

SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2015

Present:

Councillor P F Bateman

Councillor Mrs K P Birkett (Chairman)

Councillor M T Ditchburn

Councillor A Grey

Councillor Mrs L Harwood

Councillor C J Holding

Councillor Mrs J King

Councillor W McIntyre

Councillor Mrs J Norman

Councillor J Sandwith

Councillor Mrs C Tibble

Councillor C Woodman

Clerk: P Bramley

Minute No. 202

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Ardron & W McIntyre.

Minute No. 203

Declarations of Interest

None Received.

Minute No. 204

Requests for Dispensations

None received.

Minute No. 205

Minutes of Meeting held on 16 March 2015

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

Minute No. 206

Presentation from Allerdale Borough Council Town Centre Manager Toni Magean

Mr Magean advised that Allerdale Borough Council had decided to support projects in Seaton in 2015/16 & would provide grant funding of £10,000. He advised that he could offer some guidance, but rather than be prescriptive, suggested that the Parish Council put forward ideas, which he & the relevant Portfolio Holder would consider. Mr Magean advised that the funding could not be used for festivals, for which there was a separate budget, & that the grant needed to be fully applied in 2015/16.

Resolved that the matter be added as a future agenda item & that members give consideration to potential applications of the grant for discussion.

Minute No. 207

Defibrillator

Resolved that the Council agree in principal to the provision of a defibrillator at a location in Seaton to be agreed at a future meeting, to meet the balance of the acquisition costs of £900, & to meet the ongoing running costs of some £60 every two years & replacement costs of some £900, subject to support funding, every seven years.

Minute No. 208

Police Report

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

- A complaint about youths kicking rugby balls at windows on Hunters Drive.
- A vehicle at High Seaton which had a window smashed whilst parked on the drive.
- Eggs thrown at windows at a property on Barncroft Avenue.
- Youths playing football around the library & Firth House.
- A motion sensor having been stolen from a property on Lowca Lane.

PCSO Crears advised that no culprits had been identified for the incidents of concern but high visibility patrols had increased. Two reports had been received of inconsiderate parking during starting & finishing times at Seaton Junior School & the Police were working with Cumbria County Council to resolve the problem. Two reports of loose horses on the main road had been reported & each time the owners had been located & the horses returned. Councillors had no issues to report.

Resolved that the report be noted.

Minute No. 209

Progress Reports

1) Clerk

Resolved that the progress report be noted, including proposed arrangements from Groundwork North East & Cumbria to support the development of facilities for older children at Jackson Street Playing Field & a Nature Reserve at Brick Dubs.

2) Village Hall

Resolved that it be noted that the next meeting of the Village Hall Committee would be held on 27 April.

Minute No. 210

Allotments

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

- 1) It was noted that, further to Minute 184(1), the Chairman's contacts in the legal profession had recommended a suitable barrister located in the north of England, & the Council's solicitor was arranging the provision of background details to support the Council's enquiry into the likelihood of the compulsory acquisition proposed being successful, together with a meeting with the barrister, should that be considered necessary.
- 2) Councillor P Bateman outlined the background to comments he had made in recent letters in the Times & Star, underlining that those were his personal views & not necessarily those of the Council.

Resolved that the position be noted.

Minute No. 211

Public Questions

- 1) Mr K Slone, Chairman of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society, (SAGS), stated that he was pleased to hear that progress had been made in identifying a suitable barrister. He also stated that he was not pleased that Councillor P Bateman had implied in his letter, (published in the Times & Star on 3 April 2015), that SAGS was operating against the Council.
- 2) Mr P Haughin & Mr T Donaghue of SAGS asked why a barrister was being asked to advise on the likely success of a compulsory acquisition of the Lowca Lane site. They were referred to the discussion on the matter which took place at the previous meeting, at which they were present, (Minute 184(1) refers), & that the Council was acting in accordance with advice received from Allerdale Borough Council.
- 3) Mr T Donaghue asked why, in a matter referred to by Councillor Bateman, (Minute 210(2) refers), had Mr R Hunter, a relative of one of the Lowca Lane site owners, contacted Councillor Bateman. He was advised that any members of the public were free to contact councillors as they wished.
- 4) Mr P Haughin questioned whether representatives from the Council could be trusted to support SAGS' members' views in any meeting with a barrister if there were no SAGS members present.
- 5) Mr T Donaghue asked when the proposed meeting with the barrister would be, (Minute 210(1) above, refers), & could SAGS be represented at that meeting, as SAGS was contributing financially to the costs of the barrister. He was advised that SAGS was not contributing financially to the costs of the barrister, rather it had agreed to contribute towards the costs of a possible compulsory acquisition, & that it was the Council which was seeking the barrister's advice. He was further advised that it was not known when a possible meeting would take place & a decision on attendance at such a meeting was not being taken at that stage.

- 6) Mr A Kelly of Main Road, Seaton, referred to Planning Application 2/2015/0092, & advised the Council that he lived next to the former Coachman Inn. He stated that he had had a verbal agreement regarding parking rights with the previous owner of the property. He advised that he had asked a solicitor to submit his objections to the application. He asked the Council to consider putting the process on hold until the matter of access had been resolved. He was advised that the Parish Council did not have the power to stop the process, which rested with Allerdale Borough Council, but that it would consider the issues he had raised when the proposed amendments to the application were discussed under Item 14 on the agenda.

Minute No. 212

County & District Councillors' Reports

1) Cumbria County Council

Councillor Mrs C Tibble advised that she had nothing to report.

2) Allerdale Borough Council

Councillor Mrs C Tibble advised that she had nothing to report. Councillor C J Holding advised that he had been made aware that Allerdale Borough Council officers had spent a considerable period during the previous week clearing dog excrement from the cycle track in Seaton, however, by the following day the position was as bad as it had been before the clearance.

Minute No. 213

Scarecrow Festival 2105

Resolved that the matter be deferred to the following meeting.

Minute No. 214

Seaton Evening Bus Service

Resolved that the Council support a request for the regular diversion of the 21.58pm Workington to Maryport bus service to travel through Seaton, taking in the Dunmail Park stop & looping around, to provide an evening service which supported West Cumberland Hospital visitors as well as others requiring late evening travel, & that Stagecoach & Cumbria County Council be contacted to consider the possibility of the proposal.

Minute No. 215

Planning Issues

Resolved that the following observations on planning applications be made:

Reference No: 2/2015/0092
Applicant: Mr Wayne McCarron
Proposal: Demolition of public house & erection of three dwellings, (amendments)
Location: Coachman Inn, High Seaton, Seaton
Concern be expressed about the change in the plans which removed a parking place for 44 High Seaton from the proposals, which, because of the lack of direct access from the road to that property, may lead to potential health & safety issues for road users caused by vehicles parking on the main road outside the property.

Reference No: 2/2015/0162
Applicant: Mrs H Spiers
Proposal: Two storey rear extension
Location: 20 West Croft, Seaton
No Objections

Reference No: 2/2015/0194
Applicant: Mr Andrew Bromley
Proposal: Two storey extension
Location: 20 Derwent Bank, Seaton
No Objections

Reference No: 2/2015/0199
Applicant: Mr Andrew Okolowicz, New Balance Shoes (UK) Ltd
Proposal: Installation of 400 solar photovoltaic array modules (100kWp) to south east facing roof
Location: New Balance Athletic Shoes (UK) Ltd, Flimby, Maryport
No Objections

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

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
APPROVED

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

APPROVED

Minute No. 216

Annual Grants

Resolved that the Council's Grant Awarding Policy be endorsed & that it award annual grants of the stated amounts to the specified organisations for the years 2015/16 to 2017/18:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Seaton Scout Group	£500
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospice at Home West Cumbria	£200
<input type="checkbox"/> Seaton Athletics Club	£500
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of St Peter's, Camerton & St Pauls, Seaton Churchyards	£1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Seaton Children's Carnival	£500
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st Seaton Rainbows	£250
<input type="checkbox"/> Seaton Club for Young People	£500

Minute No. 217

Finance Report

Members received a report showing actual expenditure & income for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, in comparison to budget.

Resolved that the report be agreed, including virements of £1,000 from Ground Maintenance, £1,950 from Festivals & £1,100 from Donations budgets to Employees, (£1,000), Electricity, (£750) & Legal Fees, (£2,300), budgets, & that a contribution of £4,000 be made to a reserve to support the development of Brick Dubs.

Minute 218

Accounts – April 2015

Resolved that the accounts listed in the schedule totalling £5,717.89 be agreed for payment.

Minute No. 219

Correspondence

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

Resolved that:

- 1) No comments be offered on the Cumbria County Council consultation on its draft Cumbria Minerals & Waste Local Plan.
- 2) Workington Town Council be contacted to enquire as to whether it was undertaking to provide VE Day 70th Anniversary celebrations.
- 3) No further action be taken regarding the Council's concerns at odours potentially originating from the Iggesund plant, Siddick, subject to further complaints being received.

- 4) No objections be offered in respect of proposed road closures for Seaton Children's Carnival to be held on 13 June 2015.
- 5) Mr & Mrs Brown of 8A Main Road, Seaton, be advised to seek their own legal advice concerning developments on the lane adjacent to their property.

Minute No. 220

Councillors' Reports

- 1) It was suggested that the land offered by Cumbria County Council, at the bottom of Lowca Lane, adjacent to the A596, for an allotment site should be considered again, especially given the demand for allotments. It was considered that the potential negativity of such a step at this stage would need to be balanced against the site potentially offering additional, as well as an alternative, option for allotment plots, the cost for which would reflect the offer by Cumbria County Council of a community asset transfer.
- 2) It was noted that an incident had recently taken place in which an unleashed lurcher, which, along with two other dogs, was accompanying its owner who was on a bike, had attacked & killed a cat.
- 3) Concern was expressed at the visual impact of the new wind turbine, the planning application for which the Council had objected to, & which the Planning Inspector had overruled Allerdale Borough Council's refusal for development of, at Wythe Gill Syke, now that it had been erected.
- 4) It was noted that Allerdale borough Council was awaiting further information from Iggesund on its proposed development of three wind turbines adjacent to its site at Siddick.

Minute No. 221

Next Meeting

Members were advised that the next meeting, the Annual Council meeting, would be held on 18 May 2015 at 7.00pm.

Minute No. 222

Meeting Extension

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

Minute No. 223

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

Minute No. 224

Complaint

It was reported that a meeting had taken place on 19 April between the Chairman & the Clerk, & Messrs K Walker, joint owner of the Council's former allotment site at Lowca Lane, & R Hunter, his associate, at the request of the complainants. The meeting was held to enable the complainants to air their views on the background to their complaint. In addition to information received from that meeting, consideration was given to the basis of the complaint, to the Clerk's correspondence with the complainants & to the extent of supportive information to the complaint provided by the complainants, in relation to the Council's policy on complaints.

Resolved that:

- 1) The Chairman's & Clerk's action in meeting with the complainants be endorsed.
- 2) It be noted that the Council had a duty under legislation to provide allotments. It had, over the period since the land in question had been sold, sought to undertake that duty. It had not acted to support the occupants of the Lowca Lane site & had advised them of their position as trespassers. Any action which the Council had taken or proposed had been with respect to its duty to provide allotments.
- 3) The complainants' letter of 1 March had referred to the details of the complaint being based on a series of Council minutes. They had, however, stated that they were not prepared to specify how the minutes in question supported the claim. The minutes in question were numerous & sometimes extensive in content. It was not considered the Council's responsibility to try to determine what the complainants considered within the minutes referred to had caused 'distress & a great deal of expense'.
- 4) In view of the lack of explanatory information, it was considered that the Council could not properly investigate the matter & therefore could not accept the claim.
- 5) The Council respond to the complainants in line with the considerations set out above.

The meeting finished at 9.25 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date