

SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 DECEMBER 2015

Present:

Councillor P F Bateman

Councillor M T Ditchburn

Councillor A Grey

Councillor Mrs L Harwood (Chairman)

Councillor D Horsley

Councillor M I Jenkinson

Councillor R McCracken

Councillor Mrs J Norman

Councillor J Sandwith

Councillor K Slone

Clerk: P Bramley

Minute No. 140

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Forrester, J Musgrave, Mrs C Tibble & C Woodman.

Minute No. 141

Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Councillor Mrs J Norman, Item 17, Planning Application 2/2015/0308, Personal, & K Slone, Item 7, Personal.

Resolved that the declarations of interest be noted.

Minute No. 142

Requests for Dispensations

None received.

Minute No. 143

Minutes of Meeting held on 16 November 2015

Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 2015 be accepted and signed as a correct record, subject to the deletion of the words 'stated that he would like to canvass residents of Seaton on their support for an allotment site at Meadow Vale &' from Minute 123(2).

Minute No. 144

Presentation by National Grid

A presentation was received from Mr Robert Powell & Mr Stephen Radford Hancock of the National Grid on the North West Coast Connection Project. The presentation covered: the energy challenge; the basis of operation of the National Grid; the selection of Moorside; electricity distribution routing, options & costs; & the timetable for development. Members asked a number of questions which were suitably answered.

Resolved that the representatives be thanked for their presentation & that they ensure that the Council is updated with ongoing progress.

Minute No. 145

Police Report

None received.

Minute No. 146

Progress Reports

1) Clerk

It was noted that Workington Academy School Governors would consider the possibility of a Seaton School Bus service at its January meeting. It was also noted that the Council's solicitor was addressing an issue with the non-registration of the ownership of Meadow Vale Playing Field following its conveyance to the Parish Council in 1997.

Resolved that the progress report be noted.

2) Village Hall

Resolved that the progress report be noted.

Minute No. 147

Allotments

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

- 1) The Clerk had received no further response from Persimmon Homes regarding possible use of land at the western end of Meadow Vale as allotments. Following discussions held between the Clerk & the Council's solicitor, it appeared that the Persimmon Homes was not a successor to the series of companies responsible for the Meadow Vale development as had been thought. Further, the farmer & seemingly the succeeding owner of the land under consideration, following his examination of his records in more detail, had agreed to the transfer of the land to the Council at no cost, subject to his name not being publicised.
- 2) The Council's solicitor had asked the farmer to supply him with copies of the documents he held concerning ownership of the land in question. He had advised that, following an initial examination of the documents, it appeared that the documents referred to an adjoining piece of land.
- 3) The Council's solicitor had advised that, should the land in question not be in the farmer's ownership, & should it not be registered with the Land Registry, it would be the responsibility of Crown Estates, & steps could be taken to acquire it from that organisation.

Resolved that the position be noted & that the Council agree to its solicitor continuing to investigate the ownership of the land & its possible acquisition.

Minute No. 148

Public Questions

- 1) Mr Brian Rushforth asked about the proposed development of housing at High Seaton by Story Homes; he was particularly concerned with the possible implications of drainage from the site. He was advised that the Council had little information but was due to receive a presentation from the development company at a future meeting. It was noted that clarification on drainage arrangements should be sought at that stage, particularly given the recent flood event in Seaton which suggested that the existing drainage system may become overloaded.
- 2) Mr Mark Dixon expressed concern at the continuing problems with flooding on Lowca Lane in periods of heavy rainfall, particularly in the vicinity of Barncroft Close & the Meadow Vale junction, where water entered the road from fields. It was noted that a neighbour of Mr Dixon, Mr A Pennington of Barncroft Close, had written some years ago to Cumbria Highways concerning the problem but it appeared that little or nothing had been done to address the matter. Councillor J Sandwith advised that he had spoken to Mr Rikki Crawford at Cumbria Highways & that he had stated that it was planned to investigate the flooding issue. Mr Dixon was advised that the Council would contact Cumbria Highways with its concerns, with particular reference to the information provided by Mr A Pennington.
- 3) Mr Paul Haughin of Seaton Allotment & Gardeners Society, (SAGS), advised that many of the members of SAGS were disgruntled at the apparent lack of progress by the Council in providing a suitable allotment site. He provided a letter which SAGS members had agreed for distribution to the Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate copies of the letter for consideration by the Council at the next meeting.
- 4) Mr Leslie Towers stated that he had read in the local press that the Council was planning to carry out works to the old footpath at Scaw Bank. He was concerned that the path was unsafe. Mr Towers was informed that Council members would further investigate the area. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a site meeting with the contractor & notify members to enable them to attend if they were available & so desired.

Minute No. 149

County & District Councillors' Reports

1) Allerdale Borough Council

Councillor M Jenkinson advised that he was a member of Allerdale Development Panel. On the matter of the solar farm development proposed for Flimby, he was concerned that no members of the Parish Council had taken up the invitation to speak at the Panel Meeting where the item was discussed. He expressed the view that Parish Council members needed to be more aware of their responsibilities & that invitations to speak, where appropriate, should be collectively considered. He noted the number of potential planning applications for housing in Seaton in this respect.

Councillor Mrs C Tibble reported that the government had asked Allerdale Borough Council to administer a £500 payment scheme for flood victims. Households affected needed to be on the data base held by Allerdale & members were asked to notify affected households to contact Allerdale to ensure that their details were recorded. Other funds were available to flood victims from alternative sources.

2) Cumbria County Council

No matters to report.

Resolved that the reports be accepted.

Minute No. 150

Request for Annual Financial Assistance – Seaton Baby & Toddler

Resolved that:

- 1) An annual grant to Seaton Baby & Toddler Group be not agreed.
- 2) A one-off grant of £200 be awarded to Seaton Baby & Toddler Group for 2015/16 & the organiser be invited to submit bids in future for consideration as required.
- 3) A standard form for completion by grant applicants be developed.

Minute No. 151

Request for Financial Assistance – Great North Air Ambulance

Resolved that a grant of £200 be awarded to the Great North Air Ambulance.

Minute No. 152

Allerdale Borough Council Budget Consultation 2016/17

Resolved that no comments be offered on the Allerdale Borough Council Budget Consultation 2016/17.

Minute No. 153

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Resolved that Councillor M Jenkinson investigate further what was entailed in preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan, what grant funding was available & report back to a future meeting of the Council.

Minute No. 154

Seaton Community Plan

Resolved that progress on the development of a Community Plan be noted.

Minute No. 155

Meeting Extension

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

Minute No. 156

Public Presentation of Council News & Information

Resolved that:

- 1) A quarterly newsletter for the presentation of Council matters, prepared on the basis of that of Maryport Town Council, & to be displayed at suitable locations, be agreed.
- 2) Councillors A Grey & R McCracken develop a trial example for consideration.

Minute No. 157

Seaton Evening Bus Service

Resolved that the unavailability of the 22.00 Seaton Bus Service as originally offered by Stagecoach be noted & that the provision of a trial three month period for a 21.00 Seaton Bus Service offered on a similar basis as an alternative be endorsed.

Minute No. 158

Planning Issues

Resolved that the following observations on planning applications be made:

Reference No: 2/2015/0685
Applicant: Mr Paul Hodgson
Proposal: Front & side extension
Location: Noordwijk, High Seaton, Seaton
No Objections

Reference No: 2/2015/0700
Applicant: Mr Ian Blenkinsopp
Proposal: First Floor extension to side
Location: 73 Whitestiles, Seaton
No Objections

Reference No: 2/2015/0721
Applicant: Mr Peter O'Donnel
Proposal: Change of use from manager's flat above denture clinic/laboratory to open market residential flat
Location: 80 Main Road, Seaton
No Objections

Reference No: 2/2015/0308
Applicant: Mr Mark Hodgson
Proposal: Outline planning application for change of use of land to residential, (supplementary information letter)
Location: Lowca Lane, Seaton

Observations & comments are as previously submitted. Concern at arguments put forward by solicitor acting on behalf of the developer which seek to argue the Education contribution as being unjustifiable. It is for the Borough Council to support the position it has adopted regarding a CIL Charging Schedule. However, the Parish Council's primary concern is with the capacity of Seaton schools, & noting the planned expansion of the Academy, principally with Seaton Junior School. The Council assumes that Cumbria County Council can support its proposals & show that they do not conflict with Regulation 123 referred to, & also that Allerdale can demonstrate satisfaction with Regulations 122 & 123, noting that similarly based Education contributions have been applied elsewhere in the district, for example, developments at Dearham. The Parish Council understands the availability of Junior School places to be a concern for Seaton parents & notes previous worries over the ability of the Junior School to take in pupils from the Seaton Academy who live in Seaton. The Council also has concerns with the suggestion that Northside Primary School is a suitable alternative to Seaton Junior School for Seaton pupils & that the cycleway to Northside should be considered a safe walking route for pupils of 11 & under. The cycleway is unlit, is bordered by trees, bushes & high sides for much of the route; the Council cannot imagine that any parent would support their children using this route. There are other current housing development proposals for Seaton which would be likely to exacerbate the problem of capacity at the Junior School, which the developer's solicitor is no doubt is unaware of, but which will be an issue that Allerdale & Cumbria County Councils will have taken note of.

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

Reference No: 2/2015/0585
Applicant: Mr A Chalmers
Proposal: Erection of garage to side for car & motor home along with shower room
Location: 6 Ling Beck View, Seaton
APPROVED

Reference No: 2/2015/0611
Applicant: Mr A Chalmers, Castle Surveyors
Proposal: Single storey steel framed garage extension, (resubmission of 2/2015/0374)
Location: 9 Church Road, Seaton
APPROVED

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
APPROVED

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
APPROVED

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

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

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, Seaton
APPROVED

Minute No. 159

Accounts – December 2015

Resolved that the accounts listed in the schedule, totalling £3,409.57, including payments agreed at the meeting, be agreed for payment.

Minute No. 160

Correspondence

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

Resolved that:

- 1) Further to the Town & Village Green Survey conducted by Friends of the Lake District, a response be prepared on behalf of the Council by councillors Mrs L Harwood & R McCracken, in association with the Clerk.
- 2) The Council procure its future external audit service, following the abolition of the Audit Commission, through the Sector Led Body established by the National Association of Local Councils.
- 3) Further to the request from Sue Hayman MP, the Council advise her of households in High Seaton being contacted during the previous two years regarding mineral rights on their property.
- 4) In respect of persistent dog fouling incidents reported by residents of Lowca Lane, the Council request details of the names of the perpetrators from the correspondent.
- 5) Members advise the Clerk of any proposals for New Year 2017 Honours nominations.
- 6) In accordance with the requirements of the Pension Act 2008, the Council elect to join the Cumbria Local Government Pension Scheme.
- 7) The resignation of Councillor Mr C Holding from the Council be noted & a letter of thanks be sent to him recognising his contribution to the Council over the last few years.

Minute No. 161

Councillors' Reports

- 1) It was agreed that arrangements be made for the Bus Shelter on Hunters Drive to be attended to, following reports of roof damage.
- 2) It was agreed to consider the siting of a bus shelter at Calva Brow at a future meeting.
- 3) It was agreed to consider the provision of dog bins at a future meeting.
- 4) It was agreed to consider the arrangements for the provision of a local emergency access centre in Seaton at a future meeting.
- 5) It was noted that the Workington Transport Heritage Group would be operating a funded free bus service on a standard route on Boxing Day.

- 6) It was agreed that the Council write to farmer Mr T Copsy to request consideration of drainage provision on his adjoining land to protect Seaton Legion, given the recent & previous occurrences of flooding following periods of very heavy rain.
- 7) It was agreed to consider Seaton Main Road Speeding Surveys at a future meeting.
- 8) It was agreed to consider problems with drainage in Seaton at a future meeting.
- 9) A problem with persistent dog fouling in Low Seaton was noted. Councillor J Sandwith advised that he could provide an indication of regular times of incidences if required.

Minute No. 162

Next Meeting

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 18 January 2016 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 9.50 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date