

# SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2015

### **Present:**

Councillor P F Bateman

Councillor Mrs K P Birkett (Chairman)

Councillor M T Ditchburn

Councillor A Grey

Councillor Mrs L Harwood

Councillor Mrs J King

Councillor W McIntyre

Councillor J Musgrave

Councillor Mrs J Norman

Councillor Mrs C Tibble

Councillor C Woodman

**Clerk:** P Bramley

### **Minute No. 178**

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Ardron, Ms M M Gainford, C Holding & J Sandwith.

### **Minute No. 179**

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were received from Councillor Mrs J King, Item 17, Planning Application 2/2015/0118, Personal & Prejudicial; & Councillor Mrs C Tibble, Item 11, Personal, & Item 17, Planning Applications 2/2015/0108 & 2/2015/0125, Personal.

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

### **Minute No. 180**

#### **Requests for Dispensations**

None received.

### **Minute No. 181**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on 16 February 2015**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 16 February 2015 be accepted and signed as a correct record.

### **Minute No. 182**

#### **Police Report**

PCSO Laura Crears sent an update for the previous month. The report advised of the following incidents in the previous month:

- The theft of an aerial from a vehicle on Coronation Avenue.
- A parking issue involving residents of Braeside.
- A report of a suspicious collection agent at Ling Beck Park, who proved to be legitimate.
- An incident of anti-social behaviour on Hunters Drive.

PCSO Crears advised that she had spoken to Allerdale Borough Council Environmental Warden Sam Alexander, about a large dog being allowed to roam on Jackson Street Playing Field; the latter was dealing with the matter. PCSO Crears reported on the outcome of the recent police operation concerning school parking issues. No problems had been identified concerning Seaton Junior School but there were continuing problems with Seaton Academy, where advice had been given & tickets issued. Spot checks would continue, although limited by police resources, & it was considered that the adults responsible for the children should start taking responsibility for their actions in this respect. Councillors had no issues to report. **Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **Minute No. 183**

#### **Progress Reports**

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

**Resolved** that the progress report be noted.

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

**Resolved** that it be noted that the next meeting of the Village Hall Committee would be held on 18 March.

### **Minute No. 184**

#### **Allotments**

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

- 1) Further to the Council's decision at the previous meeting, (Minute 165(1) refers), a meeting had been held on 18 February between the Chairman & Clerk & Allerdale Borough Council Deputy Monitoring Officer Mr J Price Jones, to discuss the Council's request for support from Allerdale Borough Council in pursuit of a compulsory acquisition of the Lowca Lane site. Mr Price Jones suggested that the Council obtain Counsel's opinion on the likelihood of the compulsory acquisition proposed being successful, as such reasoned opinion on the matter could be used to inform the Council on whether it should commit itself to significant expenditure & proceed with the formal request for the compulsory acquisition or whether it should discontinue the process. To be able to deal with this, Mr Price Jones considered that Counsel may effectively have to draft the required Statement of Reasons requested by Allerdale. Mr Price Jones advised that the Council's solicitors should be able to prepare the necessary brief for Counsel, & suggested some suitably experienced barristers. The Chairman advised that she had contacts in the legal profession who could perhaps advise on a suitable barrister.
- 2) A number of items of correspondence had been received variously by the Chairman, the Clerk & Council members from Mr R McCracken, Secretary of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society.
  - a) Mr McCracken provided guidance received in 2012 from Natural England concerning his reported presence of protected species of

creatures on the Lowca Lane site, & requested that the Council write to the owners of the site advising them of this. It was noted that Natural England had advised that it was the responsibility of anyone who was aware of the presence of any protected species on a site to notify the owner. Mr McCracken advised that the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society had placed posters on the site entrance gates to make the owners aware of the presence of protected species on the site & also a solicitor acting for Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society had written to the owners to make them aware of it.

- b) Mr McCracken provided information on the preparation of a Statement of Reasons, following his research, & stated that the forms for completion were very simple, the main issue being to ensure that they were correctly submitted as specified.
- c) Mr McCracken requested a letter, on behalf of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society, from the Council stating that it had approached Allerdale Borough Council requesting that it provide support for a compulsory acquisition. It was stated that the letter was required for a court case to take place in week commencing 8 March. Given the urgency of the request, the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, had drafted a letter which had been circulated to members for comment. In the event of no adverse comments having been received, the letter confirming the Council's position had been provided as requested.

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

- 1) The Council seek Counsel's opinion on the likelihood of the compulsory acquisition proposed being successful.
- 2) No action be taken at this stage with regard to the submission of a letter from the Council to the owners of the Lowca Lane site making them aware of the potential presence of protected species on the site.
- 3) The Chairman's & Clerk's action in providing a letter for the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society stating that the Council had requested Allerdale Borough Council to provide support for a compulsory acquisition of the Lowca Lane site be endorsed.

#### **Minute No. 185**

##### **Public Questions**

- 1) Mr R McCracken, Secretary of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society, asked if regular monthly meetings of the Allotment Working Party could be arranged, stating that he considered that time was of the essence & that without such regular meetings, consideration of the matter of allotments by the Council was not collaborative or constructive. His view was that such an arrangement would allow for an exchange of information. Members questioned the necessity for such an arrangement. It was agreed that a date would be sought for a meeting of the Allotment Working Party over the following week to ten days.

- 2) Mr R McCracken advised that the National Allotment Society may be able to suggest suitable Counsel to advise the Council on the matter of the likelihood of the compulsory acquisition proposed being successful. The Chairman suggested that both the Council & the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society seek advice on suitable Counsel.

#### **Minute No. 186**

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

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

Councillor Mrs C Tibble advised that street lights on Main Road, Seaton, had now been repaired & the replacement lights were much brighter than the previous ones. Preparation for the addition of double yellow lines on the road in a number of areas previously consulted on had begun. Councillor Tibble had suggested that network funding provision of £10,000 be used to address the flooding problem under the bridge on Main Road below Seaton ARLFC Clubhouse. Cumbria County Council Children's Services was being reviewed by Ofsted; it was reported that Cumbria had more 'looked after' children than any other county in the country. Despite significant budget savings, government grant cutbacks meant that the County Council still had another £60 million savings to identify over the following three years.

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

The Council Budget meeting had taken place, at which an increase in Council Tax of just under 2% had been agreed. Part of the budget included an allocation of £10,000 to Seaton Parish Council, although details of requirements for its use were still to be determined.

#### **Minute No. 187**

##### **Request for Financial Assistance – Seaton ARLFC**

**Resolved** that grant funding of £150 each be awarded to Seaton ARLFC for two players selected for the BARLA Community Lions Under 17 Tour to Spain in April 2015.

#### **Minute No. 188**

##### **Request for Financial Assistance – Caine Barnes**

**Resolved** that no grant funding be awarded to Caine Barnes on the basis that, irrespective of his previous connections to Seaton & in line with previous practice, he was currently playing outside the area.

#### **Minute No. 189**

##### **Complaints Handling**

**Resolved** that the Council adopt the Complaints Handling Procedures recommended by the National Association of Local Councils' Model, as set out in the report, to address complaints made against the Council.

### **Minute No. 190**

#### **Jackson Street Playing Field**

**Resolved** that:

- 1) Further to a meeting with Groundwork North East & Cumbria to explore the possibility of & arrangements for support in consulting with Seaton children on options for play equipment & obtaining supporting funding, (Minute 150 refers), attended by Councillor Mrs K P Birkett, Councillor Mrs C Tibble & the Clerk, & in consideration of a proposal provided in this respect by Groundwork, the Council commission Groundwork North East & Cumbria to carry out Stage 1, the Development Stage, which was based on an estimated project cost of £50,000 & covered:
  - a) Consultation & community & school engagement.
  - b) An initial draft project proposal.
  - c) An initial landscape design concept to help cost the project.
  - d) Planning permission, if required.
  - e) Disbursements.
- 2) The Council commission Stage 1, recognising that the costs of that stage, estimated at some £3,000, must be met, irrespective of the success of the project.
- 3) The Council determine whether to proceed to Stage 2 upon consideration of the results of Stage 1.

### **Minute No.191**

#### **Air bound Odours affecting Seaton**

**Resolved** that, further to consideration of the potential source of air bound odours recently affecting the Seaton area, (Minute 176(3) refers), & further to information received from a Seaton resident & former Allerdale Borough Council Environmental Health Officer, the Council contact Iggesund Paperboard (Workington) Ltd, seeking its views on the problem.

### **Minute No. 192**

#### **Brick Dubs**

**Resolved** that, following consideration of a report from members of the Brick Dubs Working Party on progress to date concerning the site development, & proposals to undertake community engagement work, alongside similar work in respect of Jackson Street Playing Field improvements, set out in a report from Groundwork North East & Cumbria, the Council:

- 1) Commission Groundwork to carry out the following work, at an estimated cost of some £800:
  - a) Consultation & community & school engagement.
  - b) Initial draft project proposal.
  - c) Initial landscape design concept.
- 2) Seek guidance from Workington Nature Reserve Group on how the development may proceed & what support it could provide.

**Minute No. 193**

**Review of Assets 2014/15**

**Resolved** that the Assets list 2014/15 be agreed.

**Minute No. 194**

**Meeting Extension**

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

**Minute No. 195**

**Planning Issues**

**Resolved** that the following observations on planning applications be made, (Councillor Mrs J King left the meeting for Application 2/2015/0118):

Reference No: 2/2015/0092  
Applicant: Mr Wayne McCarron  
Proposal: Demolition of public house & erection of three dwellings  
Location: Coachman Inn, High Seaton, Seaton  
**No Objections**

Reference No: 2/2015/0108  
Applicant: Mr Ian Reece  
Proposal: Erection of garage/store  
Location: 12 Greengate, Seaton  
**No Objections**

Reference No: 2/2015/0100  
Applicant: Mrs Lisa Barnes Simpson  
Proposal: Single & two storey rear extension & raising small section of existing room & demolition of existing sun room  
Location: 82 Rose Cottage, Lowca Lane, Seaton  
**No Objections**

Reference No: 2/2015/0118  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs King  
Proposal: Single storey extensions to side & rear  
Location: Croft View, 72 Lowca Lane, Seaton  
**No Objections**

Reference No: 2/2015/0125  
Applicant: Mr Ian Reece  
Proposal: Extension to provide additional living accommodation  
Location: 12 Greengate, Seaton  
**No Objections**

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

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  
**APPROVED**

#### **Minute No. 196**

##### **Accounts – March 2015**

**Resolved** that the accounts listed in the schedule, together with payments agreed at the meeting, totalling £2,644.64, be agreed for payment.

#### **Minute No. 197**

##### **Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) An increase of 2.5%, as proposed by contractors ISS, be agreed in the cost of maintenance of Meadow Vale.
- 2) The Council agree to the proposal from Allerdale Borough Council to provide dog waste bags for distribution by the Parish Council.
- 3) The Council note the early stage proposals for development of a Tidal Lagoon on the West Cumbrian coast & agree to an invitation from Maryport Town Council to a presentation being arranged with Tidal Lagoon Power.

#### **Minute No. 198**

##### **Councillors' Reports**

- 1) It was reported that litter bins had been replaced at the top of Branthwaite Lane & the bottom of Calva Brow.
- 2) It was agreed to support proposals made to nominate Mr Michael Milner for a Queen's Award in recognition of his contribution to the community.
- 3) It was agreed to contact Cumbria County Council concerning the number of pot holes on Sunnyside.
- 4) It was agreed to contact Cumbria County Council concerning the transfer of a speed warning side from the Main Road opposite Seaton Park to the top of Calva Brow.
- 5) It was agreed to contact Cumbria County Council concerning potential health & safety issues for both pedestrians & drivers caused by parking on Hall Park Brow, opposite the entrance to Workington Police Station.

#### **Minute No. 199**

##### **Next Meeting**

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 20 April 2015 at 7.00pm.

**Minute No. 200**

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

**Minute No. 201**

**Complaint**

**Resolved** that, following receipt of a complaint against the Council, which the complainants requested be dealt with confidentially, the Clerk, in accordance with the Council's policy on handling complaints, investigate the facts of the complaint & report back to the Council, for its consideration & to enable it to determine its decision.

The meeting finished at 9.45 pm.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....