

SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 MARCH 2017

Present:

Councillor P F Bateman	Councillor M Jenkinson
Councillor Mrs K P Birkett	Councillor R McCracken
Councillor M T Ditchburn	Councillor J Musgrave
Councillor A Grey	Councillor J Sandwith
Councillor Mrs L Harwood (Chairman)	Councillor Mrs C Tibble
Councillor D Horsley	Councillor C Woodman

Clerk: P Bramley

Minute No. 195

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Forrester, Mrs J Norman & K Slone.

Minute No. 196

Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Councillor J Musgrave, Item 7, Personal, as an acquaintance of a resident in the vicinity of the proposed allotment site at Meadow Vale, & Councillor C Woodman, Personal, also as an acquaintance of a resident in the vicinity of the proposed allotment site at Meadow Vale.

Minute No. 197

Requests for Dispensation

None received.

Minute No. 198

Minutes of Meeting held on 20 February 2017

Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 20 February 2017 be accepted and signed as a correct record.

Minute No. 199

Police Report

PCSO Lisa Jackson attended the meeting & reported on crime issues which had occurred in Seaton during the previous month. She advised that there were only two episodes of crime to report, one involving a vehicle which had crashed on Lowca Lane, & its occupants absconded, the other an anti-social behaviour issue on Hunters Drive. PCSO Jackson advised that she would be placing notices of Police meetings in Seaton in 'The Villager' in the future.

Following a report of children using newly planted banking at Seaton shops as a slide, PCSO Jackson agreed to contact schools & keep the area under review.

Resolved that the report be noted.

Minute No. 200

Progress Reports

1) Clerk

The Clerk presented a report on outstanding items. Particular reference was made to long outstanding items which had been addressed by Cumbria Highways following intervention by the portfolio holder.

Resolved that the report be noted & that:

- a) In response to an offer to meet with Council members to consider highways issues in the parish, particularly speeding vehicles, the Council agreed to set up a Working Party, consisting of Councillors P Bateman, M Ditchburn, Mrs L Harwood, R McCracken, J Musgrave & Mrs C Tibble, & that a meeting date be arranged.
- b) Further to consideration of the provision of a gate at the bottom of Scaw Bank, to facilitate usage of the footpath, the Council agree to the installation of a kissing gate, the cost to be met from the Council's Environmental Improvements Reserve.

2) Village Hall

Councillor Mrs C Tibble reported that a new personal address system had been installed in the village hall. She advised that facilities to accommodate the bowling club's equipment on match days were still being sought & that the provision of new windows in the bower was being considered, a new window having been installed in the kitchen. A footpath suitable for push chair & wheel chair access was being constructed around the side & top of the hall. Usage continued to be high.

Resolved that the progress report be noted.

Minute No. 201

Allotments

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

- 1) It was noted that an email had been received from Mr P Nicholson following the last Council meeting stating that 'After tonight's meeting the position appears much clearer. The parish council has an entrenched position formed on a misunderstanding of their obligations.' A final version of the letter received from Mr Nicholson & colleagues dated 19 February 2017 had also been forwarded with that email.
- 2) A report was received from the meeting of the Allotment Working Party which had been held on 16 March 2017 to consider a discussion held between Seaton Junior Football Club representatives & a Seaton Allotment Association representative. Following consideration of the issues, it had been agreed to recommend to the Council that proposals for the development of vehicular access to the site be abandoned in favour of a footpath access. In addition, it was proposed that disabled access arrangements to the site from the cycle track be investigated. It was also proposed to include a realignment of porta-cabins used for storage & an extension of the car park in pre-planning discussions, to be held with Allerdale Borough Council, & to the inclusion of changing rooms/meeting room facilities in those discussions.

- 3) It was reported that correspondence which the Clerk had been copied into indicated that Sport England had been approached by a resident of Meadow Vale concerned about the possible impact of the proposed development on the Playing Fields. Advice given from Sport England was that it was a statutory consultee in the event of a planning application being made, but that otherwise it couldn't comment unless approached by the Parish Council.
- 4) Consideration was given to the appropriate stage in the meeting to discuss the letter from Mr P Nicholson & colleagues distributed to members at the previous meeting.

Resolved that the position be noted & that:

- 1) The proposals made by the Allotment Working Party held on 16 March be agreed.
- 2) It be agreed to discuss Mr Nicholson & colleagues' letter in private, given the possibility of the matter leading to a legal dispute.

Minute No. 202

Public Questions

- 1) Mr P Nicholson of Meadow Vale stated that he understood Council members to have had the opportunity to read the letter of 19 February from himself & colleagues. He referred to the 1996 Deed of Conveyance, the threat of injunction & the possibility of dispute. Having recognised that the timescale requested for a response indicated in the letter had passed, he asked when a response could be expected. He asked if the 'strict obligations' of the proposals could be separated from the additional items, which he indicated to be an access track & changing rooms, & whether the Council was prepared to keep an open mind to alternative sites. He referred to the possibility of developing an allotment site as part of any development of a piece of land at Low Seaton, & asked whether it was proposed to provide a joint changing room/meeting room facility for the allotment site & Seaton Junior Football Club. Mr Nicholson stated that he did not expect answers to be provided immediately to his questions.

Council members expressed disappointment at the aggressive nature of Mr Nicholson & colleague's letter & concern was expressed that the group appeared to be trying to override the views of others in the parish. Mr Nicholson was asked, given reference in the letter to their being other allotment sites in Seaton, where those sites were. He advised that he didn't know but had been advised of their presence at the Council's open meeting held on 28 January 2017. Mr Nicholson was advised that he would receive a reply to the letter once the Council had discussed & agreed a response.

Minute No. 203

County & District Councillors' Reports

1) Allerdale Borough Council

Councillor M Jenkinson thanked members who had attended the Spring Clean event which he had arranged in Seaton on 3 March & advised that 1,180kg of waste had been collected. He reported continued concerns with blocked drains at High Seaton & asked about proposals to culvert the full length of Ling Beck, possibly along the main road. Councillor Mrs C Tibble advised that responsibility for Ling Beck rested with owners of those properties through which the beck flowed. There were further complications with ownership by public organisations. She advised that Cumbria Highways staff had been asked to deal with the blocked drain problem in the village. Councillor J Sandwith advised that he had met with Sue Hayman MP concerning the realignment of the River Derwent in the vicinity of Camerton Church, following flood damage in December 2015. He advised that insurers had suggested that it would cost some £50,000 to repair damage to the stone barrier on the site. Councillor Mrs C Tibble advised that the matter was the concern of the land owners & the Parochial Church Council, not Seaton Parish Council. It was reported that there were differing views amongst members of the Parochial Church Council on the matter. It was noted that members of the Council had been invited to a meeting organised by Camerton Parish Council to consider the problem & Councillor M Jenkinson advised that he would try to arrange an invitation for the Vicar for Seaton, Camerton & West Seaton to the meeting.

2) Cumbria County Council

Councillor Mrs C Tibble reported that Cumbria Highways had a new on-line system for reporting matters, which enabled users to view records of reports on each matter. She also reported that, in accordance with the allowance within the relevant legislation, Cumbria County Council had included in its budget an increase of 2% for Social Care, which she reminded the Council included much more than elderly people, including new responsibilities given to county councils by the government.

Resolved that the reports be accepted.

Minute No. 204

Mini-Football Pitch beside Seaton Village Hall

It was noted that vandals had damaged the goal posts at the site; Councillor D Horsley agreed to contact the caretaker to offer assistance.

Resolved that the matter be deferred until the following meeting.

Minute No. 205

Seaton Junior Football Club Liaison Working Party

Resolved That a Working Party, consisting of Councillors D Horsley, M Jenkinson & J Sandwith, be established to act as the Council's liaison point with Seaton Junior Football Club in the development of Meadow Vale Playing Field.

Minute No. 206

Best Kept Garden & Container, &Tallest Sunflower Competitions

Resolved that the competitions operate on a similar basis to those held in 2016, & that Councillor R McCracken provide guidance for schools on growing sunflowers.

Minute No. 207

Jackson Street Play Area

It was reported that the land around the newly installed play equipment on Jackson Street Playing Field had developed an undulating surface which water was not draining through effectively, leading to the presence of standing water & the creation of mud around the safety surfacing. It was noted that the matter had been reported to the installer, who had requested photographic evidence.

Resolved that the Council await advice from the supplier on the matter, following its investigations, & that alternative advice be sought for dealing with the matter as is considered appropriate.

Minute No. 208

Planning Issues

Resolved: that the following observations on planning applications be made & planning application decisions made by Allerdale Borough Council be noted:

New Planning Applications

Reference No: 2/2017/0111
Applicant: Mrs C Banks, Seaton Academy
Proposal: Variation of condition 3 on application 2/2014/0186 to allow the siting of the cabin for an additional 3 years
Location: Seaton Academy, High Seaton, Seaton

No Objections

Reference No: 2/2017/0113
Applicant: Mr Brian Lomax
Proposal: Change of use & extension of former garage & MOT Bay
Location: The Garage, Sunnyside, Seaton

No Objections

Reference No: HOU/2017/0042
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Holliday
Proposal: Raising single storey roof over garage to provide enlarged bedroom at first floor
Location: 85 Meadow Vale, Seaton

No Objections

Planning Notifications

Reference No: HOU/2017/0019
Applicant: Mr Andrew Martin
Proposal: Erection of patio to rear, (resubmission)
Location: 12 Calva Road, Seaton

APPROVED

Reference No: HOU/2016/0065
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Allison
Proposal: Demolition of conservatory & conversion into larger sunroom & first floor extension
Location: Seaton Park House, Main Road, Seaton

APPROVED

Minute No. 209

Accounts – March 2017

Resolved that the accounts listed in the schedule, totalling £3,031.20, be agreed for payment.

Minute Number 210

Review of Council Assets 2016/17

Resolved that the Assets list 2016/17 be agreed.

Minute No. 211

Freedom of Information Publication Scheme & Council Policy

Resolved that the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme be agreed.

Minute No. 212

Council Communications Policy

Resolved that Council Communications Policy be agreed.

Minute No. 213

Correspondence

Resolved that correspondence received since the last meeting was noted & that:

- 1) Councillors D Horsley, J Musgrave & Mrs C Tibble be notified to Camerton Parish Council Clerk as wishing to attend the meeting on 4 April concerning future dangers of flooding to Camerton Church.
- 2) The proposed increase in the cost of maintenance of Meadow Vale Playing Fields be agreed.
- 3) It be agreed that proposed amendments by Seaton Junior Football Club to the draft Heads of Terms issued to the organisation be included for discussion at the first meeting of the Seaton Junior Football Club Liaison Working Party.

Minute No. 214

Councillors' Reports

- 1) It was reported that numbers 12 & 14 Beech Grove, Low Seaton, had put in place access to Low Seaton which was not permitted in the planning approval issued by Allerdale Borough Council. Following discussion on the history of the application, it was agreed to check the position with Allerdale Planning Services.

Minute No. 215

Next Meeting

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 18 April 2017.

Minute No. 216

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

Minute No. 217

Meeting Extension

Resolved that the meeting be extended beyond 9.00pm to allow consideration of the following item of business.

Minute No. 218

Allotments

Consideration was given to the contents of the letter to the Council dated 19 February 2019 received from Mr P Nicholson & colleagues stating their opposition to proposals for the development of an allotment site on Meadow Vale, together with arguments supporting that position, including the potential for legal action.

Resolved that a letter of reply be provided setting out the Council's response to matters identified for comment in the letter, & that the Council express its disappointment that a small minority of residents of Seaton should adopt such a position in respect of facilities which were designed to be available to any villager, making it clear that it remained the Council's intention to pursue a successful outcome to its proposals for the development of an allotment site on Meadow Vale.

The meeting finished at 9.15 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date