

SEBERGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Sebergham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22 July 2015 in Welton Village Hall

Present:

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

Also in attendance: Councillor Duncan Fairbairn.

Procedural Items

15/7/22 Apologies

Maria Chesters-Bouma, Christine Tinnion.

15/7/23 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Stockdale declared an interest in item 15/7/39 as the item related to his partner.

15/5/24 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.

15/7/25 Minutes Annual Meeting 20 May 2015

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

15/7/26 Public Participation

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

Concern was expressed by members of the public on a proposed Solar Farm at Dentonside in Sebergham. The council has also received emails from parishioners who objected to the development.

Concerns presented to the meeting included that the site was a Natural England Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Conservation area. It was also felt that it would have a negative impact on wildlife species and would be clearly visible from a popular walking area along The Cumbrian Way. The area has also been prone to flooding which would make it an unsuitable site.

In response, the chairman thanked parishioners for their comments. There is not currently an application which would allow the parish council to make a formal response. However he reassured the members of the public present that, if the council was consulted, there would be the opportunity for parishioners to attend a meeting where their opinions could be taken in to consideration.

Councillor Fairbairn reported that he had been in communications with highways regarding the management of road diversions. It was felt that when diversions were necessary in this area, it should be managed by Allerdale, Eden and Carlisle collectively to manage an effective route for diversion.

Councillor Fairbairn has also been making efforts to ensure that important road repairs are carried out on the A595 and A596.

The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

Planning

15/7/27 Planning Applications

15/0630 (Carlisle Planning Authority) Land to the west of Welton Road, Welton. Carlisle .Installation of 4.4mw Ground Mounted Solar Panels, Power Inverter Stations. Deadline for response 7 August 2015.

Although it was felt that the proposals had taken in to consideration, reducing the visual impact, it was also felt that these developments were not appropriate to small Greenfield sites and that alternative positioning would be more appropriate. It was also commented that it could set a precedent for future developments.

It was **resolved** to respond to planning that the parish council had some concerns over the visual impact and that it was not felt to be appropriate on a small Greenfield site.

15/7/28 Planning Decision Notices

2/2015/0391 Installation of a wind turbine, The Ling, Welton 18.5m to hub height and 25m to tip height. **Withdrawn.**

2/2014/0419 Reathwaite Farm, Reathwaite. 45m Wind Turbine. **Appeal, full plans Refused.**

15/7/29 Solar Farms

The chairman re iterated his comments made under public participation.

Business

15/7/30 Wooden Bench

Councillor Tinnion has acquired the wooden bench which previously belonged to Welton School. Councillors were asked to give consideration to whether the bench could be restored and the most suitable place to position it.

It was **resolved** that initially; Councillor Graham would look at the bench and assess its current state of repair.

15/7/31 Review of Grit Bins

Councillors were asked to give consideration to the most appropriate sites for these in the parish. It was felt that the current positioning of the bins were appropriate and sufficient, with the exception of a yellow bin at the top of Churchtown which was not felt to be appropriate. It was **resolved** that the clerk would contact highways and discuss the possibilities for re siting this resource at the end of the Warnell road.

The clerk would also enquire about the possibility of replacement bins for those damaged on Doctors Brow.

15/7/32 Street Lighting

Following a recent Three Tier Meeting chaired by Allerdale Borough Council (ABC), there was some concern, that the plans by Electricity North West (ENW) to remove lighting from their poles at the point when repairs were required, would leave some areas in the parish vulnerable.

It was **resolved** that Councillor Pearson would contact David Brydon (ABC) for more information. The Clerk will contact Councillor Heaslip for clarification and also ENW to enquire if any work was planned for the lighting poles in Sebergham.

15/7/33 Website

The current Sebergham Parish Council website is in need of updating. Councillors considered the best way forward with this. It was **resolved** that Councillor Stockdale would review the site and bring proposals to the next meeting. Once the site is set up, the clerk will be able to enter the parish council documents. Councillor Graham will look in to updating the information on businesses and local organisations.

15/7/34 Broadband

Councillor Stockdale reported that EE broadband trial in Sebergham was effective at 3G but not 4G. They are therefore entering in to further tests.

The chairman updated the council on recent developments on Broadband. The fibre through Welton is now effectively connected to Caldbeck although no decision has been made regarding connection in Sebergham Parish. Fibre has also been extended to Raughton Head, some upgrades are expected in August.

Further developments continue to be negotiated.

Councillor Bell presented a comprehensive report on Satellite options. Although in some respects it has proved to be effective, it was non the less extremely variable. It is affected by tree and foliage cover and also weather conditions. Reception varied considerably depending on the time of day and the number of people using the service.

15/7/35 Highways

The Highways department have begun to address a number of concerns presented by the parish council. Land owners are to be contacted regarding a blocked inlet in Churchtown and possible restriction in the culvert at the bottom of Sebergham Brow. They will address the problems at the lay by at Sebergham bridge when other works are to be carried out in the area. Alternatively, in the short term they may carry out minor works to resolve the issue of water ponding in front of the layby.

It was felt to be unlikely that Highways will enforce a 'No Overnight Stay' at Sebergham Bridge and Goose Green. It was **resolved** that when the highways work was completed, the council could erect a 'No Overnight Stay' sign along with the new notice board at Sebergham bridge layby.

Councillor Pearson will look in to a reported drainage problem at the top of Sebergham Brow.

15/7/36 Refuse Bank

The chairman reported on a recent meeting to discuss the sighting of refuse banks in the parish. The purple bag scheme will continue. The re cycling bank at Welton will remain. The council will issue hessian bags for residents to use in transporting their re cycling.

Residents can contact the parish council if they would like to make any comment on re cycling or refuse collection in the parish.

15/7/37 Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

It was **resolved** that no response was required to this consultation.

15/7/38 Consultation on Implementing Geological Disposal

It was **resolved** that councillors would give this further consideration and send their comments to the clerk. These can then be forwarded to CALC before the deadline of 4 September 2015.

Governance

15/7/39 Staff Appraisal

Resolved to acknowledge the staff appraisal carried out by the clerk and chairman, circulated prior to the meeting. The clerk and Councillor Stockdale offered to leave the room during this item.

Accounts

15/7/40 Current Accounts and Budget

Councillors **resolved** to approve the circulated accounts and budget.

15/7/41 Resolved to authorise the following payments

i. John Christopher Leece, Internal Audit. £35

ii. CALC, Good Councillor Training. £150

(please note, other parish councils who had councillors on this training have been invoiced)

The Chairman reported that all seven councillors had attended the Good Councillor Training and had felt it to be worthwhile

Next Meeting: 23 September 2015 7.30pm Welton Village Hall