

SEBERGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Sebergham Parish Council Annual Meeting Wednesday 24 May in Welton Village Hall

Present:

Chairman Alan Rule
Vice Chairman Peter Pearson
Councillors Andrew Bell, Ken Graham, Michael Stockdale, Christine Tinnion.

Also in attendance: Councillor Duncan Fairbairn & one parishioner.

Councillors agreed that Christine Rule should take the minutes in the absence of the Clerk

Procedural Items

2017/5/1 Apologies: Maria Chesters-Bouma due to work commitments

2017/5/2 Appointment of Chairman

Alan Rule was duly re-elected and signed a declaration of office.

2017/5/3 Appointment of Vice Chairman

Peter Pearson was duly re-elected and signed a declaration of office.

2017/5/4 Dispensations

No requests received since the previous meeting for dispensations to speak and/or vote on any matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

2017/5/5 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Stockdale declared a pecuniary interest relating to 2017/5/15 (d) and 2017/5/20 (c) as the clerk is his partner.

2017/5/6 Minutes 22 March 2017

Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes as a true record.

2017/5/7 Public Participation

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow members of the public an opportunity to ask questions or raise matters of interest.

As the only member of the public in attendance wished to speak about Bell Bridge/Riverside Road, the Chairman agreed to take her comments in item 2017/5/8 to facilitate a full discussion.

County Councillor Duncan Fairbairn was congratulated on his re-election as a County Councillor to represent this area. He outlined the current road works & closures on the B5305 & A595 and explained the situation relating to County Council governance pending the general election.

The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

2017/5/8 Bell Bridge & River Edge Road Repairs – Update

John Slee (Story Contracting Ltd), Dave Harrison & Arthur Lester (CCC), and Tom Baker (Capita) provided a progress report on plans for the reconstruction of Bell Bridge and repair of the adjacent Riverside road. A parishioner expressed serious concerns on behalf of local residents regarding the extensive delays in commencing work & the severe inconvenience caused. Parish Councillors were surprised & disappointed to learn of considerable further delays about which they had not previously been made aware. Although all necessary planning permissions to re-construct the bridge had been obtained, and Story Contracting Ltd was ready to start work, they were unable to do so because CCC had failed to ensure that Electricity North West had sought & obtained the necessary approvals to re-

locate its power lines adjacent to the bridge. It was reported that this has been raised at senior level and efforts are being made to expedite approval.

Councillors were also extremely concerned to learn of the discovery of serious deficiencies in the sub-structure of the Riverside road which would require major roadworks. In spite of previous assurances of a June 2017 start date, the Parish Council & local residents had not been advised that this work could be further delayed or that, whilst CCC has identified three options for repairing the road, no decision has yet been made as to which option will be adopted. Because of this, CCC is still not in a position to seek approval from the Environment Agency (EA) for work on the road to commence. Although EA has authorised access to the river for the bridge re-construction, the road repairs cannot be commenced without detailed method approval and it now appears that it may not be possible to complete all work before the EA licence expires at the end of September. This could result in further serious delays and inconvenience to residents, with the possibility that work may not be completed until mid-2018. CCC representatives said they hoped a preferred option could be determined within a week, although no assurances could be given, and that the necessary approvals would then be sought from EA requesting that work commence in July. They were requested to provide the PC with a full written explanation and operational timescale as a matter of urgency, and Cllr Fairbairn indicated he would pursue the reasons for these delays with relevant Officers in CCC, and would be drawing the delays, and the concerns of residents, to the attention of Rory Stewart MP.

Initial outline proposals to install a 'heritage interpretative area' on the west bank of the river to celebrate the history of Bell Bridge were displayed. Councillors asked that a seat be provided facing the river and that it should be constructed of stone taken from the fallen bridge. It was agreed that revised drawings would be submitted for comment by the PC, and that it would suggest appropriate wording for a plaque to be display.

2017/5/9 Broadband

The Chairman provided an update on the current position relating to delivery of broadband in the parish. Sebergham area has been surveyed and work is progressing to install the cabinet, details of which will appear on CC's Google maps very soon. Funding has been approved to provide broadband in Welton, and BT is starting to model the coverage area, and this should take 2-3 months. When this is complete, CC will contract with BT for delivery. CC have again indicated their commitment to delivery in Welton as soon as practicable, although it is recognised that a number of outlying properties may still not have the required coverage.

2017/5/10 Planning Applications

2/2017/0158 Ms Carole Holden. Erection of a wooden horse stable – Retrospective. Parish council responded 19-4-17 with no objections but raised a number of questions.

2/2017/0151 Mr D Coulthard. Cover existing slurry tower, Chalkside Farm, Rosley. Parish Council responded 7-4-17 no objections.

2/2017/0201 Mr P Little. Re-submission of application 2/2016/0544 Change of use to convert former store to dwelling, including part demolition and extension and creation of park area. **Resolved** that no objections or comment were required.

2017/5/11 Planning Decisions

2/2017/0151 Mr D Coulthard. Cover existing slurry tower, Chalkside Farm, Rosley. Full Plans Approved 12/5/17

2/2017/0084 Mr D Coulthard. Proposed slurry lagoon, Chalkside Farm, Rosley. Full Plans Approved 24/4/17

2/2017/0158 Ms Carole Holden. Erection of a wooden horse stable – Retrospective. Full Plans Approved

2017/5/12 Notice Board Welton.

The Chairman raised the poor condition of the old notice board in Welton which is sited alongside the newly refurbished board used for council notices. This is used by local residents to advertise functions, services, etc, but is in a dilapidated condition. **Resolved** to accept an offer by Cllr Graham to renovate the notice board in the NFG 'Men in Sheds' workshop.

Governance

2017/5/13 Policy documents

Resolved on the governance documents below.

- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- Internal Audit Procedure
- Code of Conduct
- Assets Register
- Complaints procedure
- Grievance Procedure
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Grants/Donations Policy
- Training Policy
- Publication Scheme
- Recruitment Policy
- Safety Policy
- Risk Assessment
- Procedure for Co-option
- Planning Group Terms of Reference
- Parish Council Representatives

2017/5/14 Annual Subscriptions

Resolved to renew the following annual subscriptions

- a. Cumbria Association of Local Councils
- b. Information Commissioners Office £35

2017/5/15 Annual Payments

Resolved that the Council use the following organisations requiring annual payments.

- a. BDO, External Auditors (no set costs)
- b. Internal Auditor. John Christopher Leece £35
- c. Insurance. Quote with AON £230.22 including Insurance premium tax.
- d. Payment of Clerks wages by monthly standing Order
- e. Payment to Dodd & Co for PAYE and Payroll management.

2017/5/16 Meeting dates

Resolved on the proposed meeting dates for 2017 & 2018.

2017

26 July
27 September
22 November

2018

24 January
28 March (also Parish Meeting)
23 May Annual Meeting
25 July
26 September
28 November

2017/5/17 Donations

Resolved to donate £150 each to St Marys Sebergham and St James Welton towards grass cutting in the churchyard, and £200 to Northern Fells.

A request had been received from the Citizens Advice Bureau seeking a donation. **Resolved** that the council is not in a financial position to make any further donations.

Accounts

2017/5/18 End Year Accounts and Budget

Resolved that the Chairman sign the circulated accounts and budget as an accurate record.

2017/5/19 Annual Return

Resolved that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return of accounts.

2017/5/20 Authorisation is required for the following payments

Resolved that the following payments be made:

- a. CALC Annual Subscription, £130
- b. Insurance AON, £230.22
- c. Clerks annual use of office and equipment, £80
- d. Payments to recipient of donations, as resolved at item 2017/5/17.
- e. Welton Village Hall, meeting hire to March 2017, £50.
- f. Dodd & Co, for additional payroll work in relation to PAYE and pension staging £65+vat.

Proposed Date of next Meeting: 26 July 2017 7.30pm Welton Village Hall