

# SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2015

### **Present:**

Councillor P F Bateman

Councillor A Grey

Councillor Mrs L Harwood (Chairman)

Councillor D Horsley

Councillor Mrs J Norman

Councillor J Sandwith

Councillor K Slone

Councillor Mrs C Tibble

**Clerk:** P Bramley

### **Minute No. 94**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M T Ditchburn, M Jenkinson, R McCracken, J Musgrave & C Woodman.

### **Minute No. 95**

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were received from Councillor Mrs L Harwood, Item 16, Planning Applications 2/2015/0611, Personal; & Councillor K Slone, Item 7, Personal.

**Resolved** that the declarations of interest be noted.

### **Minute No. 96**

#### **Requests for Dispensations**

None received.

### **Minute No. 97**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on 21 September 2015**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September 2015 be accepted and signed as a correct record.

### **Minute No. 98**

#### **Police Report**

None received.

### **Minute No. 99**

#### **Progress Reports**

##### **1) Clerk**

**Resolved** that the progress report be noted, that Seaton Evening Bus Service be added to the next meeting agenda & that Allerdale Borough Council be requested to move the litter bin attached to a nearby lamp post to the post holding the Bridleway sign at the top end of Branthwaite Lane.

## **2) Village Hall**

**Resolved** that the report be noted & that works to improve disabled facilities at the village hall be welcomed.

### **Minute No. 100**

#### **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. It appeared that there remained a number of uncertainties & issues not fully considered, in particular, concerning the position on land offered by Cumbria County Council.
- 2) The Clerk had received no further response from Persimmon Homes regarding possible use of land at the western end of Meadow Vale as allotments.
- 3) Councillor Mrs L Harwood had received further information Mr Ian Mitchell concerning the piece of land beyond & to the west of Meadow Vale football field which had been a 'stint'. Whilst this had previously been stated to have been uncertain ownership, Mr Mitchell had located papers indicating that the land had been sold by his father to Twinames, predecessors of Persimmon Homes, & had been in contact with Persimmon Homes concerning the land.
- 4) The Clerk advised the boundary between the land conveyed to the Council & that sold by Mr Mitchell senior was uncertain. He had contacted the Managing Director of Persimmon Homes, linking together the land referred to by Mr Mitchell & correspondence on that with correspondence on the land conveyed to the Parish Council at Meadow Vale, stating the Council's aim to develop allotments together with potential interest in purchasing the land which Mr Mitchell had referred to. No response had yet been received.

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

- 1) Further to the Council's previous decision concerning the selection of any land for developing allotments, (Minute 57 refers), no decision be taken at this stage concerning the Lowca Lane site, following receipt of the opinion of the Barrister hired by the Council to advise on the likelihood of success of a compulsory acquisition of the Lowca Lane site.
- 2) The action of the Chairman & the Clerk concerning land at Meadow Vale be endorsed & information sought from Allerdale Borough Council on the Section 106 agreement associated with the Meadow Vale estate development.

### **Minute No. 101**

#### **Public Questions**

No questions submitted.

## **Minute No. 102**

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

#### **1) Allerdale Borough Council**

Councillor J Sandwith reported that he had been contacted concerning anti social behaviour on wasteland near Barnett Drive but had been unable to contact the Police. It was agreed that the Clerk should make the Police aware of the problem. Councillor Sandwith also advised that the agreement reached with United Utilities & Cumbria County Council representatives concerning rectification of the flooding problem on Branthwaite Lane had been withdrawn.

Councillor Mrs C Tibble advised on the budget settlement figures for Cumbria Police. Following a change in the formula for grant distribution by the government, Cumbria Police was the hardest hit by reductions in grant funding in the country. It was reported that the new formula included a number of criteria not applicable to the unique problems experienced by Cumbria, in terms of area, sparsity & rurality, had been introduced, such as 'bars per hectare' & 'number of houses in council tax bands E & above. The former was believed by the government to indicate crime levels & the latter to indicate the amount of council tax an area could collect. Savings of some £16 million had been introduced since 2009, but the new settlement would require savings of another £25 million by 2020. This would entail reducing the number of police officers by around 450, leaving 600 to police the county, meaning, when shift patterns were taken into account, that only around 200 officers would be on duty at a time. It was reported that Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner Richard Rhodes had tried to arrange a meeting with the Minister for Police, who had refused the request. It is understood that the thirteen authorities in the country which had suffered a reduction in grant were challenging the government through a judicial review, which would question the basis of the formula & the level of consultation on it.

#### **2) Cumbria County Council**

Councillor Mrs C Tibble advised that she had reviewed highways problems in the parish with County Highways Area Manager Karl Melville. Mr Melville had concerns with a number of areas, including the condition of road markings, the state of road signs & repairs required to Church Road. It was considered that costs previously supplied to upgrade the crossing at Seaton garage had not taken into account the existence of a crossing at the site, & that the cost of upgrading to a button controlled crossing would be checked. Drainage problems on the main road under the bridge by Seaton Academy would also be investigated, including ownership of the trees on the banking in that area. The possibility of installing a crossing in that vicinity would be considered, as well as that of siting a 'sleeping policeman' at the entrance to Ling Beck Park. The ongoing problem of flooding at Fernleigh Close was being investigated.

**Resolved** that the reports be accepted.

### **Minute No. 103**

#### **Public Footpaths (Rights of Way)**

**Resolved** that the Council note the availability of some £1,900 from Councillor Mrs Tibble's Cumbria County Council ward budget that had been agreed to be allocated towards works on rights of way in Seaton & that it be agreed that it be applied to the specified works on the following paths, with priority to be determined by the Council in the event that estimated costs exceed funding:

- 1) Application of surface dressing to the path from the Old Vicarage on Camerton Road to the footbridge.
- 2) Upgrade as necessary newer path on Scaw Bank & close old path, due to potential safety issues.
- 3) Add railings to the path from Coronation Avenue to Barepot.
- 4) Add hand rails to the bridge on the path from West Croft to Low Seaton.

### **Minute No. 104**

#### **Recognition of Public Spirited Seaton People**

**Resolved** that the introduction of an award policy for the recognition of public spirited Seaton people be agreed & that the Council appoint a group of representatives, consisting of Councillors Mrs L Harwood, Mrs J Norman & Mrs C Tibble, to consider potential arrangements for its administration.

### **Minute No. 105**

#### **Allerdale Borough Council Community Grant Application 2015/16**

**Resolved** that it be noted that Council representatives had met with Allerdale Borough Council Town Centre Manager Toni Magean & had developed some proposals which Mr Magean had indicated would be acceptable for which costs were being investigated in order to report back to the next meeting of the Council.

### **Minute No. 106**

#### **Christmas Celebrations**

**Resolved** that progress in developing arrangements by Councillor Mrs Tibble & the Clerk be supported.

### **Minute No. 107**

#### **Public Presentation of Council News & Information**

**Resolved** that the item be deferred until the next meeting.

### **Minute No. 108**

#### **Flag Pole**

**Resolved** that the acquisition of a flag pole which can be attached to the Parish Rooms be agreed & that the Clerk be authorised to make arrangements as necessary, subject to a maximum budget of £500.

**Minute No. 109**

**Planning Issues**

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

Reference No: 2/2015/0593  
Applicant: Mr Don Lord, UK Sustainable Energy  
Proposal: Construction of 5MWp Solar Park & ancillary development  
Location: Land adjacent to St Helens Lane, Flimby, Maryport  
**Objection on the grounds of prominent visual impact, high impact for recreational users & residents, & cumulative visual impact taking into account the abundance of wind turbines & the open location on sloping ground.**

Reference No: 2/2015/0611  
Applicant: Mr D Allison, Castle Surveyors  
Proposal: Single storey steel frame garage extension, (resubmission of 2/2015/0374)  
Location: 9 Church Road, Seaton  
**No Objections**

Reference No: 2/2015/0614  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs A Dover  
Proposal: Demolish utility room to rear & construct single storey dining room  
Location: 63 Main Road, Seaton  
**No Objections**

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

Reference No: 2/2015/0485  
Applicant: Mr Jason Lowden  
Proposal: Extension to cattle shed  
Location: St Helens Farm, St Helens Lane, Flimby, Maryport  
**APPROVED**

Reference No: 2/2015/0542  
Applicant: Mr Mark Ivison  
Proposal: Erection of two bungalows with living accommodation in roof space  
Location: Land adjacent to Buildings Farm, Lowca Lane, Seaton  
**APPROVED**

### **Minute No. 110**

#### **Accounts – October 2015**

**Resolved** that the accounts listed in the schedule, totalling £2,418.18, be agreed for payment.

### **Minute No. 111**

#### **Finance Report**

Members received a report showing actual expenditure & income for the period 1 April to 30 September 2015, in comparison to budget.

**Resolved** that the report be agreed.

### **Minute No. 112**

#### **Audit of Annual Return 2014/15**

The Council considered a report from BDO Stoy Hayward LLP on the audit for the year 2014/15. It was noted that no matters of concern had been raised by the auditors.

**Resolved:** that the audited Annual Return 2014/15 be agreed.

### **Minute No. 113**

#### **Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) No comments be offered on Allerdale Borough Council Planning Services consultation on its Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document.
- 2) No comments be offered on Cumbria County Council's Cumbria Minerals & Waste Local Plan 2014 to 2029 Supplementary Sites consultation.
- 3) Councillors D Horsley & K Slone be registered to attend the CALC training course, 'The Good Councillor', to take place on 10 November, & Councillor R McCracken be offered the opportunity to also attend.
- 4) That a funding request from Seaton Diamonds Girl's Football Team be considered at the next meeting.

### **Minute No. 114**

#### **Councillors' Reports**

- 1) It was reported that one of the flashing lights on the pedestrian crossing at Seaton Service Station was not operating & agreed that the matter be reported to Cumbria County Council.
- 2) It was reported that the Environment Agency had not attended to the problem with rats previously reported at Donald Road, which were considered to be a health risk & agreed that the matter be reported to Allerdale Borough Council.
- 3) It was agreed that an item on Brick Dubs would be added to the next meeting agenda.
- 4) It was agreed to investigate the fitting of an external light to the church end of the Parish Rooms.
- 5) It was reported that there appeared to be little enthusiasm amongst the population for a 'Scary Crow' display at the end of October.

**Minute No. 115**

**Next Meeting**

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 16 November 2015 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 9.00 pm.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....