

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2024 ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
SEASCALE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in Seascale Methodist Hall on 2nd October 2024 at 7:00pm**

Attended:	Lizzie Mawson	LM	(Chair)
	David Moore	DM	(Vice-Chair)
	Mitch Franks	MF	
	Bran Harvey-Chadwick	BHC	
	Catherine Harvey-Chadwick	CHC	
	Ken Mawson	KM	
	Michael Warmoth		(Clerk/RFO)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mark Porter MP

2. **Announcements from the Chair:** There was no announcement from the Chair.

3. **Declarations of interest by councillors in respect to agenda items:** There were no declarations of interest.

4. Ratify Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by MF and seconded by KM that the minutes were true and accurate, with all in favour; signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising

Matters arising were dealt with under the relevant sections of Parish Assets. BHC was advised not to embed Facebook into the new website by the website providers.

5.1 Acceptance of the 2024 AGAR

The Parish Council confirmed the ratification of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024.

6. Appointment of New Clerk/RFO

Proposed by LM and seconded by DM, the new Clerk/RFO Michael Warmoth was duly appointed.

7. **Planning**^[1]_[SEP] 7.1 4/24/2312/0F1 - 14 Eskdale Avenue, Seascale - change flat roof to lean-to sloping roof – no objection

The Clerk received a planning notification for the installation of telecommunication poles at Middle Ling Bank – no objection, but it is noted the poles are located in Gosforth Parish.

8. Finance^[1]_[SEP]

8.1 RFO Report^[1]_[SEP]

September Cashbook reconciled £117,625.44

September payments

Creditor	Credit	Debit (gross)	VAT	Comments
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
Girobank Core Business	955.53			Car Park honesty box
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick		126.50		Foreshore litter bins August
TJ Services		210.00		Grass cutting
David Moore		46.26	7.71	Grass mower fuel
Octopus Energy		38.42	1.83	Toilet block electric - August
Octopus Energy		533.35	88.89	Library electric - August
T&C Biggins		190.00		Foreshore lighting repairs
Avison Young	7500.00			03/04/2024-02/10/2024
EE Limited		24.28		DAV monthly SIM maintenance
Account 1		18.00		Service Charge
General Reserve Account	486.67			Interest Credit

October payments to date

Creditor	Credit	Debit (gross)	VAT	Comments
Cumberland Council		549.72	91.62	Play area inspections Apr - Sept
Quality Cleaning & Contracting Ltd		234.00		
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick		115.00		Foreshore litter bins
Girobank Core Business	127.66			Car park honesty box

MF queried the monthly charge of £533.35 on the Library and agreed to contact the suppliers. DM added that following a successful bid to the GDF to purchase equipment for grass-cutting he had received an invoice from Mill Garage for £25,627. He requested that the Clerk pay this invoice and reclaim VAT amounting to £4,262. Asked about running costs such as fuel and trimmer lines, DM reported that these would have to be incurred by the Parish Council, but there would still be a large saving by not employing contractors. DM also reported that safety equipment had also been included in the bid (eg hard hats). The Parish Council's liability insurance would cover any volunteers and it may be worth applying to the GDF for further funding to pay for health and safety training for the volunteers. The Parish Council now has control over grass-cutting in the village and is able to decide when to start cutting in the Spring and also make the decision when and how often to cut.

8.3 Laptop for the Parish Clerk^[1]_{SEP}

LM proposed a budget of £800 for the purchase of a laptop and related equipment for the new Clerk as well as ongoing operating costs.

8.4 Additional signatories for the bank account

MF proposed Councillor Mark Porter in his absence as the extra signatory of the bank account. Seconded by DM

At this stage LM proposed moving item 13.1 up the agenda because a number of children were attending to hear this specific item.

13.1 Scout Group request for more storage on sports field^[1]_{SEP}

The Scout Group need extra storage space and before applying to the GDF for funds to buy a trailer they wish to gain the Parish Council's permission to install another storage container on the Sports Hall car park next to the three that are already there.

LM responded that the Parish Council has a number of forthcoming plans for this area around the Sports Hall and did not want to add further storage to the car park; if at a future date a new complex is developed, that would include the storage requirements of the Scouts. There was also an issue of gaining temporary planning permission for the storage container. It was proposed that in the interim the Scouts should approach the Cricket Club about using their storage container. MF said he would speak to Andy Lee about this solution.

LM asked if the Christmas lights switch on would be co-ordinated with the Scouts' event. BHC reported that this is in hand and the date of the turning on of the lights would be 30th November.

9. Parish Assets

9.1.1 Sellafield buses at Seascale Car Park

MF read out a statement from a parishioner about the issue of the number of buses using the car park to pick up Sellafield workers during the week. MF had conducted a survey of the usage of the car park and reported that: on average only 50% of the blue bay car parking spaces were in use at 7am and 9:30am and that the white bay spaces were more heavily used. The bus drivers do check the permits before allowing workers on the buses and there were on average less than five people on each bus. He proposed that the villagers are allowed to vote on whether to continue the agreement with Sellafield or change the car park to a pay and display. This may or may not increase revenue, and there are management issues to consider as well as a possible increase in anti-social parking issues elsewhere in the village. DM responded that in order to get a mandate you would need a response from over 10% of the residents which can be difficult to achieve.

DM reported that he has spoken to Sellafield who have agreed to remove twenty of the scheduled bus journeys from November. They had insisted on maintaining the 4 buses per hour between 6:30 and 8 am but agreed to remove buses in the less busy periods. DM will ask Sellafield if they can gather statistics on bus usage with regard to reducing this number further on environmental grounds. This agreed reduction is a positive step for the village.

9.1.2 Sellafield Car Park Licence to Occupy Agreement

As formally requested by the External Auditor, the new Licence to Occupy Agreement with Sellafield needs to be agreed by the Parish Council. As such a temporary six-week agreement was approved by the whole Parish Council starting from midnight on the 2nd October. The new agreement will be drawn up by the land agent and the Parish Council requires that it includes an annual increase of £1000, rising to £19,000 by the end of the agreed term.

In answer to the statement read out by MF the Council was happy to confirm that the agreement with Avison Young as the Land Agent did comply with the terms of the Restrictive Covenant as the agreement was a licence to occupy and not a lease. This was checked by Copeland Borough Council solicitors at the time of the transfer. The licence is merely a permission to use and conveys no rights of ownership. It can be withdrawn at any time by either party giving three months' notice.

LM proposed the acceptance of the agreement, KM seconded the proposal. [During this discussion, there was a number of interruptions from members of the public.]

9.1.3 Waste collections^[L]_[SEP]

DM reported that following surveillance Cumberland Council have successfully prosecuted an individual for fly tipping in the car park. The recycling bins should be back in the next couple of months; there will be fewer of them, one for small cardboard and one for plastic and glass. CHC asked about the un-emptied bin. DM reported that the Head of Waste from Cumberland Council had visited the site and items were removed to lighten the load of the bin before it could be emptied.

9.2 Library^[L]_[SEP]

The clerk was asked to contact former Councillor Ian Tallentire for copies of the library handover documents including the planning application. BHC reported that he had assisted the library volunteers with the heating system.

9.3 Play areas^[L]_[SEP]

Reported that MP has taken the lead on the foreshore renovations. As the items discussed in the previous meeting are not included in the guarantee, the Parish Council will not be re-using the suppliers of the current equipment. This will be discussed at the next meeting when MP is present.

9.4 Toilet block^[L]_[SEP]

BCH has not heard back from the plumber; the Parish Council is having difficulty finding a plumber.

9.5 CCTV^[L]_[SEP]

BHC will follow up the repair of the faulty camera.

9.6 Sports Hall

MF reported on the Rat Race. It proved successful and the organisers have taken on board the car parking issues. The organisers made donations of £300 to SRA and SPC and an additional £100 for the use of the car park. They hope to hold the event again next year.

The Pavilion used by the Cricket and Bowling clubs need some attention to the roof and doors. It was suggested that the Committee obtains quotes for repairs.

The Parish Council asked the Clerk to write a letter of congratulations to the Cricket Club on their successful season and a letter of support for the grant application the Club is making for new purpose-built nets and storage facilities. It was also agreed that a small area of the car park, adjoining the cricket field, may be used as a temporary laydown area during construction of these facilities.

11. Highways and Transport

MF reported the drains under the Arch Hill and Sports Hall to Highways. The problem in Links Crescent had been caused by a builder emptying his cement mixer into it.

DM had reported the issue with the drains at Bleawath, although he noted that this was located in Gosforth Parish and not Seascale.

12. AOB^[L]_[SEP]

12.1 Defibrillators

The Parish Council has received a communication from The Circuit regarding the annual maintenance of defibrillators. Andy Lee does a weekly check of the Sports Hall equipment, but the Fire Service does not check the one located near the Fire Station. DM will discuss with a First Responder whether she is willing to take over responsibility for regularly checking the defibrillators. It was noted that there is a need for a defibrillator at the top end of the village.

12.2 Viking Way clear-up

LM will contact Haverigg Prison about clearing the Viking Way; DM will check if Highways would be happy with this suggestion.

13. Correspondence

13.1 Scout Group request for more storage on sports field – see above.^[1]^[2]^[SEP]

13.2 Parishioner's request for a car park charging scheme^[1]^[2]^[SEP]

MF read out an email from a parishioner regarding the use of the car park by camper vans. It was pointed out that the car park does not have the facilities for over-night stops and there should be more signage including information about local sites. The parishioner suggested that charging for use of the car park should be considered. MF will contact local authorities and car park management companies to see how much they charge. It was recognised that resolving the car park is not an easy or quick fix. The Honesty Box is bringing in on average £120 per month and the Licence to Occupy is also generating revenue for the village. In response to the parishioner's complaint about campers she was asked to provide dates and times of the anti-social behaviour described so that they could be checked on the CCTV.

14. Members of the public questions submitted to Council

41.1. In response to the parishioner's concerns in the last meeting about discharge onto the beach, DM reported that he had contacted United Utilities and had no response; DM will contact them again

14.2 A parishioner suggested that the Parish Council conducted a Parish survey in the form of a paper questionnaire which could canvass opinions on the car park. LM mentioned that the GDF is conducting a similar survey with its visioning project.

14.3 It was suggested the Parish Council seek independent legal advice regarding the Licence to Occupy (this has already been done).

14.4 A question was raised about whether the Parish Council intended to repaint the lines in the car park. There are no current plans.

14.5 A parishioner said he would be happy to help distribute a survey, but would be unhappy if charging fees were introduced in the car park.

15. Date of forthcoming^[1]^[2]^[SEP] Ordinary Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 6th November 2024

Actions:

8.3 Clerk to purchase new laptop and related equipment

8.4 MP to be added as an additional signatory to the bank account

9.1.1 DM to ask Sellafield if they could produce statistics of bus usage

9.2 Clerk to contact Ian Tallentire to see if he has copies of the planning documents for the Library

9.3 Council to discuss Foreshore play equipment at next meeting, MP taking the lead

9.4 BCH to follow up with plumber for toilet block

9.5 BCH to follow up the repair of the faulty camera

9.6 Clerk to write a letter of support to the Cricket Club for their grant application

12.1 DM to discuss with a First Responder whether she is willing to take over responsibility for regularly checking the defibrillators

12.2 LM to speak to Haverigg Prison about clearing the Viking Way

13.1 MF to speak to Andy Lee about Scouts using the Cricket Club's storage container

- 13.2 MF to investigate local car parking charges
- 14.1 DM to follow up with United Utilities regarding discharges onto the beach