

SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2014

Present:

Councillor J Ardron	Councillor C J Holding
Councillor P F Bateman	Councillor Mrs J King
Councillor Mrs K P Birkett (Chairman)	Councillor W McIntyre
Councillor M T Ditchburn	Councillor J Musgrave
Councillor A Grey	Councillor Mrs J Norman
Councillor Mrs L Harwood	Councillor J Sandwith
	Councillor Mrs C Tibble

Clerk: P Bramley

Minute No. 179

Minutes of Meeting held on 20 January 2014

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

Minute No. 180

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor C Woodman.

Minute No. 181

Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Councillor Mrs C Tibble, Item 12, Planning Applications, member of Allerdale Borough Council Development Panel; Councillor Mrs J Norman, Item 12, Planning Application 2/2014/0064, Personal; Councillor Mrs J King, Item 12, Planning Application 2/2014/0064, Personal; Councillor J Sandwith, Item 12, Planning Application WTPO/2014/0001, Personal; & P Bramley, Item 12, Planning Application 2/2013/0054, Personal.

Resolved that the declarations be accepted.

Minute No. 182

Requests for Dispensations

None received.

Minute No. 183

Open Session – Police Report

PCSO Hannah Donaughee reported that:

- Incidents of anti-social behaviour by youths in the vicinity of the shops had been reported & police were continuing to monitor the area.

- A presentation for the poster campaign organised through Seaton Academy concerning parking problems outside the school, which the Council had supported, would take place on Wednesday 26 February at 1.45pm. Council representatives were invited to attend.
- Arrangements would be made for the Police to investigate the ownership of a car transporter which has been parking regularly on double yellow lines at the bottom of Causeway Road, but as the Police would not consider it a 'serious obstruction', it was a matter for Allerdale Borough Council Parking Services.

Resolved that the report be noted & that:

- 1) Depending on availability, Councillors Mrs C Tibble & Mrs J Norman represent the Council at the presentation to be held at Seaton Academy on 26 February.
- 2) Allerdale Borough Council be asked to investigate inappropriate & illegal parking on Causeway Road.
- 3) Allerdale Borough Council be requested to arrange for a Traffic Warden to visit Seaton on a regular basis at appropriate times, with monthly visits requested as a minimum.

Minute No. 184

Open Session – Red Squirrel Support Campaign

Peter Armstrong & Steve Tyson attended the meeting to give an update on their efforts to eradicate grey squirrels in the area, which the Council had financially supported in 2012/13, (Minutes 156 & 185, 2012/13, refer). They reported that in the previous twelve months some forty grey squirrels had been culled in the area & that the red squirrel population was safe & healthy. They planned to continue to monitor the woodland around Seaton where they had been able to gain access, dealing with grey squirrels found before they became established.

Resolved that the Messrs Armstrong & Tyson be thanked for their welcome efforts, they be advised to seek financial support from Iggesund & that consideration of further financial support from the Council be given at the next meeting.

Minute No. 185

Open Session – Seaton Cumbria County Council Member Budget Allowance

Councillor Mrs C Tibble advised that, from the remainder of the balance of Cumbria County Council Member Personal Budget Allowance for the year, she was planning to contribute to a number of areas which the Parish Council had previously agreed to support, such as public footpath repairs, or had directly commissioned, such as Christmas lights.

Resolved that the proposals be welcomed.

Minute No. 186

Open Session – Street Lighting

It was reported that two streetlights on Branthwaite Lane were not functioning.

Resolved that the matter be reported to Councillor Mrs C Tibble & Cumbria Highways.

Minute No. 187

Open Session – Seaton Allerdale Borough Councillor Mr A Lawson

Four members of the public had reported their concerns with what they saw as inappropriate behaviour by Allerdale Borough Council member for Seaton Mr a Lawson, following recent publicity of his ‘neknomination’ actions.

Resolved that the Council contact & advise Mr Lawson of the concerns received.

Minute No. 188

Open Session – Road Signs

It was noted that the signs on Lowca Lane, which had been reported some time ago to Cumbria Highways as requiring missing letters to be replaced, still required attention. It was also noted that the road sign at the bottom of Sunnyside, which is difficult to decipher due to rust, & was also reported to Cumbria Highways some time ago, also still required attention.

Resolved that the matters be reported again to Cumbria Highways.

Minute No. 189

Open Session – Dog Fouling

Continued incidences of dog fouling were reported on Branthwaite Lane & at the junction of Derwent Ridge with Derwent Avenue.

Resolved that Allerdale Borough Council be requested to arrange for ‘No fouling’ stencils to be placed in the area.

Minute No. 190

Correspondence

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted, (note that Councillor Mrs C Tibble left the meeting after Item 6(1)).

Resolved that:

- 1) In response to Cumbria County Council’s consultation on the proposed discontinuance & replacement of Southfield Technology College & Stainburn School & Science College, members submit individual comments as preferred & the Council comment that, given the geographical location of Seaton, it would hope that the selected site was located centrally to reflect this, & had suitable transport links.
- 2) CALC’s letter to Allerdale Borough Council Leader Alan Smith of 28 January, concerning Allerdale’s draft budget proposals, which included a 31% reduction in Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant to local councils, in comparison to a 14% reduction in its overall Revenue Support Grant from government, be supported.
- 3) In respect of a letter from Mrs S Grimley on behalf of Seaton Rugby Club, a request in respect of use of the former football pitch on the Welfare be referred to the Seaton Village Hall Committee, as custodians, & that a request for Seaton Football FC to use the football pitch on Meadow Vale be referred to Seaton Junior Football Club for their views.

- 4) Arrangements & recommendations made by Cumbria County Council for the siting of new bus stops on Church Road, near the main road, & on Causeway Road, near Kelsick Park entrance, be supported.
- 5) It be noted that, further to the Council's budget & precept decision for 2014/15, the government had announced that local councils would not be capped for 2014/15, & that 'larger' town & parish councils had been warned about the potential action in 2015/16, although no definition of what was meant by 'larger' had been provided.
- 6) Allerdale Borough Council be notified that the Parish Council would be represented at its World War 1 Commemorative Event on 10 May be Councillors J Ardron, Mrs K P Birkett, M Ditchburn & J Musgrave.
- 7) No financial support be offered to residents of Park Avenue, Seaton, in respect of proposed improvements to the entrance to Park Avenue, following a letter received from Mr D Jones of 1 Park Avenue, noting the history of efforts made to bring the road up to adoptable standard by various Councils, including the requirement for all residents to agree to the development, & the potential precedent which would be set.
- 8) It be noted that guidance from NALC on changes to staff pension arrangements, introduced by the Pensions Act 2008, appeared to indicate that staff employed by the Council under current terms would qualify as 'entitled workers', meaning that as they currently earned less than £5,668 per annum, they were entitled to require the Council, as employer, to arrange a pension for them, which did not have to be in a 'qualifying scheme' in accordance with the Act, nor would the Council be required to contribute to it.
- 9) No further action be taken at this stage following Allerdale Planning Services indication that, as the footpath constructed at Low Seaton in respect of the new Beech Grove houses appeared not to have caused any issues for Cumbria Highways, nor had any highway safety or amenity issues been identified, Allerdale would not be looking into the matter any further.
- 10) Councillor J Sandwith be nominated to represent the Council on Allerdale Borough Council's peer challenge to assess its Planning Service.
- 11) Imminent changes to the two signatory rule concerning local council cheques would be further considered in line with suitable amendments to the Council's Financial Regulations.
- 12) No comments be offered on Allerdale Borough Council's consultation on main modifications to the Local Plan.
- 13) The letter from Cumbria County Council Countryside Access Officer, stating that the County Council had identified sufficient funds to meet all of the costs of the identified public footpath repairs, for which half of the funding had previously been agreed by the Parish Council, be welcomed, that the Parish Council provide funding originally intended for that purpose, (Minute 154 refers), for a horse barrier to prevent access by horses to the footpath section of the route leading behind Model Row to Fernbank Lane, to be installed by Cumbria County Council, & that the Council support, in principal, to commit funds towards the cost of installing suitable drainage on Public Bridleway 250026, near to New Kelsick Farm, as requested by the Access

Officer, funding for which would also come from the unrequired contribution to the public footpaths.

Minute No. 191

Allotments

Members received an update on the position concerning the Council's former allotment site at Lowca Lane. It was noted that:

- 1) The Council's solicitor had received no response as yet to his letters to Mr Hall & Mr Walker seeking interest in the sale of the Lowca Lane site, & advising of the potential use of by the Council of compulsory acquisition powers.
- 2) The Council would, through its budget setting process for 2014/15, have some £16,800 resources available, to which could potentially be added any unused resources from 2013/14, & any available balances, resulting in a total which could be made available of some £30,000.
- 3) Consideration would need to be given to the level of resources which the Council's former allotment holders could provide & how it was proposed to raise those resources, indicated previously at some £20,000, (Minute 130(4) refers), together with how the future operation of the site linked to the business case developed by Rob McCracken, Secretary of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society, to indicate a potential operational arrangement for the financial management of the allotments.

Resolved that the current position be noted & that no further action be taken at this stage.

Minute No. 192

Scarecrow Festival 2014

Councillor Mrs J Norman offered to organise the 2014 Seaton Scarecrow Festival & sought volunteers to assist with the development & operation of the festival. Councillors Mrs K P Birkett, M Ditchburn, Mrs J King & J Musgrave offered their services.

Resolved that the Council support Councillor Mrs J Norman, that the offers of assistance be welcomed & that a meeting of the Scarecrow Festival Working Party to initiate arrangements for 2014 be held on Tuesday 25 February, to which all members were welcomed.

Minute No. 193

Resolved that an extension beyond 9.00pm be agreed to allow proper consideration of the following items of business.

Minute No.194

Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit 2013/14

Resolved that, from the evidence available, it be considered that the Council's arrangements for Internal Audit, taking into account its size & range of operations, complied with the requirements of the Accounts & Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006.

Minute No. 195

Internal Audit Plan 2014/15

Resolved that the Internal Audit Plan 2014/15 be agreed.

Minute No. 196

Accounts – February 2014

Resolved that the accounts listed in the schedule totalling £3,014.66 be agreed for payment.

Minute No. 197

Planning Issues

Resolved that the following observations on planning applications be made, (note that Councillors Mrs J King & Mrs J Norman left the room for Application 2/2014/0064):

Reference No: 2/2014/0042
Applicant: Mr Brian Rushforth, Eastman Chemical Ltd
Proposal: Installation of new nitrogen generation equipment within existing manufacturing plant. New equipment to be free standing in open, (not enclosed within a building)
Location: Eastman Chemical Ltd, A596 from Wedgewood Street, Siddick, to junction with St Helens Lane, Siddick, Workington
No Objections, subject to emission levels being no greater than as with the existing equipment

Reference No: WTPO/2014/0001
Applicant: Mr P Brown, 41 High Seaton
Proposal: Fell tree
Location: 41 High Seaton, Seaton
No Objections

Reference No: 2/2014/0054
Applicant: Mr Christopher Thompson, Jacobs Stobarts
Proposal: First Floor Extension above existing garage & dining room
Location: 24 Fernleigh Drive, Seaton
No Objections

Reference No: 2/2014/0064
Applicant: Mr David Brown
Proposal: Outline application for two dwellings
Location: Land adjacent to Buildings Farm, Lowca Lane, Seaton
No Objections

Resolved that the following planning application decisions made by Allerdale Borough Council be noted:

Reference No: 2/2013/0885
Applicant: Mr Gary Surtees
Proposal: Alterations to provide additional accommodation
Location: 22 Derwent Ridge, Seaton
APPROVED

Minute No. 198

Village Hall

Councillor M T Ditchburn advised that he had nothing to report & reminded members that the Village Hall Committee Annual General Meeting would be held on Friday 21 February in the Village Hall & that all Council members were welcome to attend.

Resolved that the report be noted.

Minute No.199

Next Meeting

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 17 March 2014 & would follow the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 9.15 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date