

# SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2014

### Present:

Councillor J Ardron  
Councillor P F Bateman  
Councillor M T Ditchburn  
Councillor C J Holding  
Councillor Mrs J King

Councillor W McIntyre  
Councillor J Musgrave  
Councillor Mrs J Norman (Chairman)  
Councillor J Sandwith  
Councillor Mrs C Tibble

**Clerk:** P Bramley

### **Minute No. 104**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs K P Birkett, Ms M M Gainford, A Grey, Mrs L Harwood & C Woodman.

### **Minute No. 105**

#### **Declarations of Interest**

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor W McIntyre, Item 11, Personal.

### **Minute No. 106**

#### **Requests for Dispensations**

None received.

### **Minute No. 107**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on 20 October 2014**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 20 October 2014 be accepted and signed as a correct record.

### **Minute No. 108**

#### **Police Report**

PCSO Hannah Donaughee sent an update for the previous month. The report advised of:

- The theft of a wing mirror from a vehicle in the Derwent Bank area.
- Youths believed to have been throwing stones towards vehicles outside the One Stop shop.
- Damage to a lock on a gateway drive on Main Road, High Seaton, believed to be by youths.

Talks had been given to schools regarding Halloween & Bonfire Night, & there had been no reported issues for those nights. Councillors had no issues to report.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

## **Minute No. 109**

### **Progress Reports**

#### **1) Clerk**

**Resolved** that the progress report be noted & that:

- a) Following the failure of Cumbria County Council to respond to a request from the Parish Council to meet with Stagecoach to consider the problems of the lack of an evening bus to Seaton from Workington for visitors to West Cumberland Hospital, the Council contact Cumbria County Council again.
- b) The Council contact Cumbria County Council regarding the number of street lights out of action in Seaton, in particular on the Main Road between the Royal Oak & Milburn Croft.

#### **2) Village Hall**

**Resolved** that the progress report be noted & that Councillors J Musgrave & Mrs C Tibble be nominated to represent the Council on the Village Hall Committee, in addition to existing members.

## **Minute No. 110**

### **Allotments**

Members received an update on the position concerning the Council's provision of allotments. It was noted that, in response to the Parish Council's further enquiries on the matter of its request for the Lowca Lane site to be recorded as an asset of community value, Allerdale Borough Council had advised that:

- 1) For any nomination the (Borough) Council is required to notify the relevant parish council, the owner, any lawful occupier and all others with a legal estate. In our notification we ask these parties if they have any information that may be relevant to the nomination. The Council understood from the owner of the land that there were allotment holders on the land, but that they had been asked to vacate.
- 2) The Listing Panel considered the information provided by owner that stated that the intended use for the land was as private grazing, not allotments.
- 3) Only the owner of the asset nominated has a right to appeal the Council's listing decision, (as set out in the legislation).

The Council had also received a number of letters from residents of Seaton concerning their views on the provision of allotments in Seaton.

**Resolved** that the position be noted, & that:

- 1) The Allotments item be considered in advance of Public Questions on future agendas.
- 2) The response from Allerdale Borough Council be noted.
- 3) Members review the letters from residents in advance of the next meeting.

## **Minute No. 111**

### **Public Questions**

- 1) Mr Melia of Jackson Street advised that he considered the Jackson Street Playing Field to be an unsuitable site for a Skate Park. He stated that in his view there were sufficient facilities already on the site, that he was concerned about potential damage to his property & that on occasions in the past when he had called the police, they had been unwilling to address his concerns. He was advised that the Council would be considering the matter later on the agenda.
- 2) Mr P Haughin & Mrs D Ashbridge of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society advised of the benefits of allotments for all members of the community.
- 3) Mr K Leech of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society stated that the previous Clerk to the Council had, some years ago, written to advise allotment holders that the Lowca Lane site had been purchased & that allotment holders had contributed £20 each towards the alleged purchase. He asked of the whereabouts of the £20 he had so contributed.
- 4) Mr P Haughin of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society requested that discussions on allotments in the future be held in public part of the Council meeting.
- 5) Mr R Vaughan of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society asked what the Council's strategy on provision of allotments was. He was advised that the Council had agreed not to consider further the option of a Compulsory Purchase request on the Lowca Lane allotment site before the December Council meeting.
- 6) Mr C Grimley of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society asked what had become of the petition presented to the Council in support of allotments in Seaton. He was advised that it was held by the Council. He also advised of the number of people who had visited the allotments & compared it to the usage of the Village Hall, & the extent of expenditure on that building. He was advised that it had been refurbished through external grant funding.
- 7) Concern was expressed that the Council did not appear to be supportive of the allotment holders.

It was noted that many of the above & other issues raised concerning the allotments had been addressed previously & the Council's comments provided to Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society representatives. It was disappointing to note that a number of questions raised & comments made indicated a lack of knowledge by many of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society members present of previous responses from the Council.

**Resolved** that the Council's support for the allotment holders be noted.

### **Minute No. 112**

#### **County & District Councillors' Reports**

##### **1) Cumbria County Council**

Councillor Mrs C Tibble advised that some fifty lights in Seaton were out of action & that the matter was being pursued. She also advised that she had held discussions with several County Council officers concerning the lack of an evening bus to Seaton from Workington for visitors to West Cumberland Hospital & had asked Stagecoach to reconsider the provision of that bus, but had been advised that Stagecoach was not prepared to offer an unsubsidised service.

**Resolved** that the reports be noted.

### **Minute No. 113**

#### **Application for Financial Assistance – Workington Transport Heritage Trust**

**Resolved** that an award of £100 be made to Workington Transport Heritage Trust to provide a free Boxing Day bus service from Seaton to Workington & Harrington, connected to Maryport, Cockermouth, Whitehaven & the West Cumberland Hospital.

### **Minute No. 114**

#### **Application for Annual Financial Assistance – Allerdale Credit Union**

**Resolved** that the matter be deferred pending the receipt of information previously requested indicating the extent of usage by Seaton residents.

### **Minute No. 115**

#### **Skate Park**

**Resolved** that:

- 1) The Council not proceed with a Skate Park at this stage, given the potential costs.
- 2) Other play equipment & supporting infrastructure be considered for introduction to Jackson Street Playing Field.
- 3) Advice be sought from Allerdale Borough Council on the involvement of Seaton schools in selecting suitable equipment & on potential support funding alternatives.

### **Minute No. 116**

#### **Brick Dubs**

**Resolved** that members of the Brick Dubs Development Working Party visit the Brick Dubs site at 10.00 am on Saturday 22 November to review the site, & that a meeting of the Working Party be arranged to discuss options & agree proposals to put to the next Council meeting.

### **Minute No. 117**

#### **Planning Issues**

**Resolved** that the following observations on planning applications be made:

Reference No:	TPO/13/1950
Applicant:	Mr Ian Blenkinsopp
Proposal:	Works to Tree Preservation Order trees
Location:	73 Whitestiles, Seaton
	<b>No Objections</b>

### **Minute No. 118**

#### **Accounts – November 2014**

**Resolved** that the accounts listed in the schedule totalling £2,845.81, including payments agreed at the meeting, be agreed for payment.

### **Minute No. 119**

#### **Budget Preparation 2015/16**

Members considered a report presented by the Clerk setting out the background to the budget, noting the unavailability at the time of the meeting of information from Allerdale Borough Council concerning the proposed application in 2015/16 of the discretionary support for the local council tax benefit scheme, & the impact of that on the figures under consideration. Members were reminded that the Secretary of State held reserved powers within the Localism Act through which restrictions may be placed on local councils' budget proposals, should such powers be exercised. The Secretary of State's intentions regarding application of such powers for the 2015/16 financial year were not anticipated to be available until January.

The report set out by way of illustration the estimated financial impact of various budgetary increases, taking into account the Council's potential need to provide for the acquisition of the Lowca Lane allotment site, together with some growth in budget to assist with development of the Brick Dubbs site & improvements in Christmas lighting. Members noted the requirement to make provision for the Lowca Lane site & recognised the other growth areas proposed. The Council considered that the desire to provide for these issues needed to be balanced against the potential impact of budgetary increases on the Council Tax levels for the parish.

**Resolved** that an increase in the precept of 5% above that of the current year be agreed, in principle, subject to there being no potentially adverse effect on the Council as a result of the Secretary of State's decision on the criteria for excessive Council Tax increases when announced, & subject to the availability of a similar level of discretionary support for the local council tax benefit scheme to 2014/15 from Allerdale Borough Council.

### **Minute No. 120**

#### **Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

**Resolved** that consideration be given to a funding request received from 1<sup>st</sup> Seaton Brownies at the next meeting.

**Minute No. 121**

**Councillors' Reports**

- 1) It was noted that a damaged Bridleway sign at the junction of Branthwaite Lane with Main Road previously reported to Cumbria County Council had still not been repaired. It was agreed to contact Cumbria County Council again.
- 2) It was reported that, further to the response from Allerdale Borough Council on the provision of doggy bags, (Minute 88 refers), Allerdale had decided to make provision in budget for an additional 500,000 bags, & to contact Parish Councils seeking guidance on a suitable outlet in each parish.
- 3) It was agreed that arrangements for the Christmas Lights switch-on would be determined on behalf of the Council by Councillors Mrs K P Birkett, Mrs L Harwood & Mrs J King.

**Minute No. 122**

**Next Meeting**

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 15 December 2014 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 9.00 pm.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....