

SEBERGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Parish Council Chairman: Alan Rule. Tel. 016974 76410

Minutes

Parishioners were invited to the Annual Parish Meeting Welton Village Hall Wednesday 23 March 2016 at 7pm

16.1 Apologies: Andrew Bell, Maria Chesters-Bouma

16.2 Minutes 20 May 2015

Resolved that the Chairman sign these minutes as a true record.

16.3 The Chairman of the Parish Council presented a report on the activities of the parish council in the previous year. Report attached.

Councillors thanked the chairman for his work over the last year.

16.4 The Chairman invited any comment from parishioners.

There was an enquiry about the precept amount for 2016-17. The Chairman explained that the increasing responsibilities of parish councils following recent legislation meant that more time was required by the clerk. The budgeted amounts were also required to balance the payments made to the two parish churches, grass cutting and parish maintenance.

There is some concern over the current situation regarding the collapse of Bell Bridge and the road closure along the river edge. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the County Council and MP Rory Stewart to make enquiries about future plans for these issues.

The main concerns expressed by parishioners were Highways, flooding and Broadband. The parish council has been making efforts to resolve all of these issues on behalf of residents and continues to do so. It was also raised that there appeared to be an inaccurate diversion of a footpath at Denton Side which the Parish Council will investigate further.

One resident of Churchtown enquired whether it was possible to remove the bollards in Churchtown. The chairman explained that the decision to install bollards was taken following a number of complaints from residents regarding excessive parking along this stretch of road and vehicles being repaired on the roadside. Complaints of parking along this stretch were also highlighted in the Parish Plan when all residents were consulted. The bollards were placed to reduce parking of vehicles, causing an unsightly view and to prevent the ensuing damage to the roadside.

Although a resident referred to the bollards as being illegal, the chairman explained that this was not the case. The bollards had been positioned by Highways at the Parish Council's request, and they were now looking in to more suitable alternatives as the existing bollards were continually being knocked down and cars returning to park over the area.

A document was presented to the Chairman by a resident during the meeting. The Chairman said that he would give this consideration and write a reply after seeking advice from CALC and Democratic Services, Allerdale Borough Council.

There is an ongoing concern regarding water run off in Churchtown. The parish council has previously been in touch with highways regarding this and will continue to pursue the matter.

Two residents referred to confusing correspondence received from Allerdale and Eden regarding which council's area Churchtown falls within. The Chairman confirmed that it is within Allerdale BC area, and residents were asked to contact Councillor Fairbairn with any correspondence received so that he could have this corrected.

Chairman's Report to Annual Parish Meeting – March 2016

Welcome to this Annual Parish Meeting which gives me the opportunity to summarise the work of the Parish Council over the past year, and to invite any questions or suggestions for the future.

I am pleased that our councillors remain unchanged, but we do still have a vacancy, and anyone interested in being co-opted to the Council can contact the Clerk for details.

We do our best to represent the wishes & concerns of local people, and our activities are widely reported in our minutes, in the press, on noticeboards, and on the website.

Issues that we have responded to over the past year include:

- Pursuing the Highways department to improve the condition of our roads. This is a never-ending process, made worse by the winter storms. These caused a significant amount of damage, including the destruction of Bell Bridge, and we continue to liaise with the County Council in an attempt to achieve a suitable permanent replacement as soon as possible. Following a request by the Council, Highways have now started to improve & re-surface the lay-by at Sebergham Bridge.
- The Council continued to respond to planning application consultations from Allerdale BC, and we try to reflect views received from local people. These included wind turbine applications which prompted considerable local opposition and this was reflected in our responses; these were refused by Allerdale planners.
- Although we registered an objection to the application for a solar farm at Welton Road because of the impact it would have on Welton village, Carlisle City Council gave approval. We made every effort to minimise the disruption to the roads and verges in the village during this work, but it has been largely beyond our control.
- We continue with our efforts to improve the provision of Broadband to ALL properties in the parish, because local businesses & residents are being severely disadvantaged in comparison with most other areas of the county, and the country. We will continue pursuing the County Council & other agencies to fund this work in the months ahead.
- Finally, my thanks to our councillors & Clerk who have worked hard to address issues on behalf of local people. We continue to make steady progress, but we do need to hear the views of local people on any matters that concern them, or issues they wish us to take up on their behalf, and where there are differences, we will attempt to reflect the majority view.