

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Wednesday 1st February 2023
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

Present:

Chair Cllr Lizzie Mawson
Councillors Cllr Catherine Harvey-Chadwick
 Cllr Ken Mawson
 Cllr David Moore
 Cllr John Spokes
 Cllr Ian Tallentire
Clerk Jill Bush

Members of the Public

M Brierly
R Brierly
P Cater
J Coltman
G Ellery
K Gleaden
B Harvey-Chadwick
C Harris
R Harris
L McKee
L Parsons
B Parsons
E J Sheppard
G Sheppard
K Warmoth
L Winterbourne
Cllr A Pratt

Meeting is recorded for minuting purposes

1. Apologies

Cllrs Eileen Eastwood and John Graham

2. Announcements from the Chair

The Chair welcomed members of the public and pleased to see so many who have come out on this inclement evening...B Parsons interrupted to insist the minutes were amended as item 12.1 was inaccurate. She was again advised only the Council can amend the minutes and the content of this item was accurate...The Chair continued and advised this evening's meeting has a very full agenda and therefore, with Council agreement, would move item 13 would be moved up to 8.

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

Cllrs K & L Mawson and Cllr Tallentire

4. Ratify the previous meeting's Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Spokes and seconded by Cllr Moore

5. Matters arising

Summary of actions carried out –

5. (12.1) The library meter reading was taken, and this was submitted to the supplier

6. Clerk advised Mr Colin Fox of the parish councils' decision

7.1 The parish councils' deliberations on application 4/22/2474/0F1 have been submitted

7.2 The parish councils' deliberations on application 4/22/2475/0F1 have been submitted

7.3 The parish councils' deliberations on application 4/22/24/096F1 have been submitted

8.2 Cllr Moore advised the Bowling Club of the parish councils' decision, also see item 12.1 below

9.1 A receipt for the wreath from the British Legion has been requested

10.1 Cllr Graham sent his apologies, see item 10.1 below

10.3 Cllr L Mawson has provided a replacement plastic seat with metal fixture in the disabled toilet

11.1 Gosforth parish council has been advised of the pothole and this has also reported to highways

11.2 Highways have again been advised of the continuing problem with the Arch Hill mirror which has deteriorated badly

12.1 See item 8 below

12.2 See item 7.2 below

14.2 Email forwarded to Cllr Pratt

6. To consider any planning issues

6.1 4/22/2442/0G1 – Keld Green - An application had already been submitted and responded to; this meetings deliberation is about a consultation paper. No changes can be found in this to the original application and Council to note this when it resubmits the previous comment.

6.2 4/22/2496/0E1 – The Cottage Caravan – As 6.2 above.

6.3 4/23/2014/0F1 – 55 Gosforth Road – This is a resubmission of a previous application which time expired. The planning department approved the previous application and there are no changes to this application, so it is likely to approve it this. Council to submit No Objection

6.4 4/22/2382/0F1 – Holmdale – No Objection

7. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

7.1 Community Partnership Meeting – Cllrs L Mawson and Moore attended. The meeting was held in Drigg village hall. April Drigg and Carleton come under mid partnership group and Copeland Council. However, after March the boundaries changes and they will come under the south partnership group and the Westmorland and Furness Council. It was agreed they retain a seat in the mid partnership.

There are community events across the area, one is in Seascale library tomorrow.

The second year of funding has commenced and has been granted to the Bowling club and Shackles Off.

The details of the off shore investigation will not be available for at least a year.

There will be greater community consultation with the public, including Surveys to evidence public knowledge and engagement in the process.

7.2 Christmas lights – Cllr Harvey-Chadwick reported enquiries were made to two suppliers. One offered a free site meeting the other had a charge. A meeting with the former has been arranged on 15 February. The Council will be looking for what they can offer, the locations, how much and an installation package. Cllr Moore would like to keep some of the Christmas light work with local

tradesmen and this will be considered in the deal.

8. Members of the public questions submitted to Council

8.1 Questions from the floor regarding the knock-on effect of SL employees and contractors using not only Seascale car park and streets but also those in all surrounding villages

Question: Would SPC consider using a company to manage the car park and explained they could lay out the parking time restrictions, self-policing with locals taking photos of indiscriminate drivers' number plates and sending them to the company. SPC would also get £15.00 for every parking ticket paid. Is this a potential solution?

Answer: Problem is how many tickets would be paid as you are not required by law to pay them and once the company has been paid for the monitoring and ticket management, there is next to nothing left for SPC, who at present is able to use the current funding for asset refurbishment. SPC would also prefer to avoid charges introduced to the car park. We are very proud of being able to provide free car parking and receive many compliments from visitors.

Question: A letter was sent to SPC because there is no control over the car park, mayhem. SPC is not policing it. There has to be a collective meeting of all the parishes with SL because it is an absolute mess.

Answer: The problem is the lack of responsible parking and reiterated the meeting it had in September. The repainting of the car park was also discussed and agreed.

Question: Is the £15,000 received to pay for the car park, is that to pay off the debt?

Answer: No. SPC did not buy it. It was an asset transfer from Copeland at no cost to Seascale. The reason why Copeland transferred was because there wasn't any money from it. The pay and display machines were being damaged, people weren't paying and there was excessive parking by the railway and elsewhere.

Question: So why parking spaces being leased?

Answer: SPC have managed it reasonably well, people do donate and this is a source of a modest income. The main problem has been because of the changes SL made to stop onsite parking, without putting suitable alternatives in place. The problem has been caused by more than the 45 spaces being used for SL workers and suitable policing by SL was and is needed.

Cllr Moore advised only SL employees who are Seascale residents are blue token holders, have access their shuttle bus. However, the contractors have been encouraging their workers to park here. That is why there have been so many coming into the car park. Tomorrow, SL are holding a meeting with the contractors to ensure they use the correct locations and cease using village car parks or sanctions will be placed on them. This should reduce the buses back down to half an hour.

Question: The problem is not just Seascale it's also all the surrounding district that have this problem. However, he agrees the problem must be pushed back to SL, all they are doing is pushing the problem onto the local communities and it gets worse during the summer season. Bad publicity is one way of dealing with SL.

Question: Why is there a bus stop in the car park?

Answer: Safer in the car park, as this is where the SL workers who are Seascale residents will be parking their cars to pick up the shuttle bus, rather than having random pick-up points.

Question: This resident again asked why the contract not available to the public and then continued to criticise the Council about the car park and is never on the agenda? The Morgan Sindall contractor was again raised, although SPC has no dealings with this Company.

Answer: Sellafield has classed this as commercially sensitive that is why SPC cannot release it to the public. The Chair advised there were a lot of people who like to speak, and all you are doing is repeating the same thing every month. Will you please let other people speak?

Note: the reason the car park is no longer on the agenda is because too much time has been taken up with repeated questions/complaints nearly every month. Subsequently, a Point of Order was implemented to ensure there was adequate meeting time to discuss with other parish

matters. The Point of Order was reactivated in October at the full council meeting.

Another member of the public We are getting nowhere shouting over each other. Stop blaming the Council, the parking problem is widespread. They were elected by us, you may not have voted for them, but some of us did. They should receive basic human decency. I've come here to find out what they've done, and why they are doing it. And what we are, is a community not screaming banshees, we need to work together. I don't deny SL are taking the p**s.

Question: Will the layby by the bowling green have parking time limits to stop this all-day parking

Answer: Yes, this was agreed with highways for a 4-hr limit. This is pending highways carrying out this work.

Question: What control is there with the buses

Answer: What has been happening is that contractors are using the bus company as SL. What they should have been doing is using Yottenfews. That is why there have been so many buses coming in. At the meeting tomorrow they will be told to follow the correct process or basically face sanctions. This will drop the buses back to 30 minutes and with the use of Greengarth, which has been in probate, will also help.

Question: What bus stops will be used

Answer: The designated bus stops are by the old post office, by the car park, Croft Lane and by the school

Question: The bus stop in the car park is by the recycling isn't that cause an issue when the bins are being emptied.

Question: Why is there a bus stop in the car park? Can't there be any liaison about points of interest, policing etc.

Answer: (the former question was answered earlier in the meeting) Seascale and Gosforth have had the same conversation with SL. Gosforth have also agreed the blue token proposal. I know you are frustrated but we will have to wait a couple of weeks to see how SL control this and if not, we will need to have a more radical control.

Question: What is the pollution levels with all this traffic coming into the car park.

Answer: SPC doesn't have that data.

Question: I am concerned it is a bit like kicking the can down the road, I get what you are trying to do, but the problem is the people who work there, excessive parking on the roads and lay-bys. Very few places to park, trying to get out of the Co-op is a problem because you can't see down the road. We don't want to do is just move the problem.

Answer: The problem is nothing happens fast, but we have seen some improvement with vacant bays. This not something that has just arisen, this has been building up for months in all the parishes. We have been working for months to resolve this

Question: The problem was very evident in the summer when the tourist flooded in, and it was mayhem.

Answer: The Chair advised SPC has been working with this for months and months. Cllr Spokes also believed it was time for SPC to push back, that said we have all been working hard and are equally concerned about the situation.

Cllr Pratt further reported he and all the parishes have had meetings with SL because of parking problems and shouting at the Council doesn't help. Sometimes legal and contractor processes have to be followed and the contractor process also has to be followed and all this takes time. This is an ongoing problem for all the parishes.

Questions: Why has SL stopped onsite parking.

Answer: The reason this has happened is because the Regulatory Authority has told SL the onsite parking must cease. SL was the last company to have onsite parking. They are also not allowed to have a car park next to/nearby the site.

Question: I work for SL but at a satellite location in Workington, so I am not affected by this. However, it must be recognized the main site workers have got used to parking onsite. A culture change is required and unfortunately it can take time for some to adjust.

Answer: Acknowledged and this is the problem.

Question: Why is the station car park now chained stopping access to park

Answer: SPC understands this is for security and safety purposes. The negotiations with greengarth car park are continuing, it is possible SL may buy this. Once the negotiations whether hire or buy is complete, there will be suitable and adequate parking to the south again.

Question: How far do SL workers have to park away from the site

Answer: The parish council does not have this information

Question: Could a central location be found for their parking

Answer: There is parking at Cleator Moor, Egremont and Yottenfews. SL lost the parking at greengarth because the owner dies and it went into probate, however, that is under negotiation with the new owner, that would cover south of the site.

Question: Why can't they park at Yottenfews

Answer: Greengarth is the best location to the south, and they know this.

Question: How far have SL got with these negotiations

Answer: The parish council does not have this information

The Chair advised the meeting this matter is on-going, and we have been dealing with this and will continue to do so...interrupted...The Chair advised Ms Parsons she has tried to say this 3 times.

Question: SPC was again asked if the car park walkway would remain and that 2 parking spaces should be used to accommodate this.

Answer: Yes, the walkway would remain, however losing 2 parking spaces would reduce the overall spaces. SPC may consider one space. This didn't appear to be accepted by the questioner

Cllr K Mawson advised tourists are really pleased with the free parking and toilets. Which is to be encouraged.

Throughout this item there were too many people speaking at once, making individual comments unclear.

- 8.2** The Bridles is an open plan estate, however, 3 years ago a 6 foot fence was built on the boundary of the Banks creating a driving and pedestrian hazard. It is uneven, incomplete and the area is messy. The resident has made many enquiries as to what can be done about it and whether the land claimed is illegal and the responses have not been helpful.

Cllrs Pratt and Moore advised parish councils are very limited in what it can do as they have no statutory powers, and this is a private road. This would appear to be more of a civil matter. A letter could be sent to building control to establish if it meets building standard. Cllr Pratt advised he could make enquiries.

9. Finance

- 9.1** The reconciled Cash Book Balance for January is £100,232.24 with no outstanding payments. The reason the balance is higher than usual is because of the receipt of the annual VAT claim for £9,707.51.

The January payments and receipts are listed below:

Creditor	Credit	Debit (gross)	VAT Comments
Karen Warmoth		44.84	Temporary clerk
LD Mawson		350.00	Wall repair
Npower		639.04	106.51 Library electric November
Waterplus		88.77	Toilet block water & wastewater - Nov - Dec
Waterplus		75.38	0.73 Library water x 4 charges - Dec
Copeland BC		31.85	Library trade waste bins Jan - Mar incl
Copeland BC		785.20	83.20 Trade waste bins Jan - Mar incl
WF Cascade		68.26	11.38 Heavy duty sacks for bin emptying
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick		40.00	Foreshore litter bins - December
Lizzie Mawson		72.45	9.46 Food & drink for Xmas lights switch on event
Octopus Energy		45.33	2.16 Toilet Block Electric - December
HMRC	9707.51		VAT claim
Utility Warehouse		30.60	0.00 Library gas - November
EE Ltd		19.67	DAV monthly SIM maintenance

To date the authorised February payments are listed below:

Creditor	Credit	Debit (gross)	VAT	Comments
PATA		23.85		Payroll service
Ms J Bush		5.76		Stationery & postage
Pelley mounters		142.67	23.78	Xmas tree, daffodil bulbs & cleaning supplies
Copeland BC		9174.22	1529.03	Annual open space & inspection contract
Npower		878.81	146.47	Library electric December
T&C Biggins		225.00		Take down Xmas lights & gents toilet light
Waterplus		43.90		Toilet block water & wastewater - Dec - Jan
Waterplus				Library water x 4 charges - Jan
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick		40.00		Foreshore litter bins - January

There are 2 estimates, one for the flower bed in St Cuthberts and the other is for the 2023-4 open space and play area inspection contract. The former is rather expensive and doesn't cover maintenance and watering. A member of the public kindly offered to plant and maintain the flower bed. She was thanked for her kind offer. Cllr Moore advised he could make enquiries to see if the plants could be ordered through Copeland at a cheaper cost. The open space and play area inspection contract approx. £1,000 more than the previous one, whilst the previous one was under a 3-year contract, the additional cost for this alone will be more than the Copeland recommended precept increase of 4.99%. Council agreed the open space quote.

9.2 Precept

At the last meeting the election cost consideration and the automatic change in the external auditor and the rising cost associated with this, needs to be considered when submitting the 2023-24 precept amount. This along with the open space contract means the precept increase needs to be more than the level recommended by Copeland. The Council agreed to follow Copeland increase limit. The clerk acknowledged the Councils decision and advised the precept overspend would exceed the 6% ceiling.

10. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

10.1 Library – Cllr Moore reported the Interim report completed. The next stage is to commence the

start of option 3 of the refurbishment. Pleased to report increased number of volunteers.

10.2 Play areas – Hammock removed for repair.

10.3 Toilet block – The disabled toilet seat has been fitted with a plastic seat and metal fixtures. Incidences of vandalism in the gents toilets – toilet roll holders set alight. Cllr L Mawson has spoken to Shackles Off who has swiftly arranged the police to speak to the youngsters. Many thanks to Mandy for her prompt action in this matter.

10.4 BMX track – Still pending a response from Mort, and the annual maintenance visit is due

10.5 CCTV – Nothing specific to report, however, Cllr Spokes is meeting with the supplier.

10.6 Sports Hall 3rd party insurance. Cllr Tallentire has been in liaison with the Sports Hall Committee regarding public liability for users. Cllr Tallentire asked the clerk to forward the insurance detail that was sent to the Sports Hall and because it has been a very full agenda, he will defer this to be discussed in more detail next month.

11. To consider matters relating to highways and transport

11.1 Cllr K Mawson reported another large pothole at the entrance of the Tarn How farm. The first has already been reported.

11.2 Despite numerous reports submitted to highways there has still been no response regarding the deterioration, to the extent it is now a hazard, of the Arch Hill mirror. Blawath is listed for repair in 2023-24

12. Urgent items raised by Councillors

12.1 Cllrs L Mawson and Spokes received a request to put a metal remembrance plaque on one of the foreshore benches. The requestor has been advised whilst a plaque may be fitted, the protocol requires a bench that will be maintained. The new bench may be located elsewhere in the parish.

12.2 Cllr Harvey-Chadwick reported she cannot manage the litter bin emptying on her own and ideally needs 3 – 4 volunteers, especially during the summer season, when bins are emptied at least once a day. 4 members of the public raised their hands to help. Their contact details were taken by the Cllr. Brenda Parsons stated the in-house litter bin emptying cost £7,000 p.a. because she had seen it in the cashbook. The council disputed this, and it was admitted the figure was £700.00

12.3 Cllr Harvey-Chadwick reported the flagpole rope needs to be replaced (because of the foreshore location it deteriorates very quickly) but help is needed to take the flagpole down to fit the replacement rope. A couple of the Cllrs offered their help as did some members of the public. Cllr Moore suggested a nylon rope would be more durable.

12.4 Cllr K Mawson apologised that this wasn't an urgent matter but wanted to state what a good repair had been carried out on the wall by the rail station.

13. Correspondence

13.1 The bowling club funding has been granted, however, the proviso from the funder to SPC strongly implied there was no incentive for it to be organisational body.

13.2 On receiving the proposal to have a 4g football pitch on the Coniston Avenue site, it was considered this was not the best site, due to restricting other development planned for this site, there is a lack of parking. A better site would be by the bowling club and cricket field. Cllr L Mawson is in liaison with the relevant parties.

14. Dates of forthcoming meetings

Full Council Meeting Wednesday 1st March

Summary of Actions

- 6.1 Clerk to notify planning of the parish councils' deliberations on application 4/22/2442/0G1
- 6.2 Clerk to notify planning of the parish councils' deliberations on application 4/22/2496/0F1
- 6.3 Clerk to notify planning of the parish councils' deliberations on application 4/23/2014/0F1
- 6.4 Clerk to notify planning of the parish councils' deliberations on application 4/22/2382/0F1
- 7.2 Cllr Harvey-Chadwick to report on Christmas light site meeting
- 8.2 Cllr Moore to advise on the outcome, if any, on building regulations enquiry
- 9.1 Clerk to submit agreement to open space & play area inspection 2023-24 contract
- 9.1 Cllr L Mawson and Cllr Harvey Chadwick to liaise with volunteers regarding flower bed, boat and plants
- 9.2 Clerk to complete and submit 2023-24 precept return
- 10.5 Cllr Spokes to report on supplier meeting outcome
- 10.6 Cllr Tallentire to provide a report on the Sports Hall insurance
- 12.2 Cllr Harvey-Chadwick to create job advertisement for litter bin emptying
- 12.3 Cllr Harvey-Chadwick to provide an update on the replacement flagpole rope
- 13.1 Cllrs Pratt and Moore to contact the funder as the communication wording is very ambiguous.
- 13.2 Cllr L Mawson to provide update on 4g football pitch negotiations