

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Wednesday 5th July 2023
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

Present:

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

Members of the Public:

R Douglas
J Farrar
J Goode
C Hurst
N Hurst
B Parsons
D Sim
L Winterborne

Meeting is recorded for minuting purposes

1. Apologies

Cllrs John Graham and Ken Mawson

2. Announcements from the Chair

None

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

Item 6.2 Cllrs L Mawson and C Harvey-Chadwick

4. Ratify the previous meeting's Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Tallentire and seconded by Cllr Moore

5. Matters arising

5 (11.4) Cllr Moore reported highways have finally agreed to replace the Arch Hill mirror. This will be rectangular 1 metre x 800 cm. It is not known when the replacement will occur as the fixtures will need to be changed. Highways advised while the existing small mirror meets legislative requirements. It also acknowledged the level of concern submitted about this – this would be following adding the issue and highways link on the parish facebook page.

5 (12.1) Cllr Moore reported there is no agreement in place for the Viking Way grass cutting. However, it has agreed to cut it back this year and next year it will be added to the highways list. It was noted this may result in the grass being cut as often as liked, but this is because there are many areas already on the highways list. Further, this will only cover the

grass cutting, not the hedges, highways advised they would not have put hedges here. The Parish Council could contact the Haverigg outreach team, who have carried out this work before.

Summary of actions carried out –

- 5 (11.4) See matters arising above
- 5 (12.1) Clerk confirmed she had contacted Tethera editor for further confirmation and to date has not received a response. Clerk actioned to formally notify the editor the agreement is terminated as it hopes to have the magazine up and running again before the end of the year. Actioned
- 8.1 Clerk to send objection - Actioned
- 9.2 Clerk to contact stall enquirer of Council decision - Actioned
- 10.3 Clerk to provide update on library electric usage – See item 8.3 below
- 11.3 Cllr Spokes reported the defibrillator status is complete. The details of this along with the locations has been put on the parish facebook page and will be added to the website. Cllr Harvey Chadwick advised there will be signage to direct users to the one located on the toilet block.
- 11.6 Clerk to organise Christmas lights reimbursement payment – Actioned. However the Parish Council question how the usage could be so high when all the bulbs are low energy.
- 12.1 Cllr Moore provided a report on Viking Way – whilst there is no agreement, the verges will be cut by highways as a one off. Next year it will be included in the schedule of work. However, this will not include hedges and it is likely the Parish Council will have to ask if the Haverigg outreach team can do this.
- 13.1 Environmental Health contacted regarding continuous alarm who contracted a locksmith to gain access to the building to switch the alarm off. Clerk to send a letter of thanks for their prompt action. Actioned
- 13.3 Cllr Moore reported he attended a meeting with NDA Cumberland Council and Cllr Pratt on the cycle path blockage. NDA has been funding Sustrans to maintain the coastal footway. It was never designated as a cycle path and doesn't link to a cycle way, despite the Sustrans signage. The base is no safe to walk on, there are surface concerns there are several trip and other hazards. It is not feasible to repair this. Rather than it falls into further disrepair, there will be a new footpath. The Environmental agency is also involved due to the risk to the Natterjack toad reserve. It is likely the new footpath will commence at Caldergate and cut through the lanes and across farmland via existing public footpaths, coming out at the back of Pelley Mounters. Cumberland Council neighbourhood team are responsible for the coastal footpath maintenance, but not across the farmland, which is outside the Environmental agency's jurisdiction. Clerk to report the coastal footpath deterioration to Cumberland Councils neighbourhood team.
A member of the public asked if the geological funding was possible? Cllr Moore advised it can be applied for, but there is no guarantee, and it could be declined. Only the group responsible for the footpath can submit a request. Cllr Moore will forward Sustrans contact details regarding both sides of the railway path.
- 14.0 Clerk to advise of Egremont Town Hall proposed meeting dates. Actioned, pending notification from Egremont Town Council.
- 15.1 Meeting outcome added to July meeting agenda. The Chair advised the meeting is still pending. See item 7.2 below

6. To consider any planning issues

- 6.1** 4/22/2301/0F1 - Manx View, Drigg road demolition of existing and replacement of dormer bungalow – No Objection
- 6.2** 4/23/2174/0F1 – South Parade - Change of use of existing shop – No Objection
- 6.3** 4/23/2180/0F1 - Sellafield - Prior approval of the demolition of a metals recycling facility office – No Objection

7. Reports from Councillors and working groups

7.1 Cumberland regeneration programme presentation

Since the last meeting the Chair has attended the NDA Innovation event at Energus, showcasing new and upcoming innovation. The event comprised mainly of NDA employees and CNE2, is a French national technical review board advising the Parliament on the management of nuclear materials and waste. They were visiting Sellafield but wanted an update on our communities, the GDF and work that Low Level Waste Repository has been doing to reduce waste over the years.

The Chair then went on to inform the Community Partnership that Allerdale Community Partnership has reached out to ask for help supporting an event their Chair has helped to arrange, 'Green Space to Grow' held at Energus 15th September 2023. Allerdale plans to do some visioning work around this, which will be shared around the Partnerships.

The Chair informed members that there will to be an overseas visit to Finland. Finnish nuclear waste management company Posiva Oy is the first in the world to be ready to start final disposal of spent nuclear fuel, 400 metres below ground. This facility is being built in Olkiluoto, off the south-west coast of Finland, near one of the country's nuclear power plants. It is looking to be operational from 2024. All West Cumbria Community Partnerships will be invited, and the invite is extended to the Chairs from each Partnership, the RPLA lead and one other Community Partnership member from each Partnership. If any member is interested in the visit, please let our Chair know and if more than one Community Partnership member is interested, a name will be drawn at random.

There are currently six sites with a requirement to reduce this to two sites. Site Evaluation Manager delivered a presentation on the Site Evaluation studies that have now been commissioned with specialist consultants. This gave an insight into the topics to be studied when considering feasibility of the Mid Copeland Search Area and adjacent inshore area, initially works would be "desktop" studies. Studies will be aligned to the published six siting factors: - Safety and Security / Community / Environment / Engineering Feasibility / Transport / Value for money. The feasibility studies will contribute to the NWS recommendation of potential communities to be considered for site characterisation (current planning assumption - 2025/2026).

Update on Shackles Off Social Action Project

Community Engagement Co-ordinator gave an update on behalf of our Youth Lead. The Shackles Off social action project was held for an 8-week period, which culminated in a celebration event on 22nd May 2023. The Youth Leader of Shackles Off and the young people themselves, are keen to remain involved in the discussion and it is important, if we are to maintain their trust, that we act on some of the suggestions they made. As a Community Partnership, we need to consider their suggestions and implement those we feel are realistic and achievable. The Youth Lead would like the Partnership to consider some of the suggestions made in the report and agree which ones they would like to take forward. The Youth lead will work with the Community Engagement Coordinators to develop a programme of activities and timeline leading up to the development of our Youth Strategy. This exercise has proved so successful, this will be picked by other partnership members.

Community Investment Funding Update

Community Investment Manager reported that at the last panel on 1st June they had four applications, of which, one was rejected and one deferred. The two awarded were for a small grant and a large grant. All together in year two we have awarded approximately £660,000, leaving £340,000 available with three panels to go. To date Mid Copeland have awarded 41 projects,

predominantly within the Community Wellbeing and Natural and Built Environment criteria. Communications Update.

Engagement Update

Since the last meeting the Community Engagement team has completed five weekly Seascale drop

ins and twelve other events, including Out of Search Area events, and attending other people's events/coffee mornings and a talk to the Whitehaven U3A, which proved to be popular.

The weekly drop-in at Seascale is not having the footfall anticipated but we have a further four dates until the end of the trial period. Learning from this has led us to believe that we are not ready for continual residency within the Search Area until we have more information to give the community.

- 7.2 Flower bed regeneration/wildflowers** - Planting wildflowers will be considered in some of the areas that are not covered under the grass cutting contract. Cllr L Mawson suggested a working group of volunteers and some Cllrs. The Parish Council is looking for volunteers who would be interested in this venture. Mrs Winterborne offered her help, however, has unfortunately had to withdraw.
- 7.3 Water Tower artwork update** – The Parish Council was asked to provide the insurance for the artwork and the work to prepare and return it to its original status. However, the insurer has raised numerous valid questions and that the Parish Council cannot insure on behalf of another. These were forwarded to project, the parish council is now waiting for its response. **Update:** Cumberland Council will apply for the insurance cover through their own insurer.
- 7.4 Cycle path** – See summary actions item 13.3 above

8. Finance

- 8.1** The reconciled Cash Book Balance for June is £97571.32.

Creditor	Credit	Debit (gross)	VAT	Comments
Waterplus		7.49		Library water x 4 charges - May
Waterplus (credit)		76.37		Toilet block water & wastewater - Apri-May
DAV		1017.60	169.60	CCTV replacement & upgrade
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick		70.00		Foreshore litter bins May
Lise Winterborne		45.00		Foreshore litter bins May
LD Mawson		650.00		Car park honesty box repair
I Singleton		135.00		Car park pothole repair
Seascale Methodist Church		150.00		Room hire
Cllr L Mawson		92.28		40 yr service to retired Cllr E Eastwood
Seascale Sports Hall		200.00		Christmas lights electricity reimbursement
Gosforth Church		150.00		Church graveyard donation
Mrs Sloan		150.00		Church graveyard donation
I Garner		25.00		Toilet block outside lighting
Mrs Sloan	100.00			Tarn paddock rent
Moore DW&C	1605.63			car park honesty box donatipns
Octopus Energy		49.55	2.39	Toilet block electric - May
Octopus Energy		1433.70	238.95	Library electric - May
EE Ltd		22.50		DAV monthly SIM maintenenance
Account 1		18.00		Service Charge
General Reserve Account	279.53			interest credit

8.2 July payments to date –

Creditor	Credit	Debit (gross)	VAT	Comments
WF Cascade		136.51	22.75	Litter bin bags
Cllr I Mawson		172.50		Relief cleaner
PATA		25.80		Payroll service
Sports Hall		115.99		Christmas lights electricity balance
Waterplus		79.71	0.32	Library water x 4 charges - May
Waterplus		106.94		Toilet block water & wastewater - May-June
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick		100.00		Foreshore litter bins June
Lise Winterborne		110.00		Foreshore litter bins June
WF Cascade		201.06	33.51	Toilet rolls & liquid soap
Octopus Energy		40.24	1.92	Toilet block electric - June
Octopus Energy		69.51	3.31	Library electric - June
Quattro		420.00	70.00	Gents toilets floor fire damage

8.3 Library electric usage – The clerk reported the latest invoice received was for less than £70.00 and it is not clear why the earlier invoice was over £1,400.00. The clerk will query this with the supplier. Cllr L Mawson and Cllr Moore will arrange meter checks and a usage investigation

9. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

9.1 Library – SPC representative – Cllr Graham on holiday - Nothing to report

9.2 Play areas – Cllr L Mawson reported as the hammock is still under warranty, the Supplier has been contacted. Additional play area gravel will be ordered. Unlike the gravel at building yards, this is a special type of gravel, specifically designed for this use.

9.3 Toilet block – A splendid job has been done on the gents toilets floor following the arson attack and a further invoice for the fire extinguisher usage to be paid. The total cost of the repair work is just over £900.00. The relevant claim paperwork will be submitted to the insurers. Clerk to action

9.4 BMX track – Nothing to report

9.5 CCTV – Nothing to report

9.6 Sports Hall – SPC representative – Nothing to report

10. Consider matters relating to the Highways and Transport

10.1 Arch Hill traffic lights – Cllr Tallentire raised this matter, if not traffic lights, then some form of traffic control was required. He explained this was due to a number of witnessed near misses, road rage, and the fact that the current mirror does not provide any visibility of pedestrians for drivers, and likewise pedestrians cannot see approaching cars, as reported in comments on social media. His approach was to try and look at more options than just the current proposal for lights. Whilst it was acknowledged some members of the public would like traffic lights, others did not.

Cllr Moore reported following meetings with the highway's engineers. He was advised 5-way lights would be required at the top of the hill and 4 way at the bottom. They would also have to be installed in specific locations to take account of all the junctions at either end. This would mean traffic would be waiting for several minutes before the lights changed allowing them to drive. Further, with an additional pedestrian lights this would add to the waiting time make. Also, the cost to install and monitor these is cost prohibitive. Therefore, highways do not consider traffic lights as a solution.

Cllr Moore was able to provide an update on the inadequate mirror size. Due to the number of complaints highways received it has finally agreed to replace it with a larger mirror and has been procured. It is rectangular, measuring 1 mtr x 800cm, however, it requires specifics fixings. It is not known when the replacement will occur, but there is an assurance it will take place.

11. Urgent items raised by Councillors

- 11.1** Cllr B Harvey-Chadwick reported the defibrillator signage is being organised
- 11.2** The rifle club is in the process of looking for an alternative venue not far from its previous site. They report a growing interest to join. The clerk confirmed a letter of support was sent.

12. Correspondence

- 12.1** Cllr Moore reported he had received a further letter regarding the problem with trees in Santon Way tree. The letter will be forwarded to highways.
- 12.2** Mrs Waterhouse contacted Cllr K Mawson for permission to run the messy church fete on the foreshore. This is an annual event and only lasts a couple of hours. Council agreed. Clerk to contact Mrs Waterhouse of the decision.
- 12.3** The Unity Trust cash card, which allows the Parish Council to deposit donations from the car park honesty box into the Councils account has been passed to the Cllrs.

13. Members of the public questions submitted to Council

- 13.1** It has been reported the toilet blocks tap auto switch off system is not working efficiently and will subsequently mean a greater cost on metered water. Cllr L Mawson advised WD40 will be applied.
- 13.2** Ms Parsons took up the Parish Councils offer to offer suggestions on how to provide a more user-friendly environment on the foreshore for the elderly and disabled. Her proposal included a picnic bench near the boatyard, removal of the play area gravel pit and play poles. The Council advised this would require planning permission and further advised there is already a picnic area on the foreshore, which is accessible to elderly, the disabled and those with pushchairs and the children can be watched from this point. Ms Parsons said not all want to hear the sound of children and it is also somewhere for dog owners to lease their dogs. The Parish Council questioned if that were the case, why put a picnic bench on the play area? It further advised dogs are prohibited on the play area.
- 13.3** Why aren't Sellafield workers using the Greengarth car park? The Council advised this car park has been sold and there is no contract with Sellafield.

On leaving the meeting Ms Parsons turned at the doorway and gave a Nazi salute.

The Chair declared the meeting closed

14. Dates of forthcoming meetings

Full Council Meeting Wednesday 6th September 2023

Summary of Actions

- (5) 13.3 Cumberland Council Neighbourhood team to be contacted of deterioration of coastal footpath between Sellafield and Seascale – Clerk to action
- 6.1 - 4/22/2301/OF1 planning department notified – Clerk to action
- 6.2 - 4/23/2174/OF1 planning department notified – Clerk to action
- 6.3 – 4/23/2180/OF1 planning department notified – Clerk to action
- 8.3 – library electric cost variances – clerk to contact supplier - Cllr L Mawson and Cllr Moore to arrange meter checks and usage investigation
- 9.3 - Insurance claim to be submitted to insurer – clerk to action
- 12.1 – Foreshore mini fete approved by Council – Clerk to confirm decision to requester