

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2024 ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
SEASCALE PARISH COUNCIL**

Held in Seascale Methodist Hall on 4th September 2024 at 7:00 pm

Attended:	Lizzie Mawson	LM	(Chair)
	David Moore	DM	(Vice-Chair)
	Bran Harvey-Chadwick	BHC	
	Catherine Harvey-Chadwick	CHC	
	Ken Mawson	KM	
	Mark Porter	MP	
	Michael Warmoth		(Acting Clerk / RFO)

1) Apologies for absence: none

2) Statement by Chair

This is the first meeting in two months following August break. Over this period the village has received an influx of holiday visitors and the village has remained clean and tidy thanks to the residents.

Ian Tallentire resigned as a councillor.

Reported the sad loss of James Good due to a tragic accident; he will be sorely missed by the council

DM continued the statement. Item 13.2 on the agenda (request to ban the food van at the Sports Hall park and trade) was based on a typo in an email correspondence from a member of the public - ban had been transposed with van. An attempt to rectify this mistake on the agenda was made within three working days of the meeting which under the Council's standing orders is illegal, and therefore to ensure the meeting continued it was necessary to remove the item. The item will not appear on next month's agenda unless the original correspondent makes a new request to add it to the agenda.

A member of the public asked to know what was exactly said but it was deemed that the correspondent's permission was needed to do so. Another member of the public asked why the appointment of a new clerk was not minuted. The new clerk will be officially appointed at the next meeting and will act as temporary clerk for the purposes of this meeting.

3) Declarations of interest by councillors in respect to this agenda: none

4) Ratify Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by DM and seconded by CHC with all in favour; signed by the Chair

5) Matters arising

The Clerk had contacted Highways regarding repair to the footpath down to marble arch.

BHC will contact Whamos for facebook to be embedded into the website

DM has replaced the gents' toilets' door handle.

The Clerk had contacted a plumber for the repairs to the toilet block and passed the information onto BHC

The Clerk was to contact the police to request a meeting with councillors regarding the anti-social behaviour in the car park but has not heard back.

LM to circulate the updated car park signage content.

A letter has been sent to Mr Jason Rushworth to congratulate him for all his efforts in making the Gala week such a tremendous success.

DM reported that the grass cutting at the BMX track had not happened due the illness of the contractor. Instead it was being carried out successfully by volunteers. He has made an Application to the Mid Copeland Community Investment Fund to purchase equipment to be used by the volunteers. This would mean that grass cutting was bought under the Parish Council's control and the dependence on contractors would greatly diminish.

6) Councillor Co-option

Mitch Franks (MF) was proposed as a co-opted Councillor by KM and seconded by DM with all in favour. He duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as witnessed by the Parish Clerk, and has agreed to submit a DPI.

7) Planning Applications: none

8) Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

8.1) Community Partnership

Due to the two recent elections, the Community Partnership has been in purdah and there will be no full meeting report until next week. However, a significant development has been the adoption by NWS of a Property Protection Scheme where the sale price of property is affected by its location in the GDF search area.

Individuals will have to prove that the value of their properties has been impacted; claims will be sent to an independent panel and not to NWS. Further details here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/property-value-protection-scheme>

The Mid Copeland Community Partnership is planning more engagement events such as the Visioning event already scheduled for Weds 18th September 2024 at 2 pm to 4 pm at the Bailey Ground Hotel. Any members of the public who wish to attend must register using the QR codes available on the website

(<https://midcopelandcommunityvisioningforums.gdfevents.co.uk>).

8.2) Car Park Agreement

The external auditor had questioned the process by which the licence to occupy the car park had been minuted in 2020 and made the following recommendation:

The smaller authority should call a public meeting to discuss, review and formally approve the renewal of the Licence to Occupy Agreement due later this year. The smaller authority should follow its own procedures fully which include the need to consider any conflicting declarations of interest, and document whether there were any. The smaller authority should ensure that all evidence is kept, as appropriate, and that the minutes are sufficiently detailed to provide a full record of the matters discussed and the decision taken, accurate and correctly published to the website.

The Parish Council recognise that there were some minuting issues but in mitigation this was during the COVID pandemic when meetings were conducted by Zoom which had caused problems for the Clerk due to technical difficulties.

DM proposed to accept the recommendations, seconded by LM, with all in favour.

The new Licence to Occupy is up for renewal on 2nd October. The Council authorised the clerk to sign the new lease if the following conditions are met: That there is an increase of £2,500 in years 1&2 (increasing the price to £17,500) and another increase of £2,500 in years 3&4 (increasing the price to £20,000). Six Parish Councillors voted in favour of renewing the Licence on these conditions with one abstention.

9) Finance

9.1) Report from the RFO

July Cashbook reconciled £112,384.49

August Cashbook reconciled £111,410.57

July payments

Creditor	Credit	Debit (gross)	VAT	Comments
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick		57.50		Foreshore litter bins June
Quality Cleaning & Contracting Ltd		144.00	24.00	Litter bin emptying
Waterplus		91.96	0.78	Library water x 4 charges - May-Jun
TRgardens		416.00		Grass cutting
DAV Cumbria		904.32	150.72	CCTV camera, base unit, cabling & repairs
Unblock Cumbria		144.00	24.00	Clear blocked manhole - Sports Hall
Octopus Energy		39.98	1.90	Toilet block electric - June
Methodist Church		195.00		Room Hire June 2023 - June 2024
Whamos Ltd		1155.00		Website upgrade balance payment
Octopus Energy		531.66	88.61	Library electric - June
Reece Robinson		2000.00		Funding for sports events
EE Ltd		24.28		DAV monthly SIM maintenance

August payments

Creditor	Credit	Debit (gross)	VAT	Comments
GDF	7000.00			Funding for multi sports event
A R Gray Gardening		250.00		BMX grass cutting, strimming etc
Reece Robinson		5000.00		Funding balance for sports events
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick		92.00		Foreshore litter bins July
Quality Cleaning & Contracting Ltd		162.00	27.00	Litter bin emptying
House of Flags		489.60	81.60	Parish Flag & Union Flag
PATA		20.70		Payroll service Jul - Aug
Waterplus		89.14	0.78	Library water x 4 charges - Jun - Jul
Octopus Energy		31.75	1.51	Toilet block electric - July
Octopus Energy		541.16	90.19	Library electric - July
Pelleyounters		32.03	5.34	Toilet block supplies
A R Gray Gardening		415.00		Strim Gosforth Rd to beach & Train station to metal bridge paths
First Image		108.00	18.00	Defibrillator signage
WF Cascade		188.26	31.38	T. Rolls, liquid soap & bleach
EE Ltd		24.28		DAV monthly SIM maintenance

9.2) September payments to date

Staff Expenditure	430.77	Salary - 1 wk August & September
Vortex Security	234.00	39.00 Car park entrance camera repair
Bran Harvey-Chadwick	22.79	Domain Renewal
Cumberland Council	315.00	Foreshore trade waste bins
Waterplus	91.96	0.78 Library water x 4 charges - Jul - August
Quality Cleaning & Contracting Ltd	216.00	36.00 Litter bin emptying

10) Parish Assets

10.1) Library

Still awaiting information from former Councillor Tallentire on the Library upgrade project. Expecting a quote from Day Cummins for detailed plans and planning permission. If the quote is acceptable the Parish Council will authorise Day Cummins to act as agents for the full refurbishment of the Library. This will include an extension at the front to provide a private meeting room for organisations such as Credit Union and Citizens Advice; a new pitched roof with solar panels for sustainability; refurbishment of toilets and disabled toilet and a room divider so that the main room can be divided into two smaller spaces for community activities. The aim is to create a community hub in line with Cumberland Council's aims. The Library Committee need to take the opportunity to complete this work now while the Community Investment Fund is available as without it such a project may never be viable.

10.2) Play areas

LM and MP met with the company who originally installed the foreshore playground equipment on site and discussed the weathering of the metal parts of the equipment and the need to replace some of the landscaping aspects with more equipment for younger children. The company has said that the equipment is no longer under warranty and will charge £6,000 for repairs. LM will find the warranty; if the company then agree to fix the equipment the Parish Council will use them again to buy additional equipment.

DM reported the Coniston Play Area is in good order but could do with some extra equipment.

More picnic tables have been requested for the foreshore. A plan to create fencing around the play area with more seating areas is under discussion.

10.3) Toilet block

The toilet door handles have been replaced and the taps do not need replacing. A plumber came last Friday to review the flushing system and has recommended a refurbishment of the toilets. This will include putting cisterns in the toilets and replacing all the ladies' toilets. An issue with the CCTV was also reported and some cabling needs to be moved.

10.4) CCTV

In July one of the cameras was replaced by Vortex Security who charged a third of the price quoted by DAV who originally installed them. Another camera that was not working properly was fixed by Vortex for no charge. It is therefore recommended that all repairs should be given to Vortex in future and only the subscription to DAV for use of the e-mast should be continued.

The Sports Hall CCTV is working but is generally switched off (this is due to the original position of the plug socket which has now been moved so should no longer

be an issue). The Sports Hall committee do not know the log-in for the system or how to operate it correctly which needs to be reviewed.

10.5) Sports Hall

The Sports Hall has been booked for the Rat Race (a competition to hike from the shore to the top of Scafell Pike) on 27-28th September. The organisers are expecting 400 competitors who will not be staying in the village. They are investigating car parking outside of the area and transporting the competitors to the start by bus. The Parish Council was concerned about waste provision and toilet facilities; MF will go back to the organisers with the Parish Council's concerns although he believed it would not be an issue. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.

Online Booking System: BHC will be receiving training on the new online booking system from Whamos this Friday and other Councillors are welcome to attend. BHC will then be offering training to the Sports Hall Committee. The system is in place to use and the Parish Council is just awaiting confirmation about the terms and conditions which the Clerk had forwarded to CALC for legal approval. A question was asked about the key to the hall. This will be kept in a key safe and the code will be sent out once the booking has been confirmed.

11) Highways and Transport

KM raised a question about the street lights on the Gosforth Road especially the one at the junction with Hallsenna Road and outside the school. DM reported that Cumberland Council have said it is part of a programme in process and that they plan to replace the lights removed by Copeland Council with two more powerful lights. DM will chase up with Cumberland Council.

KM raised another question about the blocked drain outside Bleawath Farm on the Gosforth Road. Again, DM will raise it with Highways but also pointed out that anyone could report this to Highways on their website (a link is available on the Seascale Parish website).

KM reported the closure of the railway between Sellafield and Millom due to repairs to the Eskmeals Viaduct. A bus replacement will operate from Sellafield station calling at the other stations including Seascale starting from 7th September until 22nd September 2024.

12) AOB

12.1) Christmas tree and decorations

The decorations from last year will be used again, but the lights need checking. LM suggested Tony Biggins who had fixed the foreshore lights for £190. It was suggested that the Christmas Tree light switch-on could be co-ordinated with the Scouts and the planned Christmas Fayre to be held in the Sports Hall. It was suggested that the tree requires a stronger stand as it has blown over the past two years.

12.2) Hallsenna bench

It was reported that the bench in Hallsenna Road needs to be replaced and it was agreed to purchase a new bench.

12.3) New website

There has been no negative feedback about the website. The Councillors need to start using their new email addresses (this will assist with any Freedom of Information, Data Protections, etc issues). A new address will be set up for MF and the Clerk will be transitioned over to the new email address.

13) Correspondence

13.1) Remembrance Benches

A request has been received from Garry Chilton, Chairman of the Seascale branch of the Royal British Legion. The RBL wish to replace two of the benches on the foreshore in remembrance of those who have given their lives since the end of World War Two. Each bench would have a brass plaque recording this. LM reported that two benches have been identified and the Parish Council gave its full support to this request.

13.2) Flags

John Parsons says the flag pole needs new guide lines. A Working Party is needed to replace them as this is a big job with a heavy flagpole. Currently two of the flags cannot be changed as they are stuck in position. The Parish Council is waiting for the equipment needed to fix this.

14) Public Participation

14.1) A request that an item is added to the next agenda to discuss the number of Sellafield buses picking up in Seascale. It was agreed to add this to the next agenda.

14.2) It was suggested that the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) should not be signed off in an Annual Parish Meeting but in an Ordinary General Meeting and it was recommended that the AGAR be approved at the next meeting and that the External Auditor be given notice that this has been actioned.

14.3) Questions were raised about the car park. The first referred to the difficulty residents have parking there especially during the summer months. It was suggested that Resident Badges should be issued, but it was pointed out that this would be difficult to police. Another suggestion was that the Sellafield workers should have permits in their cars to show they can park in the blue parking bays. It was pointed out that this system did operate when the parking agreement first launched in 2015, but a number of these cars were specifically targeted for vandalism and so it was dropped. Another point raised was Sellafield workers parking in side streets. Further points raised included the capacity of the Sellafield car parks around the site, shift-workers not being able to park on the Sellafield site and Sellafield workers not using the designated bays. MF suggested that Seascale Parish Council should conduct a survey to check the car parking before 9am for six months to obtain some clear data before attempting to create any solutions. He offered to conduct this survey which was agreed to by the Parish Council.

14.4) A question was asked about the Give Way line on the shore side of the railway bridge and whether a Give Way signpost should be erected. It was stated that the Give Way line was painted by Seascale Parish Council a number of years ago, but Highways deemed it unnecessary and refused to repaint it. It was suggested that this site was reported to the Police CRASH committee as an accident blackspot, but unless there was a serious casualty it is unlikely that the Give Way line will be renewed.

14.5) A question was asked about how Seascale Parish Council would respond to the recent news article that Seascale had one of the dirtiest beaches in the country and that this was an insult to all the volunteers who work hard to keep the beach clean. DM said the article was based on information on water quality gathered by a private company and Trip Advisor reviews. DM has asked the Department of the

Environment and United Utilities to comment on the article with the correct information.

14.6) A question was asked about United Utilities dumping sewage into the sea, as it has been noted that on certain occasions over the summer brown sludge has been coming in with the tide. DM reported that he was not aware that United Utilities had been discharging sewage, but that the water treatment plant does have an automatic overflow system that discharges into Whitriggs Beck at times of heavy rain or flooding. The Parish Council will ask United Utilities if they have made any discharges into the sea.

14.7) A question was asked about the procedure to appoint a Parish Councillor. If a position becomes vacant it must be advertised on the Parish Council website for 14 working days. During that time if 10 or more residents write to Cumberland Council to request an election, one must be held by Cumberland Council who will then bill Seascale Parish Council for the cost of holding the election (estimated at £2,000 or more). If no election is required a Parish Councillor may be co-opted by the Parish Council in a public meeting. The candidate must be proposed and seconded by two members of the Seascale Parish Council.

15) Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

Next meeting to be held on 2nd October 2024 at Seascale Methodist Hall.

Actions:

- 2) Clerk to request that the External Auditor's letter can be made public – request submitted
- 5) BHC to contact Whamos about facebook
- 10.2) LM to find warranty for Foreshore Play Equipment
- 10.5) BHC to offer training on online booking system
- 11) DM to chase Cumberland Council regarding street lights in Seascale and also drainage issue at Bleawath Farm
- 12.2) Purchase of new bench for Hallsenna Road
- 12.3) BHC to set up new email address for MF and Clerk to be set up
- 14.3) MF to conduct a survey of early morning car park usage
- 14.6) DM to ask United Utilities if they have made any discharges into the sea