

SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2015

Present:

Councillor P F Bateman	Councillor R McCracken
Councillor M T Ditchburn	Councillor J Musgrave
Councillor A Grey	Councillor Mrs J Norman
Councillor Mrs L Harwood (Chairman)	Councillor J Sandwith
Councillor D Horsley	Councillor Mrs C Tibble
Councillor M I Jenkinson	

Clerk: P Bramley

Minute No. 116

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C J Holding, K Slone & C Woodman. A request was presented on behalf of Councillor Woodman for approval for his extended absence from Council meetings due to poor health.

Resolved that the Council agree to grant dispensation to Councillor C Woodman for his absence from Council meetings.

Minute No. 117

Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Councillor M T Ditchburn, Item 18, Planning Application 2/2015/0673, Personal; & Councillor Mrs J Norman, Item 10, Personal.

Resolved that the declarations of interest be noted.

Minute No. 118

Requests for Dispensations

None received.

Minute No. 119

Minutes of Meeting held on 19 October 2015

Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 19 October 2015 be accepted and signed as a correct record.

Minute No. 120

Police Report

None received.

Minute No. 121

Progress Reports

1) Clerk

Resolved that the progress report be noted.

2) Village Hall

Resolved that it be noted that fund raising for the disabled access works had reached the half-way point & that the Annual General Meeting would be held on 22 February 2016.

Minute No. 122

Allotments

Members received an update on the position concerning the Council's arrangements for the provision of allotments.

- 1) The opinion received from the Barrister hired by the Council to advise on the likelihood of success of a compulsory acquisition of the Lowca Lane site was discussed further. Councillor R McCracken expressed concerns that the Council may not have recognised the detail of the guidance & its conclusion sufficiently. He was concerned that the Council may give further consideration to land previously offered by Cumbria County Council at Siddick as a potential allotment site & stated that, as well as being close to the A596, the site was contaminated, referring to a site visit by a representative of the National Allotment Society, which he stated was supported by a letter confirming the land as being contaminated.
- 2) Councillor McCracken was advised that the Council was concerned to ensure that it could support its decision to reject the site at Siddick as being unsuitable, in part due to its apparent contamination, with a technical report. He was reminded that the letter from the representative of the National Allotment Society appeared to have been written without a site visit or any testing having been carried out, & to have been based on information given to the author of that letter. It was further clarified that the Council had concerns with statements made by the barrister that he was not an expert in the field of compulsory acquisition, as well as comments made concerning the potential effects of how the land at Lowca Lane was currently being used, on an attempted compulsory acquisition.
- 3) The Clerk had received no further response from Persimmon Homes regarding possible use of land at the western end of Meadow Vale as allotments.

Resolved that the position be noted & that:

- 1) The Council take formal action to attempt to purchase the land at the western end of Meadow Vale for allotments, through its solicitor.
- 2) If necessary, the Council seek guidance from its solicitor on its right as a community to acquire the land at the western end of Meadow Vale, given its unused status.

Minute No. 123

Public Questions

- 1) Mr P Haughin of Seaton Allotment & Gardeners Society stated that he was under the impression that land at Siddick offered to the Parish Council by Cumbria County Council had been ruled out as not being suitable on safety grounds, & was concerned that progress was not being made on the matter of the provision of an allotment site.

- 2) Mr Haughin asked about a site inspection of the land at Meadow Vale with Mr I Mitchell which had been previously been discussed & was advised that it appeared that Mr Mitchell's correspondence with Persimmon, passed on to the Council, had overridden the proposal to hold a site visit. Mr Haughin asked for details of the level of response to work the Council was undertaking, through Groundwork North East & Cumbria, on potential developments at Jackson Street Playing Field & Brick Dubs.
- 3) Mr Haughin asked for a copy of the Barrister's opinion to the Council on the likelihood of a compulsory acquisition of land at Lowca Lane being successful, which was agreed, subject to observation of suitable protocols on the application & distribution of its contents.

Minute No. 124

County & District Councillors' Reports

1) Allerdale Borough Council

Councillor J Sandwith reported that he had contacted County Highways concerning a street light near the garage which wasn't working.

Councillor M I Jenkinson advised that he had nothing to report.

2) Cumbria County Council

Councillor Mrs C Tibble advised that efforts were being made to recruit a School Crossing Patrol Officer for Seaton Academy, although a suitable road crossing was seen to be the longer term objective. She had confirmed that Seaton ARLFC Car Park was still available to the parents taking children to & collecting them from the school. She advised that parking enforcement action was currently being undertaken at schools. Given the extent of traffic using Seaton Main Road, a full traffic survey was being carried out.

Resolved that the reports be accepted.

Minute No. 125

Request for Financial Assistance – Seaton Diamonds Girls' Football Team

Resolved that a grant of £200 be awarded to Seaton Diamonds Girls' Football Team towards the running costs of the team minibus.

Minute No. 126

Public Footpaths (Rights of Way)

Resolved that the Council note & agree the quote received of £1,748 towards the following works, to be met from Councillor Mrs Tibble's Cumbria County Council ward budget:

- 1) The application of surface dressing to the path from the Old Vicarage on Camerton Road to the footbridge.
- 2) Improvements to the old path on Scaw Bank, through widening & fencing the path in appropriate places.
- 3) The addition of railings to the path from Coronation Avenue to Barepot.
- 4) The addition of hand rails to the bridge on the path from West Croft to Low Seaton.

Minute No. 127

Recognition of Public Spirited Seaton People

Resolved that the following basis & arrangements for the operation of the award to recognise public spirited people in Seaton by the Council, as recommended by the respective Working Party, be agreed:

- 1) To qualify for an award, a person must be a resident of Seaton at the time of the making of the award. For clarification, a person working in or on behalf of the parish but not resident will be disqualified.
- 2) The award will be made annually in January.
- 3) The award will consist of the recognition of two individuals, one for their contribution as an individual & one for their contribution as a part of a group.
- 4) The winner of an award will be named 'Community Champion'.
- 5) Winners of the award will be selected by a panel to consist of three Seaton Parish Councillors, (those on the Working Party for the first award) , the Seaton Vicar & a Seaton School Headteacher.
- 6) An invitation will be issued annually to residents of the parish to nominate worthy individuals for consideration by the panel by means of a nomination form.
- 7) The basic criteria for qualification, in addition to being a Seaton Parish resident, shall be that their role is:
 - a) Non-profit-making.
 - b) One that adds value to the community.
 - c) One that has taken place over a period of time or over the previous year.
- 8) The nomination form will be a simple one requiring the nominator to provide:
 - a) Their own details.
 - b) Details of the nominee.
 - c) Reasons in support of the nomination.
- 9) Nominations forms will be made available at suitable venues in Seaton & be returnable to those venues & to the Clerk.
- 10) Nominations will be invited during December each year, with a closing date of 31 December, with a view to making the awards at the January meeting of the Parish Council.
- 11) The award will be a suitably engraved piece which the winner keeps.
- 12) Members & employees of the Parish Council are excluded from the award.

Minute No. 128

Allerdale Borough Council Community Grant Application 2015/16

Resolved that it be agreed to support the application of Allerdale Borough Council Community Grant funding on the following projects, to a maximum of the amounts indicated, & that those projects be proposed to Allerdale :

- 1) Meadow Vale Car Park resurfacing, (£1,500).
- 2) Community Garden Development support, (subject to agreement by Seaton Village Hall Committee), to consist of three polytunnels & suitable fencing, (£2,900).
- 3) Trees, (five), on the greens at Seaton Shops crossroads, (£800).
- 4) 'Welcome to Seaton' sign, Calva Brow, (£1,000).

- 5) A wall mounted & a post mounted notice board, (£1,300).
- 6) Recycled plastic seats, (three), on the greens at Seaton Shops crossroads, (& the re-siting of the existing seat), (£2,500).

Minute No. 129

Christmas Celebrations

Resolved that progress in developing arrangements by Councillor Mrs Tibble & the Clerk be supported, including provision of a grant towards the running costs of a bus, if available, to be operated by the Transport Heritage Group.

Minute No. 130

Public Presentation of Council News & Information

Resolved that the Council support the introduction of a local newsletter on a quarterly basis in a suitable format to be agreed.

Minute No. 131

Seaton Evening Bus Service

Resolved that the Council provide financial support for the introduction of a bus service from Workington to Seaton at 10pm, in line with proposals put forward by Stagecoach, to run for a three month trial period to commence as soon as practical.

Minute No. 132

Brick Dubs

Resolved that, following the completion of the work commissioned from Groundwork North East & Cumbria, (Minute 192 2015/16 refers), the Council invite a representative from the organisation to a future meeting to present the findings of their work & proposals on how the Council might progress the development of the site.

Minute No. 133

Meeting Extension

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

Minute No. 134

Planning Issues

Resolved that the following observations on planning applications be made:

Reference No:	2/2015/0639
Applicant:	Mr Peter Vaughan
Proposal:	Two storey extension to side & single storey extension to rear
Location:	19 Kings Avenue, Seaton

No Objections

Reference No: 2/2015/0667
Applicant: Miss R L Johnston
Proposal: Demolition of garage & rebuild with first floor extension
Location: 55 Kelsick Park, Seaton
No Objections

Reference No: 2/2015/0673
Applicant: Mr M Thompson
Proposal: Formation of disabled ramp & parking place
Location: Seaton Village Hall, Causeway Road, Seaton
No Objections

Reference No: 2/2015/0680
Applicant: Mrs Christine Banks
Proposal: Formation of two permanent classrooms, withdrawal area & associated toilet facilities on existing school site
Location: Seaton Academy, Main Road, Seaton
No Objections

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

Reference No: 2/2014/0737
Applicant: Mr Hennie Van Der Westhuizen, Iggesund Paperboard (Workington) Ltd
Proposal: Erection of two wind turbines 65m to hub, 110m to tip, & ancillary infrastructure
Location: Iggesund (Paperboard) Workington Ltd, Siddick
REFUSED

Reference No: 2/2015/0577
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Bamford
Proposal: Single storey side extension to provide kitchen, dining room & day room including removal of chimney stack
Location: 12 Whitestiles, Seaton
APPROVED

Reference No: 2/2015/0296
Applicant: Mr Ken Wilson
Proposal: Installation of single wind turbine
Location: Moor House Farm, Winscales, Workington
REFUSED

Minute No. 135

Accounts – November 2015

Resolved that the accounts listed in the schedule, totalling £1,878.15, including payments agreed at the meeting, be agreed for payment.

Minute No. 136

Budget 2016/17

Members considered a report presented by the Clerk setting out the background to the budget & the uncertainties behind some of the figures. 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 2016/17 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 Dubs site & improvements in Christmas lighting. Members noted the requirement to make provision for the Lowca Lane site & recognised the other growth areas proposed.

Resolved that the Council agree to retain Council Tax levels in 2016/17 at the same rate as in 2015/16, subject to the availability of discretionary support for the local council tax benefit scheme from Allerdale Borough Council.

Minute No. 137

Correspondence

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

Resolved that:

- 1) Further to the NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group consultation on Maternity Services, the Council propose that no maternity services should be transferred from Whitehaven & that the Maternity Service be a doctor, rather than a nurse, led unit.
- 2) Further to a request from Mr & Mrs Melia of Braeside, Seaton that the Council hold a site visit at Jackson Street Playing Field regarding a fence to protect their property, they be advised that their request would be considered as a part of the development proposals for the site.
- 3) Further to the response received from St Joseph's Catholic High School concerning a dedicated school bus service, the Council contact Workington Academy seeking a response to its correspondence with that school on the same matter.
- 4) Story Homes be invited to a future meeting of the Council to discuss its proposals for a housing development at High Seaton.
- 5) Consideration of Allerdale Borough Council's draft budget consultation be deferred to the next meeting.
- 6) The operator of the Seaton Baby & Toddler Group be requested to specify the level of annual funding she was seeking.

Minute No. 138

Councillors' Reports

- 1) It was agreed to consider the possibility of a Neighbourhood Development Plan being developed at a future meeting.
- 2) It was agreed to consider further a Community Plan at a future meeting.
- 3) It was reported that the flooding problem at the bottom of Branthwaite Lane had now been resolved.
- 4) It was reported that the water leak at Causeway Road had become a private legal matter.

Minute No. 139

Next Meeting

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 21 December 2015 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 9.35 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date