

Seascale Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2022 ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
SEASCALE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Held in on 7th December 2022 at 7.00 pm
In the Methodist School Room, Seascale**

Attended: Cllr Lizzie Mawson (Chair)
Cllr Ken Mawson
Cllr John Stokes
Cllr Ian Tallentire
Cllr David Moore (arrived during item 5)
Karen Warmoth (Temporary Clerk)

Members of the Public: James Goode
Lynn McKone
Brenda Parsons
Maureen Hogg

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Catherine Harvey-Chadwick, Cllr John Graham, Cllr Eileen Eastwood
2. **Announcements from the Chair:** best wishes for a speedy recovery extended to Jill Bush, Clerk
3. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors in respect to agenda items:** Cllr Lizzie Mawson and Cllr Ken Mawson both declared an interest with respect to item 6.1
4. **Ratify the minutes of the previous meeting on 2nd November 2022:** resolution to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record proposed by Cllr John Stokes and seconded by Cllr Ken Mawson; minutes duly signed by the Chair
5. **Matters arising:** Herding Neb House is on the market again at a lower price with a prospective new foreign buyer

[Cllr David Moore arrived]

6. **Planning matters:** Cllr Lizzie Mawson and Cllr Ken Mawson both declared an interest in item 6.1; Cllr David Moore to chair this item
- 6.1. **CBC Ref 4/22/2442/0G1** – Keld Green, The Banks. Variation of Cond.1 (Plans), Cond.2 (Reinstatement of highway wall/fence), Cond.4 (Approved parking arrangements of Planning Approval CBC Ref 4/18/2169/0F1). Material change of use of the property from residential dwelling (C3) to guest house (C1) with provision for additional parking (retrospective). The parking has already been established; retrospective permission for the reinstatement of the highway wall. No loss of visual amenity from the construction of this wall. Change of use from HMO to guest house is not a significant change. No objection
- 6.2. **CBC Ref 4/22/2451/0F1** – Scawfell Hall, Albert Street. Retain two large spaces on the 1st floor and change use to a private workshop / artist space / studio (non-commercial use). Refurbish flat on 2nd

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floor to be used as a holiday let. Split basement to provide off street parking for the proposed 2nd floor let (two spaces) and off street parking for the two 1st floor spaces (six space). Blocked up garage door to be reinstated. Garage does not offer ideal access to the building but usable and adequate. Councillors pleased to see the building is being refurbished and used, and approve the use of off street parking. No objection

7. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

- 7.1. **Mid Copeland Community Partnership representative:** nothing to report as yet. The Community Partnership next meets on 12th December 2022 and a summary report from the Secretariat will be circulated to all Councillors after the meeting
- 7.2. **Sports Hall:** Cllr David Moore was contacted by the Sports Hall requesting the Parish Council to become trustees to the Sports Hall again. Three trustees are required by the Charity Commission and the Sports Hall is currently unable to comply with this rule. The drawback of the PC being the trustee is that the Sports Hall will lose its charitable status and the 80% reduction in rates currently available to charities. Cllr Moore asked for individual councillors to consider becoming a trustee (he is a trustee of the Sports Field Association in a private capacity and is unable to accept another trustee role). Cllr Ian Tallentire offered to become a Sports Hall trustee and was advised to contact Jenny McClements

8. Finance

- 8.1. **November RFO report:** Cllr Lizzie Mawson read out the report prepared (appended below)
- 8.2. Balance of £78,657.14
- 8.3. Cllr David Moore raised the issue of ongoing gas charges. After a gas leak at the Library, the supply was cut off. No gas is connected and there should be no charge for gas

Action 12/1: Clerk to contact the Library gas supplier to request that the meter is removed and the standing charge is cancelled

Creditor	Debit (gross)	VAT	Comments
Npower	£1,669.27	£286.16	Outstanding invoices - less overcharged credits
Catherine Harvey-Chad	£40.00		Foreshore litter bins - October
Ian Rigg	£115.00		Public toilet / library repairs
Marion's Pet Shop	£35.00		Queen's memorial wreath
Waterplus	£126.48		Toilet block water & waste water - Sept/Oct
Waterplus	£69.11	£0.30	Library water x4 charges - Sept/Oct
Octopus Energy	£44.51	£2.12	Toilet block electric - October
Utility Warehouse	£10.30	£0.77	Library gas - October
EE Ltd	£19.67		DAV monthly SIM maintenance
Closing Balance			
Account 1	£39,891.89		
General Reserve Fund A	£38,700.25		
Unity Card	£100.00		
Total	£78,692.14		Bank statement @ 30/11/2022
Reconciled			
Cash Book Balance	£78,657.14		Variance of -£35 for Queen's memorial wreath

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			Outstanding Payments		
			£35 - Queen's memorial wreath		
			Outstanding Receipts		
			None		
			Quotes submitted to the Parish Council		
			None		
			December payments for authorisation		
Waterplus	£147.54			Toilet block water and waste water - Oct/Nov	
Waterplus	£77.76	£0.74		Library water x4 charges - Nov	
Catherine Harvey-Chad	£40.00			Foreshore litter bins - November	
British Legion	£40.00			Remembrance Sunday Wreath	INVOICE REQUIRED
Npower	£102.67	£4.98		Library electric - Sept	
Npower	£360.42	£60.07		Library electric - November	
Plus £35 payment for the Queen's wreath					

9. Parish Assets

- 9.1. **Library:** the Library Council Rep is Cllr John Graham who was unable to be present at this meeting. Cllr David Moore spoke to Zoe O'Hanlon. An interim report is required for Option 3 of the library application for GDF funding
- 9.2. **Play Areas:** anti-social behaviour by teenagers is causing concern for parents of younger children. Cllr Lizzie Mawson will approach Mandy Taylor at Shackles Off Youth Group to see if Mandy can have a word with local youngsters. A local resident indicated no noticeable increase in litter though Cllr Tallentire collects a bag of litter from that area regularly (efforts to have a bin installed there failed)

Action 12/2: Cllr Lizzie Mawson to liaise with Shackles Off re anti-social behaviour in the play area

- 9.3. **Toilet block:** nothing to report
- 9.4. **BMX track:** ongoing dispute with Mortisport and their sub-contractors regarding the poor quality workmanship of the BMX track. BMX committee seeking the support of the Parish Council. Cllr Lizzie Mawson waiting for their decision whether to ask Mortisport to repair their poor quality track and bring it up to an acceptable standard, or to settle financially (preferred option of Mortisport) and seek a new, more experienced contractor. The PC has already paid £18,000 and a further £30,000 is outstanding. Query whether it would be better to use that money to remove the inadequate track and lay one which is fit for purpose. Legally Mortisport should be given the option to put right their mistakes, but may be willing to settle the matter financially. Resolution to ask Mortisport to make an offer to settle the matter out of court or to put the matter in the hands of solicitors. Cllr Lizzie Mawson to formulate a response on behalf of Seascale Parish Council with input from other Councillors

Action 12/3: Cllr Lizzie Mawson to respond to Mortisport with regard to the sub-standard BMX track on behalf of Seascale Parish Council requesting Mortisport to settle the matter financially

- 9.5. **CCTV:** correspondence received from a Mr Hill regarding an anti-social person with two dogs shouting obscenities at him in the car park. Poor weather conditions prevented the person being identified clearly but the footage has been retained and will be forwarded to the Police to be enhanced if such behaviour occurs again

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- 9.6. **Sports Hall:** this is a Parish asset but normally covered under Reports and Working Groups. May be added to item 9 as a regular agenda item if there is a Councillor acting as a Trustee

10. Highways and Transport

- 10.1. B5344:** Seascale – Gosforth road is very dangerous due to potholes, puddles, poor drainage (water draining onto the road and becoming icy, including the roadside shrubs icing over) near Bleawath Farm on the blind corner. Cars are too close to the blind corner to be able to pull over safely to avoid this hazard
- 10.2. Arch Hill bridge mirror:** the mirror is not fit for purpose as oncoming traffic cannot be seen, made worse by the lampposts being out of order
- 10.3. Traffic lights on Arch Hill bridge:** CCC have agreed to fund a study regarding traffic light control under the Arch Hill bridge. It is unlikely the project will be feasible as too many junctions converge in too small a space (five junction traffic light sequence would slow the traffic too much and cause other problems). The CCC have noted the Parish Council's objections. The CCC will pass the matter on to the new Unitary Authority in April 2023 for a final decision
- 10.4. The Neb:** seems as if the road is slipping down the embankment, with large cracks in the road and pavement getting worse. The lid of the inspection cover has broken loose and should be reported to Highways for them to check the road

Action 12/4: Clerk to report these Highway dangers online with CCC Highways / email CCC Highways

11. Urgent Items raised by Councillors

- 11.1. Women's Institute bench:** the WI have placed a bench on the Neb hill to mark their 100th anniversary. The Parish Council will write to the President of Seascale WI Sylvia Thompson to offer congratulations and extend their thanks for the bench
- 11.2. Christmas lights:** Cllr John Spokes confirmed the lights are ready for the switch on this weekend, Sunday 11th December 2022 at 4 pm. Cllr Lizzie Mawson will provide refreshments. The tree and lights have been purchased and a dry box is available (Cllr Harvey-Chadwick will retain this for her own use). Wooden disks will be provided to the school for the children to write their Christmas wishes and hang on the tree
- 11.3. Bulbs:** Cllr Ken Mawson has planted 100 bulbs at the Brownbank layby to brighten the entrance to Seascale when they flower in the spring
- 11.4. Honesty box:** Cllr Lizzie Mawson reported that the honesty box cannot be opened without breaking it. It was resolved that the box should be adjusted so that it doesn't open on the seaward side at the mercy of the weather and a new lock is to be provided

Action 12/5: Clerk to draft a letter to the Seascale WI in thanks for the donated bench

12. Correspondence

- 12.1. Red Bear Forge:** the parishioners at Red Bear Forge have provided a substantial tree stand for the Christmas tree which will help it remain upright in all weathers. The Parish Council propose to write to Red Bear Forge to express their thanks and appreciation

Action 12/6: Clerk to draft a letter of thanks to Red Bear Forge for Cllr Lizzie Mawson to sign and send

- 12.2. Flower beds:** CBC Open Spaces have offered to replant the flower beds in the spring at St Cuthbert's church. They undertake to help with maintenance if volunteers are unable to do

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so. The colour theme will be red/white/blue for the Coronation. The Church is happy for this to go ahead if the beds are maintained. The replanting was approved

13. Members of the public questions submitted to Council

13.1. No members of the public came forward

14. Dates of the next meeting

14.1. The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 4th January 2023 in the Methodist School Room, Seascale at 7 pm

14.2. Meeting closed at 8 pm

**Karen Warmoth
Temporary Parish Clerk
Seascale Parish Council
8th November 2022**

Signed:

Chair: Cllr Lizzie Mawson

Date:

Summary of Actions

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