

# SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2015

### **Present:**

Councillor P F Bateman

Councillor Mrs K P Birkett (Chairman)

Councillor M T Ditchburn

Councillor A Grey

Councillor Mrs L Harwood

Councillor J Holding

Councillor Mrs J King

Councillor W McIntyre

Councillor J Musgrave

Councillor Mrs J Norman

Councillor J Sandwith

Councillor Mrs C Tibble

Councillor C Woodman

**Clerk:** P Bramley

### **Minute No. 159**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Ardron & Ms M M Gainford.

### **Minute No. 160**

#### **Declarations of Interest**

None received.

### **Minute No. 161**

#### **Requests for Dispensations**

None received.

### **Minute No. 162**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on 19 January 2015**

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

### **Minute No. 163**

#### **Police Report**

PCSO Laura Crears sent an update for the previous month. The report advised that there were no incidents to report from the previous month.

PCSO Crears advised that a large white van which had been parking on the main road at High Seaton had, because of its size, been committing visibility offences, & the owner had been spoken to. Cars parking there were not committing an offence.

PCSO Crears advised that she had been undertaking joint patrols with Allerdale Enforcement officers outside Seaton Academy covering mornings, lunch times & end of school periods. Some people had been spoken to but most people did not park inappropriately when they saw someone in a yellow vest. She advised that many schools experienced similar problems. Parking issues around schools would be a police force wide operation from 23 February, when week 1 would focus on education & week 2 on enforcement.

It had been reported at a drop-in session that there was a problem with youth anti-social behaviour at the garages behind Costcutters on Hunters Drive. Police patrols had been increased in the area & some youths spoken to. No further incidents had been reported.

Councillors had no issues to report.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **Minute No. 164**

#### **Progress Reports**

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

**Resolved** that the progress report be noted, that it be noted that Cumbria County Council would assist local councils who wish to operate a community bus service & that Allerdale Borough Council be contacted concerning ownership of the light outside 15 Ling Beck Park.

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

**Resolved** that it be noted that the Annual General Meeting would be held on 23 February, to which all members were invited, that repairs were being carried out to drains & toilets, & that funding of £3,000 towards repairs & improvements had been received from Cumbria County Councillor Mrs C Tibble's ward budget.

### **Minute No. 165**

#### **Allotments**

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

- 1) Councillor Mrs C Tibble asked for it to be noted that she had been accused in the past of being negative with regard to the Parish Council's potential compulsory acquisition of the Lowca Lane site & that, whilst she had concerns with the cost, Allerdale Borough Council's previous management team had not been minded to support the Parish Council's original request for assistance with a compulsory acquisition of the Lowca Lane site, & she had argued in the Parish Council's favour. She also asked for it to be noted that whilst the Council had received much support for the allotments, she had received many complaints about the allotments from residents of properties around the Lowca Lane site.
- 2) In response to the Parish Council's supply of information & request for support from Allerdale Borough Council in pursuit of a compulsory acquisition of the Lowca Lane site, the Council was advised that, if it was going to formally request Allerdale Borough Council to exercise CPO powers on its behalf, in order to formally consider that request Allerdale Borough Council would require:
  - a) A copy of Seaton Parish Council's formal resolution.
  - b) A robust Statement of Reasons from Seaton Parish Council and
  - c) Confirmation that Seaton Parish Council had sufficient funds.

The Council was advised that, if it did not have sufficient money to fund the CPO, (which the legislation clearly required of it), it was not considered worthwhile pursuing the matter. Reference was made to the financial requirements set out in the email of 19 June 2014.

The Council was asked to note that the sums referred to in that email were simply estimates & that:

- a) The sum of £35,000 was simply 'cash on account' to commence the CPO process and not the limit of Seaton Parish Council's financial liability.
- b) It could not be over-emphasised that Seaton Parish Council was legally obliged to pay all the costs associated the CPO; and what had to be avoided, if the matter was to proceed, was a situation where Seaton Parish Council ran out of money before the matter was concluded. Regardless of the merit of any argument for a CPO & any associated 'politics', as the legislation currently stood, if Seaton Parish Council could not afford to pay for the land it could not acquire it.
- c) A meeting was proposed to discuss the matter further, & in readiness for that meeting, the Council was asked to fully consider and be prepared to comprehensively detail the 'contingency situation' for a legal process that:
  - i. Had no guarantee of success &
  - ii. Had no upper limit to the potential associated costs.

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

- 1) Arrangements be made to meet with Allerdale Borough Council Deputy Monitoring officer J Price-Jones to discuss the matter, including ascertaining the potential personal liability of Seaton Parish Councillors & the potential obligations of the Council to meet the costs of the owners in the event of the case being lost.
- 2) Members advise the Clerk in advance of the meeting with Mr J Price Jones on Wednesday 18 February of any further issues they would like to be raised.
- 3) Concern be expressed at the Council being informed that the third statement it had provided to Allerdale Borough Council in support of its case was insufficient, without in any of those cases it being informed what was required, at the apparent change in financial requirements & the apparent lack of understanding at how the Council could raise funds, noting that the Council was aware that there was no upper limit & that the Council had agreed to take the action it had in that knowledge.

### **Minute No. 166**

#### **Public Questions**

- 1) Mr K Slone, Chairman of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society, stated that, with reference to Councillor Mrs C Tibble's comments, that all the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society members appreciated the work that the Council had put in over recent years in support of the allotments & that no one had been discussing Council members behind their backs. He was advised that at least two Seaton Parish Council members, who wished to remain anonymous, had received defamatory emails from one or more

members of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society. Mr Slone commented that if that was the case, then it was not with the authority of the Society, & he apologised on behalf of both himself & the Society.

- 2) Mr R Vaughan asked how much money a penny on the Council Tax in Seaton would raise. He was advised that a response would be provided in due course.

### **Minute No. 167**

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

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

Councillor Mrs C Tibble advised that, with regard to the ongoing problem with street lighting in Seaton, she had asked Cumbria County Council Highways Chairman Councillor K Little to intervene, but he had not received a response from officers. She had been advised that Cumbria County Council Parking officers had visited Seaton on thirty two occasions since November, during which visits seven parking offences had been addressed. Councillor Tibble advised that Cumbria County Council budget meeting would be held on 19 February. During 2014/15, contributions from her ward budget had been made to Seaton Village Hall, Northside Community Centre & Seaton Young Peoples' Club. She had requested Cumbria County Council officers to look into flooding problems on the cycleway in the vicinity of the bridge over the main road near Seaton Academy. As a result of a meeting with PCSO Laura Creers, she had been made aware of concerns at drivers not stopping at the Pelican Crossing, when required, & was trying to have the issue further investigated.

##### **2) Allerdale Borough Council**

No matters were reported.

### **Minute No. 168**

#### **Dog Fouling**

**Resolved** that Councillor Holding investigate why the Council had not been advised of Allerdale Borough Council's revised policy on the distribution of doggy bags, (Minute 122(2) refers), & that Allerdale Borough Council be requested to provide some larger 'No Fouling' signs.

### **Minute No. 169**

#### **Christmas Lights**

**Resolved** that the Council investigate the acquisition of a Christmas lighting sign for display in the vicinity of Seaton shops.

### **Minute No. 170**

#### **Brick Dubs**

**Resolved** that the Brick Dubs Working Party meet to consider options to progress the development of the site as a nature reserve, including consideration of offers of assistance from the Workington Nature Party & Groundwork North East & Cumbria.

**Minute No.171**

**Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit 2014/15**

**Resolved** that, from the evidence available, it be considered that the Council's arrangements for Internal Audit, taking into account its size & range of operations, complied with the requirements of the Accounts & Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006.

**Minute No. 172**

**Internal Audit Plan 2015/16**

**Resolved** that the Internal Audit Plan 2015/16 be agreed & that Sharron Scholey be appointed as Internal Auditor with effect from 2015/16.

**Minute No. 173**

**Planning Issues**

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

Reference No: 2/2014/0833  
Applicant: Mr D Allison  
Proposal: Outline application for erection of single storey dwelling, (re-consultation): Site & Location Plan & Block Plan  
Location: Barncroft, 16 High Seaton, Seaton  
**No Objections**

Reference No: 2/2015/0017  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Ryan Tallantire  
Proposal: Extension to provide new lounge & bedroom  
Location: 38 Inner Ling Road, Seaton  
**No Objections**

Reference No: 2/2014/0833  
Applicant: Mr D Allison  
Proposal: Outline application for erection of single storey dwelling, (re-consultation): Alterations to existing entrance  
Location: Barncroft, 16 High Seaton, Seaton  
**No Objections**

Reference No: TPO/13/1950  
Applicant: Mrs Jones  
Proposal: Works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order  
Location: 83 Whitestiles, Seaton  
**No Objections**

**Minute No. 174**

**Accounts – February 2015**

**Resolved** that the accounts listed in the schedule totalling £3,924.48 be agreed for payment.

**Minute No. 175**

**Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) No comments be offered on Allerdale Borough Council’s Leisure Strategy consultation.
- 2) A request for a donation from Citizens Advice Allerdale be considered at the next meeting.

**Minute No. 176**

**Councillors’ Reports**

- 1) Councillor Mrs L Harwood advised that she had obtained pictures of exercise style play equipment. It was agreed that these be circulated & considered further at the next meeting.
- 2) It was reported that, dependent on wind direction, houses in the Peatfield Road area were being coated with dust, which was thought to originate from the Iggesund Biomass plant. It was agreed that this be raised at the Iggesund Community Liaison group.
- 3) It was reported that odours apparently originating from the Siddick sewerage treatment plant appeared to be occurring more frequently. It was agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting.
- 4) It was reported that a large dog owned by the residents of 17 Main Road was being allowed to roam freely in Jackson Street Playing Field. It was agreed to report the matter to Allerdale Borough Council & the Police.
- 5) It was noted that some one hundred residents of Low Seaton had met concerning option 2/WOR/081/R in Allerdale Borough Council’s Local Plan (Part 2) Site Allocations Issues & Options Additional Sites submitted consultation.

**Minute No. 177**

**Next Meeting**

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 16 March 2015, & the Council meeting would follow the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 8.30 pm.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....