

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

Present:

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

Members of the Public

R Brierley
R Cripps
J Goode
T Harris
Z O’Hanlon
B Parsons
R Ranwood
J Rushforth
K Warmoth

Meeting is recorded for minuting purposes

- 1. Apologies**
Cllrs Eileen Eastwood
- 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 Spokes and seconded by Cllr Moore
- 5. Matters arising**
Summary of actions carried out –
 - 6.1 Clerk to notify planning dept. actioned
 - 6.2 Clerk to notify planning dept. actioned
 - 6.3 Clerk to notify planning dept. actioned
 - 6.4 Clerk to notify planning dept. actioned

- 7.2 Cllr Harvey-Chadwick to report on Christmas light site meeting. See item 7.2 below
- 8.2 Cllr Moore advised Cllr Pratt sent his apologies, Nothing to report at present
- 9.1 Clerk to submit agreement to open space & play area inspection 23/24 contract. Actioned
- 9.1 Cllr L Mawson and Cllr Harvey Chadwick update regarding boat, flower bed, boat and plants. The boat will continue to be managed as before, Cllr Mawson in negotiation with Copeland as the flower bed is too large for the volunteers to plant
- 9.2 Clerk to complete and submit 2023-24 precept return. Actioned
- 10.5 Cllr Spokes to report on supplier meeting outcome. See item 9.5 below
- 10.6 Cllr Tallentire to provide a report on the Sports Hall insurance – see item 9.6 below
- 12.2 The response to the advertisement for litter bin emptying has been disappointing. See item 7.3 below
- 12.3 Cllr Harvey-Chadwick - update on the replacement flagpole rope. This is in progress and will be fitted when manpower is available.
- 13.1 Funding communication for Bowling club clarified, see item 7.5 below
- 13.2 Cllr L Mawson to provide update on 4g football pitch negotiations. Nothing to report at present

6. To consider any planning issues

- 6.1 4/23/2040/OF1 - Brackenside, The Banks – No Objection
- 6.2 PAA/22/0133 pre-planning enquiry - Land at Green Close – Council assessed the proposal and apart from a reference to the location of the culvert and reducing the number of development from 2 to one the original reasons for the previous objection remain. Several objections regarding the flooding, which had occurred twice recently and if the culvert is blocked it floods further upstream were raised by the public, previous planning applications for only an extension had been refused, the Council was also asked how big this one development was. The footprint is approximately 75% of the original 2 developments, so not much of a reduction. The Council will advise the developer the SPC position has not changed. Formal response to be sent
- 6.3 4/23/2029/OF1 – 1A South Parade – No Objection
- 6.4 4/22/2382/OF1 - Holmdale, Rueberry Drive - Consultation letter – No Objection

7. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

- 7.1 **Community Partnership Meeting** – Cllr Moore attended. The meeting was held, and 2 key elements were debated.

The process to consider safety aspects regarding the location of the Geological structure will recommence after the elections. Also the impact this may have on property prices and the tourist trade etc. There is an ongoing survey to assess this, and a fund has been put together to help businesses, tourism and homeowners. With a last resort option to purchase.

The process to engage a wider group of people, but specifically looking to engage with younger people. This is because decisions now will affect them in adulthood, and it is important that have input to the decision making. A youth panel focusing on 14 – 17 years old. Groups such as Shackles Of have been approached. Inspire are developing the programme to standardize the information format in secondary schools across Copeland and Allerdale. This programme will also be geared to introducing it in primary schools too.

There will also be a newsletter designed to be and look interesting, rather than it be viewed as junk mail and deposited straight into the recycling bin.

- 7.2 **Christmas lights** – The site visit took place and a wide choice of options provided. Locations are still under consideration. 2 types of purchase, rental and option to buy. Prices were given for a 3-year contract which included installation and setting up. However SPC would prefer this prefer to retain the final element with local businesses. Cllr Harvey-Chadwick to make enquiries for this option. A further site visit it likely, but with an invite for the local electrician to attend to help the decision making process.

- 7.3 Litter bin advert update** – the advert has not been successful and whilst not an issue at this time of the year, additional support will be needed through the tourist season and a couple of Cllrs have offered their assistance if the situation continues as is. If Copeland or another supplier was brought in, the cost to empty the bins the same frequency at present would be somewhere in the region of £25,000+, this cost alone would exceed the precept budget.
- 7.4 Policy Schedule** - see item 9.6 below
- 7.5 Bowling Green funding** – The Council formally agreed to be the accountable body and the signatories. The latter was previously forwarded to allow commencement of the work. The minute reference will be forwarded to complete the process
- 7.6 Defibrillator** – Cllr Spokes reported on his enquiries, there are grants available and the average cost to SPC for one is approximately £1,000. The telephone kiosk would require additional insulation, electricity supply etc. However, there are wall mounted defibrillators that are already insulated. Council was of the opinion in addition to the one the fire brigade has a further 2 would be required. The library noticeboard could provide the locations of all. One could be installed on the library wall, the location of the other to be decided. There are also portable defibrillators. Cllr Spokes will make further enquiries.

8. Finance

- 8.1** The reconciled Cash Book Balance for February is £89,025.43 with no outstanding payments; however the Library Waterplus bill payment was an estimate, which will be rectified in next months' payment. Clerk advised the March payments have been entered onto the banking system, but due to additional tasks she has not yet added these to the spreadsheet. These payments will be reported in the April minutes.

The February payments and receipts are listed below:

Creditor	Debit (gross)	VAT	Comments
PATA	47.70		Payroll service
Ms J Bush	5.76		Stationery & postage
Pelleymounters	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 (estimate - actu	80.00	2.34	Library water x 4 charges - Jan
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick	40.00		Foreshore litter bins - January
Octopus Energy	49.08	2.34	Toilet Block Electric - February
EE Ltd	19.67		DAV monthly SIM maintenance

The library water bills are sent to that address. However, the supplier Waterplus only allow 14 days from the date on the bill to make payment or incur a £40.00 late payment charge. The reason a D/D hasn't been set up is because when the supply was automatically transferred from United Utilities Waterplus created 2 fictitious accounts, one being for a pub and the other for another public convenience both located on South Parade. Waterplus recently contacted SPC and advised it would be closing the pub account. This has been an ongoing saga for about 6 years, which has included by being harassed by DCA's. SPC also advised them to close the other fictitious account, as they have been sent information and even street view photos which evidence there is no pub or public convenience. Once this has been achieved SPC will change its supplier not only for the toilet block but also the library. The clerk to request the library bill is sent directly to her.

9. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

9.1 Library – Cllr Graham reported a positive meeting and 3 specific points were raised

- The charity needs a Trustee from the Council asap
- The committee has asked for more SPC involvement in guidance. The planning application will go through SPC, and Dave Cummings who has provided the assessment surveys and quotes. These cover the works from plan to completion of the refurbishment. There is also the issue of finding storage of books etc while the work is being carried out. Cllr Spokes has offered his experience as a Project Manager.
- A roof repair is required. This will basically be a temporary fix as the refurbishment works will be commencing this year. Cllr Moore will make enquiries about local builders, but advised tradesmen in this field are few and far between.

9.2 Play areas – the hammock is beyond repair and a replacement is required. Jacobs has carried out some low-level painting work, including the boat and have done a brilliant job. Seascale appreciates the work they have done.

9.3 Toilet block – This is the third time a toilet roll dispenser has been set alight in the gents' toilets. The damage to the gents toilets is more extensive than previously thought, there is also graffiti on the door. Subsequently it is closed to the public and a notice has been put up directing the users to a different toilet. The fire was reported by a member of the public, however Cllr Mawson used the shop extinguisher and put the fire out before the fire service arrived. The fire brigade assessed the fire damage as arson and notified the police. There are eyewitnesses who saw 3 teenagers leave the block just prior to the fire being reported. The boys are not Seascale residents, however, the offenders' names have been given to the police. An insurance claim has been submitted and two quotes will be required for the insurer.

SPC is at a loss to understand why so many fire stations are 'off the route', leaving the fire stations as far away as Whitehaven to answer emergency calls. A letter to be sent to the fire brigade to ask how often the stations are off route?

9.4 BMX track – Nothing to report

9.5 CCTV – Cllr Spokes reported 2 of the cameras have salt and spray damage, which unfortunately is unavoidable because of the location. One can be replaced under warranty and a further 2 cameras are required, one to cover the entrance to the car park and the other to cover the toilets. Council is in agreement and Cllr Spokes will report back with further information and costs.

9.6 Sports Hall, other groups and SPC insurance cover – Cllr Tallentire reported on the type of insurance the charities have and assessed the asset register of what the SPC insurance covers. It was agreed some of the assets needs a further reassessment. The policy schedule to be forwarded to Cllr Tallentire was agreed by Council.

10. To consider matters relating to highways and transport

10.1 Cllr Moore reported it was likely the traffic lights at Arch Hill may go ahead. This proposal is not generally viewed a positive decision. Cllr Moore reported he was at a meeting when this was discussed. The cost would be approximately £90,000 and the distance between the lights would effectively block access to The Banks and the rail station at one end, and block access not only to the entrance and but also the exit of the car park and beyond. This proposal takes no account of the substantial traffic queues it will create on both sides of Arch Hill. Cllr Moore advised the problems this would cause and opposed the proposal; he also advised the committee a replacement mirror would be a fraction of the cost and be more efficient. Cllr K Mawson advised highways had finally agreed to a replacement mirror, there have been numerous requests, but credit goes to a local resident who finally swayed highways decision.

10.2 Cllr K Mawson reported the cricket field layby parking time had been reduced from 4 to 3 hours and there would be double yellow lines on the other side of the road, including the church. The 4

hour had already been agreed after a consultation. Cllr Moore advised this had been changed because of the interference from another local Cllr.

11. Urgent items raised by Councillors

11.1 Cllr L Mawson reported not only is there graffiti in the gents' toilets, but also on the bus shelter and it is likely this was also done by the offenders who started the fire. Cllr L Mawson will contact Shackles Off to establish if the youngsters would be interested in painting a mural over the bus stop graffiti. If agreed SPC will be charged for the paints.

11.2 Cllr K Mawson asked who to contact regarding pest control because of the damage moles are doing. He was advised moles are not covered under pest control and the cost to pay for removal has become cost prohibitive for many. A member of the public advised he knew of someone and would pass the name onto the Chair.

12. Correspondence

None

13. Members of the public questions submitted to Council

13.1 J Rushworth who had previously approached SPC for the funded on the Jubilee tree, reported the tree was doing well and asked if it would fund another tree of the same type for the Coronation. This was agreed by Council, though advised it could possibly purchase one more reasonably. He also asked if SPC would be the accountable body for an open day event and if successful agree to a one-week event each year. The funding would come from GDF.

13.2 T Harris expanded on this and asked SPC to consider another event, which would be a 25-metre assault course with different teams. This would gauge if there was enough interest for the event days. There will be a further meeting with Cllrs L Mawson and Moore who will report back to Council. This was agreed by Council.

13.3 B Parsons stated, "You timed that well so I can't speak". She proceeded to loudly berate the Council for several minutes, accusing it of behaving disreputably, being secretive, keeping things from the public regarding matters pertaining to the car park. B Parsons noted the position, Parish clerk was unredacted in the latest Sellafeld agreement and asked the clerk if she had signed it. The clerk although under no legal obligation, erroneously considered for the sake of peace to confirm she had and was then asked why she hadn't admitted this before. B Parsons was advised it was because this specific question hadn't been asked. She called the Cllrs and clerk liars. Would not accept any clarifications offered. She was asked to tone down her language, this was ignored. When the Chair advised the meeting was exceeding the 2 hours this was also ignored. The Chair declared the meeting closed. B Parsons continued.

14. Dates of forthcoming meetings

Full Council Meeting Wednesday 5th April

Summary of Actions

- 6.1 Clerk to notify planning of the parish councils' deliberations on application 4/23/2040/0F1
- 6.1 Clerk to notify architect of the parish councils' deliberations on application PAA/22/0133 pre-planning enquiry
- 6.2 Clerk to notify planning of the parish councils' deliberations on application 4/23/2029/0F1
- 6.3 Clerk to notify planning of the parish councils' deliberations on application 4/22/2382/0F1
- 7.2 Christmas lights update – Cllr Harvey-Chadwick
- 7.5 Bowling Green funding – clerk to confirm formal agreement against item reference
- 7.6 Defibrillator update – Cllr Spokes
- 8.1 Waterplus notified of change of address – clerk to action
- 9.1 Builder to fix library roof – Cllr Moore
- 9.3 Enquiry to the fire brigade: why are many fire stations 'off the route' and frequency – clerk to action
Toilet block update – Insurer has requested postcode and photos; this has been actioned
- 9.5 CCTV update – Cllr Spokes
- 9.6 Group asset and SPC insurance update – Cllr Tallentire