

SEBERGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Veronica Stockdale. Email:clerk@seberghamwelton.org.uk

Minutes of the Sebergham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 November 2014 in Welton Village Hall

Present:

Chairman Alan Rule
Vice Chairman Peter Pearson
Councillors Maria Chesters-Bouma, Ken Graham, Michael Stockdale, Christine Tinnion.

Agenda items part one

Procedural Items

1. Apologies Andrew Bell.
District and County Councillor Fairbairn also sent apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Stockdale declared an interest in item 12, as the acting clerk is his partner.

3. Minutes 17 September 2014

It was **resolved** that the Chairman sign the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 September as a true record. There was an addition to item 10 to clarify the current situation regarding the recent audit.

4. Public Participation

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

Parishioner, Mal Hilton was invited to give an update on the Northern Fells Broadband (NFB) Initiative. Communications with Connecting Cumbria were difficult due to several changes in management. Mr.Hilton presented some figures from Cumbria County Council (CCC) for the roll out of super fast broadband, although it is currently unknown what the realistic figures may be. It was felt that there had been little support from CCC regarding the delivery of broadband in the Northern Fells areas. There has also been poor communication from BT to CCC and a reluctance to share relevant documents. Phase two of the roll out may go to public consultation. Councillors expressed their concern over the issues presented by Mr Hilton. Parishioners who wish to contact the EE Broadband Helpline can do so on 0800 9566083

The Chairman thanked Mr Hilton for his report

The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

Business

5. Broadband

Councillor Stockdale gave an update on developments regarding an EE Broadband trial in Sebergham and Welton.

EE approached NFB to conduct a trial, to extend their broadband service coverage to areas not currently covered. It is expected that the equipment will be installed in the very near future.

Mr Hilton informed the council that EE will be in Sebergham Village Hall on Thursday 27 November from 10am to 7pm, when residents will have the opportunity to see a demonstration of the system. EE will be looking for volunteers to trial the system.

It was **resolved** to write to the CCC portfolio holder and ward councillor expressing the parish councils concerns over the development of broadband in the northern fells.

6. Planning Application 2/2014/0698 Chairman gave an update on developments regarding this planning application for a proposed local occupancy dwelling.

Although the parish council replied to planning in support of this development, the planning officers are recommending that permission be refused. A decision is due to be made at the Allerdale Development Panel on the 25 November. The officer's report is available on the Allerdale planning website.

7. Turbines

At the previous meeting a councillor requested a review of parish council policy on 15m (to hub) turbines. Although Allerdale Borough Council Local Plan sets out a policy for turbines in proximity to dwellings, recent Development Panel Decisions and officers advice appears to vary from this. The chairman suggested that the council takes no action at this point and waits for clarification on what future Allerdale planning policy will be. The council **resolved** on this course of action.

8. Water run-off Churchtown

Following the previous meeting, it was agreed that the clerk would contact Highways regarding this issue. In the absence of the then clerk, it was unclear what action had been taken. It was **resolved** therefore to postpone any further action on this issue until the council could clarify the current situation.

9. Notice Boards

Councillor Graham invited comment on the possibility of repairs to notice boards. It was **resolved** that councillor Graham would carry out some repairs to the notice board in Sebergham and add a lock to the area designated for parish council use. Councillor Rule would also add a similar lock to the notice board in Welton.

There was some discussion about the possibility of erecting a new notice board at the lay by at Sebergham Bridge. Although in principle, councillors felt this to be a good idea; it was felt that a decision should be postponed until there was confirmation on ownership of the land. The chairman will look in to this further.

10. Speed guns and Speed Indication Devices (SID's)

Councillor Stockdale gave an update on the possibility of Sebergham parish council managing the use of these in the parish.

The council felt that the use of a SID would be effective in slowing down traffic. It was **resolved** that its use in the parish be re instated.

In principle, councillors felt that the use of speed guns could also be a useful traffic calming measure. The process for training volunteers to use this equipment is more complex than initially thought. It was **resolved** that councillors look in to this further and invite the Police Community Support Officer to the January meeting when an informed decision could be made.

It was further **resolved** that councillor Graham would act as parish council representative on these road safety issues.

11. Lay-by Sebergham Bridge

Parishioners have raised some concerns regarding the need for maintenance work on this lay-by. The chairman has contacted Highways who say that this piece of land is not adopted by Highways. Therefore, before agreeing on any further action, it was felt that further clarification was required on ownership. The chairman will look in to this further and report to the next meeting.

Following a proposal and secondary proposal, it was **resolved** that it would be appropriate to discuss item 12 under a part two, excluding press and public, due to the confidentiality relating to employment issues.

At this point, councillor Stockdale left the room, following the declaration of interest, item 2.

Agenda items part two

Items to be considered in the absence of press and public, when publicity would prejudice public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

12. The post of Clerk/RFO

The chairman summarised the process which had taken place to support the recently appointed clerk. Councillors **resolved** unanimously that the most appropriate course of action had been taken. The council further **resolved** to allow the chair and vice chair to make any appropriate outstanding payments to the clerk.

A local clerk had agreed to undertake the clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) duties to Sebergham parish council for the November meeting. It was **resolved** that this arrangement continues until January, the council would then consider future arrangements for the parish council clerk's position at the January meeting.

It was **resolved** to make payment to the acting clerk for the hours which were required to undertake the role.

Councillors recognised the requirement for a number of extra hours to allow the temporary clerk to manage an effective handover.

In order for the temporary clerk to manage the role of RFO, it was **resolved** that a letter be signed to inform the bank of the new contact details and that the chairman and one other signatory sign a change of secretary bank form.

Councillors requested that the temporary clerk circulate copies of the financial regulations to councillors when the parish council documents have been handed over.

Councillors recognise the need to address the formal adoption of governance documents according to proper practice.

Councillors thanked the acting clerk for the work carried out on behalf of the parish council to date.

Date of next Meeting: 21 January 2015