

SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2014

Present:

Councillor P F Bateman

Councillor Mrs K P Birkett (Chairman)

Councillor M T Ditchburn

Councillor Mrs M M Gainford

Councillor A Grey

Councillor Mrs L Harwood

Councillor Mrs J King

Councillor W McIntyre

Councillor J Musgrave

Councillor Mrs J Norman

Councillor J Sandwith

Councillor C Woodman

Clerk: P Bramley

Minute No. 159

Minutes of Meeting held on 16 December 2013

Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 16 December 2013 be accepted and signed as a correct record, with the amendment of Minute 150(8) to read Church 'Road' rather than Church 'Lane' in the appropriate place.

Minute No. 160

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs C Tibble.

Minute No. 161

Declarations of Interest

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor Ms M M Gainford, Item 11, Planning Application 2/2013/0885, Personal.

Resolved that the declaration be accepted.

Minute No. 162

Requests for Dispensations

None received.

Minute No. 163

Open Session – Police Report

PCSO Hannah Donaughee reported that there had been no major crime incidents since the previous meeting, but identified the following issues:

- A theft from a property & a smashed window on a Church Road property.
- Continued problems caused by illegal parking outside Seaton Academy, particularly pre-school times.

PCSO Donaughee advised that, with respect to the latter, she was working on a poster campaign with school children, asking people to park more appropriately.

Resolved that the report be noted & that a grant of £80 be awarded to the poster campaign referred to above, to enable the production of two poster designs.

Minute No. 164

Open Session – Branthwaite Lane Signpost

It was reported that the Bridleway signpost at the top of Branthwaite Lane had been damaged.

Resolved that the matter be reported to Cumbria County Council.

Minute No. 165

Open Session – Bus Shelter in Coronation Avenue area

It was reported that the bus shelter for passengers travelling towards Workington near to Coronation Avenue had a damaged window in a dangerous condition.

Resolved that the window be replaced with a metal panel, suitably painted.

Minute No. 166

Open Session – Pot Holes

Pot Holes requiring attention were reported on Calva Brow, in the vicinity of Calva Road, & at the roundabout at the bottom of Calva Brow

Resolved that the matter be reported to Cumbria Highways.

Minute No. 167

Open Session – Safety Group

A member of the public had asked about the status of Seaton Safety Group, formerly chaired by Trevor Fee. Councillor Mrs L Harwood advised that she was the secretary of the group, that it had received some £1,500 as a grant to support safety measures in the area, but had not met for some time. Councillor Harwood agreed to arrange a meeting of the group.

Resolved that the matter be noted.

Minute No. 168

Open Session – Blocked Drains

It was reported that a number of drains were blocked on Lowca Lane & a letter from Mr Thompson of Lowca Lane expressing concern at the infrequency of drain cleaning was presented. A similar problem was reported regarding drains at the end of Coronation Avenue.

Resolved that the matter be reported to Cumbria Highways.

Minute No. 169

Open Session – Flooding

Councillor Mrs C Tibble reported that she was working to address flooding problems & the issue of sand bag supply.

Resolved that the matter be noted.

Minute No. 170

Open Session – Street Lighting

Councillor Mrs C Tibble reported that she was looking into the problem of lack of or withdrawal of street lighting.

Resolved that the matter be noted & that members contact Councillor Tibble with location details, including post number where relevant, where areas were experiencing lighting problems.

Minute No. 171

Correspondence

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

Resolved that:

- 1) Chairman Mrs K P Birkett be nominated for selection by CALC for attendance at the Royal Garden Parties in 2014.
- 2) The Council contact Iggesund to express its disappointment at proposals referred to in its Liaison Meeting 10.12.13 notes regarding the continued development of Wind Turbines on its land, given, in particular, that the company had previously stated that the development was to make the plant self-sufficient in energy supply, whereas the subsequent biomass generator development was supposed to have provided sufficient supply to achieve such a purpose.
- 3) No comments be submitted concerning Allerdale Borough Council's consultation on its Annual Council Plan Review.
- 4) Having ascertained that Seaton Junior School was responsible for maintenance of one side, Cumbria Countryside Access Officer be contacted to ascertain responsibility for maintenance of the hedge on the opposite side to the school of the lane from Quality Corner to Seaton Junior School.
- 5) No further action be taken regarding concerns at the layout of the footpath at Low Seaton, in connection with the new housing development at Beech Grove, pending a response from Cumbria County Council to the Council's comments forwarded via Allerdale Planning Services.
- 6) Concern be expressed at United Utilities' proposals, as a part of its Drought Plan, to pipe water for domestic & commercial supply from Thirlmere, particularly given its history of low levels of water & that it supplies the Manchester area. Also, that confirmation of the source of water for the Seaton area be sought &, if that was not Crummock Water, it be suggested that it be a much more suitable source for the area.

Minute No. 172

Allotments

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

- 1) Following the Council's request, its solicitor had forwarded a letter 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's solicitor was holding the letter agreed for the Council's former allotment site tenants, addressing their continued occupation of the site, pending receipt of a response from Mr Hall & Mr Walker. In this respect, his advice was that the letter should not be sent to occupants of plots who were not tenants of the Council at 1 March 2013.
- 3) Rob McCracken, Secretary of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society, had carried out further investigatory work into potential funding for development of the site.
- 4) Further to a question from Mr K Sloan, Chairman of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society, the Council had received a letter from Sir Tony Cunningham, which had been listed in correspondence received by the Council at its meeting on 16 December. It was further noted that, despite apparent assurances given to members of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society who had met with him, Sir Tony had not made any reference in his letter to it being read out at a Council meeting, nor had he the power to require that to be done.

Resolved that the current position be noted & that:

- 1) Following his further investigation into potential funding for development of the site, Mr McCracken be invited to outline his findings.
- 2) The Council seek to arrange a meeting between Sir Tony Cunningham, MP, & the Council's representatives on the Allotment Working Party.

Minute No. 173

Budget & Precept 2014/15

Following receipt of an update on the estimated impact of Allerdale Borough Council's notified level of discretionary support grant for the local council tax benefit scheme, it was noted that the grant level was some 30% lower than in 2013/14, which impacted on the decision taken by the Council at its meeting on 18 November 2013, (minute 133 refers), & therefore it was appropriate for the Council to further consider its proposals for 2014/15 & the proposed timescale of its notification of its precept requirement for 2014/15 to Allerdale Borough Council. It was also noted that no decision had, as yet, been communicated by the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government regarding his decision on the criteria for excessive Council Tax increases. In considering the potential impact on options, the Council agreed by a vote of 10 to 2 to a 10% increase in the level of Council Tax, after having taken account of the level of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant provided by Allerdale Borough Council. Councillor P Bateman requested that it be minuted that he favoured an increase of 20%.

Resolved that that an increase in the precept for 2014/15, supporting a Council Tax increase of 10% above that of 2013/14, be agreed, taking account of the level of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant provided by Allerdale Borough Council, & 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.

Minute No. 174

Finance Report

Members received a report showing actual expenditure & income for the period 1 April to 31 December 2013, in comparison to budget.

Resolved that the report be agreed.

Minute No. 175

Accounts – January 2014

Resolved that the accounts listed in the schedule totalling £2,588.89, including additional payments agreed at the meeting, be agreed for payment.

Minute No. 176

Planning Issues

Resolved that the following observations on planning applications made:

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

No Objections

Minute No. 177

Village Hall

Councillor M T Ditchburn reported that the Village Hall Committee Annual General Meeting would be held on Friday 21 February in the Village Hall; all Council members were welcome to attend.

Resolved that the report be noted.

Minute No.178

Next Meeting

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 17 February 2014 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 8.45 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date