

SEBERGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Sebergham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21 January 2015 in Welton Village Hall

Present:

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

Also in attendance: Councillor Duncan Fairbairn.
PC Kerry Harris, during public participation.

Agenda items part one

Procedural Items

1. Apologies None received

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors, Rule. Pearson and Bell, declared an interest in item 5. Planning application 2/2014/0584 as they live in close proximity to the proposed site.
Councillor Stockdale declared a pecuniary interest in item 19. Payments to his partner V. Stockdale, and will not be voting on these items.

3. Minutes 19 November 2014

Councillors authorised the Chairman to sign these as a true record.

4. Public Participation

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

District and County Councillor Fairbairn reported a lack of grit supplies in areas of the parish. Councillors also felt that a review of sites and grit supplies would be of benefit. This will be added to the July agenda. The council was informed that damage to the road surface at Parkhead, Warnell, has been reported to Highways. It is felt that this damage is likely caused by the timber lorries using this road. MP Rory Stewart is continuing to liaise with Ministers to promote superfast broadband in the rural areas.

PC Harris was due to attend the meeting but was delayed.
It was agreed to re adjourn the meeting when PC Harris arrived

The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

5. Planning Applications

2/2013/0227 Wind Turbines at Carwath. Sebergham Parish Council has responded **objecting** to this proposal.

2/2014/0584 Re-consultation on planning application, The Ling Welton. Installation of a small scale wind turbine with a hub height of 18.45 and 25m to tip to generate electricity for onsite use.
Councillors expressed some concern on the visual impact of this proposed development. It was agreed that it does not comply with the agreed policy of the parish council. It was **resolved** to object to this planning application.

The Chairman re adjourned the meeting to allow PC Kerry Harris to speak about the Community Speed Watch scheme.

The procedure for setting up the scheme was explained and councillors felt that it could be of benefit to the community. The parish council representative for road safety, Councillor Graham, will liaise with PC Harris on this matter.

The Chairman then re convened the meeting.

6. Planning Decision Notices

2/2014/0698 Mr and Mrs Henderson, outline application for proposed local occupancy dwelling. Land between Church and Beech Cottages, Welton. **Approved**

Governance

7. Information Commissioners Office

It is a legal requirement that parish councils be registered with the information commissioner's office. Councillors **resolved** that the clerk register Sebergham Parish Council.

8. Representative for Grants

There are a number of grants available for projects, the parish council may wish to undertake. It was proposed that the parish council appoint a representative to co ordinate these in conjunction with the clerk. All decisions on grant applications will remain with the council body.

It was **resolved** that Councillor Chesters-Bouma takes on this role.

Business

9. Road Safety

Councillor Graham reported that we now have a SID for use in the parish. Councillors will give consideration to suitable positions to set this up periodically. Councillor Graham will look further in to the use of Speed Watch and liaise with PC Harris and Highways. The Clerk will enquire about public liability implications.

10. Lay by Sebergham Bridge

The chairman reported that following a meeting with Highways, they had agreed to re surface the area allowing more effective drainage to the river.

They further agreed to discuss the possibility of a 'No Overnight Stay' sign with the relevant authorities.

Once the work is carried out, a number of residents have expressed that they would endeavour to keep the area tidy.

It was suggested that there may be the possibility of the Council acquiring ownership of this piece of land.

It was agreed that the Chairman would look in to this further and add to a later agenda item.

11. Notice Boards

As discussed at the previous parish council meeting, repairs are required to the two existing notice boards.

It **resolved** that the work be carried out by the Northern Fells 'Men in Sheds' and that a donation of £20 is given. Councillors also **resolved** to provide a new notice board for the lay by at Sebergham Bridge.

Councillor Graham indicated this could be made by 'Men in Sheds' (Northern Fells Charity) and he will provide a cost for consideration at the next meeting.

12. Consultation Paper Allerdale Local Plan (Part 2) Site Allocations

Councillors were invited to offer any comment on this paper and decide if any response is required.

It was **resolved** that a response be made to the effect that although there was no comment on items stated, the council do have concerns over the lack of new housing in the parish.

13. Future of the Parish Council and Parish Council Quality Status

Giving consideration to the future management of the parish council, there is currently a new Quality Award status which can be awarded to parish councils. It was **resolved** that the Clerk will compile as many outstanding governance documents as possible and bring the proposed documents to the Annual Meeting in May. Following this, the council may look further in to the Quality Award status.

14. Broadband

Councillor Stockdale reported on developments with the EE broadband trials and indicated that arrangements are being made to deliver equipment to volunteers in early February.

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting attended by himself and councillor Stockdale with Connecting Cumbria following submission of the council's Phase 2 consultation response. Concern was expressed at the discovery that BDUK funding can only be spent once in any area, preventing the two-phase approach put forward by the Council, NFBG & Rory Stewart MP. Connecting Cumbria has also been unable to confirm how arrangements for delivery of broadband in the parish under Phase 1 will proceed, leaving considerable concerns & uncertainties.

It was **resolved** that the Chairman bring these concerns to the attention of Rory Stewart MP and Cumbria County Council, and efforts be made to trace the ownership and potential to use the fibre optic cable running through the parish.

15. Queens garden party

No nominations made.

Accounts

16. Current Accounts and Budget

The clerk has compiled a record of the current year's accounts and budget to 31 March 2015, for the attention of councillors. **Resolved** that the Chairman sign these as an accurate record.

Councillors thanked the clerk for the work on compiling these accounts.

17. Budget and Precept 2015-16

Councillors were asked to consider the proposed budget and precept for 2015-16, circulated prior to the meeting. **Resolved** that the proposed budget be adopted and precept amount agreed.

18. Previously resolved payments

Following a resolution of the council at the meeting in November 2014 a final payment for employment was made to Ms Fawcett for £401.47.

Following a resolution of the council at the November meeting, it was resolved to pay the acting clerk for the hours undertaken to carry out the role up to 19 November 2014. The sum of £120.48 is to be paid.

19. Resolved that the following payments be made

V. Stockdale, as acting clerk. Details circulated to councillors.	£478.15
V. Stockdale, expenses for stationary.	£31 .50
A Fawcett, expenses.	£34 .53
Northern fells 'Men in Sheds', repairs to notice boards.	£20 .00
Information Commissioners Office	£35 .00
Donation Northern Fells	£200.00
Donation Sebergham Parochial Church Council	£150.00
Donation Welton Parochial Church Council	£150.00

It was **resolved** that the press and public be excluded during discussion of item 20, on the grounds of confidentiality relating to employment issues.

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.

The Clerk and Councillor Stockdale left the room during discussions on agenda item 20.

20. The post of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

The Chairman introduced discussion on the need to appoint a permanent Clerk/RFO to the Council by outlining his discussions with CALC on procedural and contractual matters. Councillors recognised that their ambition for the Council to become more pro-active, and the requirement to introduce procedures not previously employed, would make greater demands on the new post-holder. It was **resolved** to set the Clerk's pay at SCP 22, and to increase the hours of employment to 4 hours per week.

It was then proposed by Cllr Bell, and seconded by Cllr Pearson, that the acting Clerk be offered the post on a permanent basis, taking into account her qualifications and experience and also the significant contribution made to the work of the council during recent weeks as acting Clerk. Councillors unanimously approved this proposal, and on return to the meeting the acting Clerk was offered, and accepted the post.

Date of next Meeting: 18 March 2015