspaper, buy a few consumables, or to just enjoy the foreshore. Seascale residents partly fund the car park to the sum of approximately £5.00 p.a. per household.

The clerk asked the Council if it would consider refunding this sum annually if it would stop the continual complaints and inaccuracies. The Council declined this suggestion.

However, the car park Point of Order has been unanimously reactivated and advise Sections 14 and 17.6 of the FOI Act also apply.

- 14.4** The Chair asked if there were any other questions from the public, Ms Hogg noted if the car park became a pay and display, all that would happen is that there would worse problems with indiscriminate parking elsewhere in the village, as that is what happens elsewhere.
- 14.5** Cllr Graham asked to speak about the things which had been written about him on facebook. He reminded Brenda Parsons he was the person who had advised of the impending problem and sought

to seek some suitable resolution and worked toward that aim, why now was she making negative comments about him on facebook resulting in others, having only listened to her side, criticising him as well. He asked why she was doing this? She replied, "you're a Cllr".

14.6 Cllr Moore also noted she continually makes derogatory comments about him on this site as well.

The Chair declared the meeting closed

15. Dates of forthcoming meetings

Full Council Meeting Wednesday 2nd November