

# SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2014

### **Present:**

Councillor P F Bateman

Councillor Mrs K P Birkett (Chairman)

Councillor M T Ditchburn

Councillor Ms M M Gainford

Councillor A Grey

Councillor Mrs L Harwood

Councillor Mrs J King

Councillor W McIntyre

Councillor J Musgrave

Councillor J Sandwith

Councillor Mrs C Tibble

Councillor C Woodman

**Clerk:** P Bramley

### **Minute No. 123**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs J Norman.

### **Minute No. 124**

#### **Declarations of Interest**

None received.

### **Minute No. 125**

#### **Requests for Dispensations**

None received.

### **Minute No. 126**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on 17 November 2014**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 17 November 2014 be accepted and signed as a correct record.

### **Minute No. 127**

#### **Police Report**

PCSO Hannah Donaughee sent an update for the previous month. The report advised of the theft of a pot planter from a garden on Camerton Road. Councillors had no issues to report.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **Minute No. 128**

#### **Progress Reports**

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

**Resolved** that the progress report be noted & that the general lack of responses to matters raised with Cumbria County Council be also noted.

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

**Resolved** that it be noted that there were no matters to report.

## **Minute No. 129**

### **Allotments**

Members received an update on the position concerning the Council's provision of allotments. It was noted that:

- 1) Members had received copies of six letters presented at the last meeting from residents of Seaton concerning their views on the provision of allotments in Seaton, together with copies of two further letters on the matter received since the meeting.
- 2) The Chairman summarised the discussions held at a meeting of the Allotment Working Party, which had been held on 11 December, at which Mr R McCracken, Secretary of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society, had expressed his concerns that the Council was not moving forward on the matter of allotments provision, & that significant amounts of money had been spent by the Council on other projects in the parish without a decision to separately consult the public having been taken.
- 3) The Chairman advised that she was aware that others in the parish had concerns at the potential costs involved in the provision of allotments.
- 4) The Council agreed to consider four possible options:
  - a) No further action be taken. The Lowca Lane site had been sold privately, a notice to quit had been served, & whilst the Council had a duty to provide allotments, its attempts to locate suitable alternative land within the parish had not proved successful.
  - b) A Parish Poll be held. A poll would enable the electorate to express its views on the Council incurring expenditure necessary to compulsorily acquire the Lowca Lane site. The poll would be run by Allerdale Borough Council, & could be operated as an individual poll, or as a part of the elections process in May, which would be considerably less costly.
  - c) Write again to the Lowca Lane site owners asking to meet & discuss a private sale. Whilst letters sent previously on the matter had not received a response, it might be worth a further attempt.
  - d) Pursue a Compulsory Acquisition of the Lowca Lane site. At the Allotment Working Party meeting held on 11 December, Society members had agreed that a sum of £10,000 could be provided immediately, if the Council could provide £15,000. Allerdale Borough Council could be approached to request that they proceed with the compulsory process & any details discussed further by the Allotment Working Party. The arrangement for the receipt of funding from the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society would need to be made with no liability falling on the Council to return the monies.

A further proposal that a status quo position be taken was not supported.

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

- 1) The Council write to the owners of the Lowca Lane allotment site, inviting them to discuss a private sale of the site to the Parish Council.
- 2) In the event of no response to the invitation being received by the next meeting, the Council pursue a compulsory acquisition in line with option (4) (d) above.

### **Minute No. 130**

#### **Public Questions**

- 1) Mr K Slone reported continuing concerns that the cycleway on the bridge over the Main Road near to Seaton shops flooded regularly, causing a problem for users. The matter had previously been reported to Sustrans, (per Minute 109/2013), the responsible operators, who had agreed to investigate possible mitigating action, but had failed to respond to a further request for a progress report. It was agreed to again follow the matter up with Sustrans.
- 2) Mr R McCracken referred to the Allotment Working Party meeting held on 11 December, & commented that he had checked the residencies listed on the petition presented to the Council on 18 November 2013 (Minute 131(4)/13 refers), & calculated that some 95% of those who had supported the petition were Seaton residents. He stated that he had found it frustrating to not be able to take part in the Council's discussion on the allotments under the previous item, & that he considered that a poll would have been embarrassing. On being reminded that the Council had not supported a poll, he stated that he supported the Council's agreed route & that it was important for the village & its children that the Council was successful.

### **Minute No. 131**

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

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

Councillor Mrs C Tibble advised that she had arranged for a contribution of some £3,000 towards refurbishment of Seaton Village Hall toilets from her County Council ward budget. She drew members' attention to the problem faced by principal authorities where more responsibilities were being given whilst resources were being reduced by the government. She advised that health care was a particular issue, exacerbated by the reduction in bus services, & that she was looking at ways for local pharmacies to provide more health care.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **Minute No. 132**

#### **Application for Financial Assistance – 1<sup>st</sup> Seaton Brownies**

**Resolved** that an award of £200 be made to 1<sup>st</sup> Seaton Brownies to enable each brownie to be presented with a photo book commemorating their centenary year.

### **Minute No. 133**

#### **Brick Dubs**

It was reported that the Brick Dubs Working Party had met on 9 December, where, following consideration of the findings of their site visits, members had agreed to a basic plan to dig out part of the wet area on the site & place an arced concrete dam in place, to allow a low depth pond to develop over a period of time on the site where a natural pond formerly existed. The Working Party had also agreed to the trimming & removal of some of the gorse bushes to open the site for further potential development once it was clear what the impact of the dam work was. The estimated cost of the work was £600. In addition, the Working Party had agreed that the Siddick Pond Nature Reserve Group should be approached for advice.

**Resolved** that the proposals made by the Brick Dubs Working Party at its meeting held on 9 December be agreed & the work authorised to proceed.

### **Minute No. 134**

#### **Planning Issues**

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

Reference No: 2/2014/0812  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs A Begley  
Proposal: Conversion of existing garage to kitchen & erection of new garage  
Location: 1 Ling Beck View, Seaton

**No Objections**

Reference No: 2/2014/0827  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs A Begley  
Proposal: Rear addition to existing dwelling to provide improved kitchen/dining facilities  
Location: 22 Yearl Rise, Seaton

**No Objections**

Reference No: 2/2014/0833  
Applicant: Mr A D Allison  
Proposal: Outline application for erection of single storey dwelling  
Location: Barncroft, 16 High Seaton, Seaton

**No Objections, however, the Planning Authority be notified that the land in that vicinity had in the past been subject to subsidence affecting back gardens of properties on Fernleigh Close adjoining the land.**

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

Reference No: 2/2014/0670  
Applicant: Mr S S Deo, Poundsavers  
Proposal: Change of use to convert & extend garage into four 2 bedroom flats  
Location: Poundsavers, Hunters Drive, Seaton  
**APPROVED**

Reference No: 2/2014/0700  
Applicant: Mr Barry Quayle  
Proposal: Removal of garage & erect two storey extension  
Location: 6 Seaton Park, Seaton  
**APPROVED**

### **Minute No. 135**

#### **Accounts – December 2014**

**Resolved** that the accounts listed in the schedule totalling £1,755.22, including payments agreed at the meeting, be agreed for payment.

### **Minute No. 136**

#### **Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) The Council offer no comments on the Cumbria County Council Flood Risk Strategy.
- 2) The Council thank Mr D Williamson of Low Seaton for his offer of £1,000 towards a Skate Park, asking if he would like to make, as an alternative, a financial contribution towards other play equipment for older children being considered by the Council.

### **Minute No. 137**

#### **Councillors' Reports**

- 1) It was noted that the lamp on Branthwaite Lane had been repaired.
- 2) 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.
- 3) It was noted that the 30 mph warning sign on Seaton Main Road at the top of Calva Brow had still not been repaired. It was agreed to ask Cumbria County Council for a progress report.

### **Minute No. 138**

#### **Next Meeting**

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 19 January 2015 at 7.00pm.

### **Minute No. 139**

**Resolved** that the public & press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, by reason of its confidential nature.

**Minute No. 140**

**Caretaker & Caretaker/Administrator Salary**

**Resolved** that the salary of the Parish Rooms Caretaker & Village Hall Caretaker/Administrator, which had been set at a local rate, be set at the next appropriate NJC Spinal Column Point, with effect from 1 April 2014, & that future salary increases be applied in accordance with local government rate changes.

The meeting finished at 8.25 pm.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....