

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

Held in Seascale Methodist Hall on 4th December 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	
	Mitch Franks	MF	
	Michael Warmoth		(Clerk / RFO)

1. Apologies for absence: none

2. Statement by the Chair ^[L]_[SEP]

The Chair wished everyone a Merry Christmas and congratulated the Scout Group for all the work they had done organising the Christmas lights event. The Chair extended an offer to the Scouts to arrange the event next year.

3. Declarations of interest by councillors in respect to agenda item: LM and KM item 9.1

4. Ratify Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by MP and seconded by DM with all in favour; signed by the Chair ^[L]_[SEP]

5. Matters arising ^[L]_[SEP]

5 [12.2] LM has contacted Haverigg Prison about clearing the Viking Way on three occasions with no response, item to be shelved until next year.

9.1 MF to speak to Day Cummins about the plans for the Library: see item 8.1 below

11. DM has published the maps of the new lighting on Gosforth Road

12. Clerk has written a letter of support for Seascale Golf Club's grant application to the GDF

13.5 CHC has arranged a meeting with In-Post to discuss a parcel locker in Seascale. This meeting is set for 18th December. DM has suggested Seascale has two lockers, one at the Library and one at the Sports Hall

6. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

MF reported back on setting up a Connected Communities Questionnaire for Seascale. He has been in conversation with a former colleague at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) based at the West Lakes Science Park Campus. It has been proposed that Seascale will be one of the seven areas to be surveyed in Cumberland in a joint project by Cumberland Council, the Police and the relevant parish councils and funded by the Lottery. UCLan will work with local

schools and youth groups in conducting the survey door-to-door. The aims of the survey are to establish what local residents are happy or not happy with, etc. giving the sponsoring bodies such as Cumberland Council the opportunity to identify gaps in services or provisions. Local Councils will be involved in the survey in their parish with input into the questions asked. This is a positive step which fits in with suggestions for a survey raised in the Parish Council meeting in October 2024.

7. Finance

7.1 Report from the RFO

November cashbook reconciled £125,514.13

November 2024 payments

Mid Copeland CF	21310.00		Grant for grass cutting equipment
Girobank Core Business	98.64		Car park honesty box
Quality Cleaning & Contracting Limited	144.00	24.00	Litter bin emptying
Jay Halliwell Electrical Ltd	582.60	97.10	Electrical Condition Report for Sports Hall
T&C Biggins	30.00		Toilet block lighting
TJ Services	350.00		Grass cutting
C Harvey-Chadwick	57.50		Litter bins
Octopus Energy	37.44	1.78	Toilet block electric - September
EE Limited	24.28		CCTV
Cumberland Council / CCF	15913.50		LLWR fund
UTB Current Account	8.10		Service charge

7.2 December payments to date

Quality Cleaning & Contracting	144.00	24.00	Litter bin emptying
Michael Warmoth	680.97		New laptop/printer
David Moore	46.26	7.71	Fuel for lawnmower
PATA	31.05		Payroll services
Cumberland Council	585.00		Waste collection
Moore (East Midlands)	2388.00	398.00	External auditor fees

It was noted by the Parish Council that the External auditor fees included a charge of £1,150 for considering and responding to an objection raised by a parishioner. When the clerk's time in corresponding with the External auditor over the complaint is factored in it will cause an increase in the precept for every household in the parish.

7.3 Precept

The Clerk reported that the precept request was required by Cumberland Council by the 12th January 2025. DM recommended a working group discuss the predicted outturn and running costs to present at the next Parish Council Meeting.

8. Parish Assets

8.1 Library

MF has spoken to Jen Metcalf of Day Cummins. The Feasibility Study has been completed and the decision was to go with Option C which included flexible meeting spaces, disabled toilets, a staff room and book store. The proposed budget is £500,000 + VAT. Day Cummins are ready to proceed with the next stage (planning applications and detailed plans) and have said this will cost £2,550. Acknowledgment and thanks were given to Ian Tallentire for the great deal of work he had done for this project when he was a councillor. DM said that the GDF and Cumberland Community Fund are aware that funding requests will be submitted for this work and that the Parish Council has £80,000 set aside in its reserves towards this project.

LM proposed that Day Cummins should be asked to start the next stage, KM seconded and all agreed.

8.2 Toilet block ^[L]_[SEP]

CHC suggested contacting the Renovation Man to see if he would complete the plumbing work required in the block.

8.3 CCTV ^[L]_[SEP]

Nothing to report

8.4 Sports Hall ^[L]_[SEP]

8.4.1 Legionella risk assessment

The question is whether the Parish Council as landlords or the Sport Hall management team should cover the costs. It was decided to place this item on hold until January as the Trustees of the Sports Hall have requested to come and discuss the management of the Sports Hall with the Parish Council.

9. Highways and Transport ^[L]_[SEP]

DM took the lead on this item because LM and KM had declared an interest.

Cumberland Council had cleared out the gullies under the arch, cut the verges at Whitriggs Bridge on the Drigg Road, and cut back vegetation so that the post box is now visible at the entrance to Seascale Park from Gosforth Road. They have a few other jobs to complete, but most of the work that had been requested by the Parish Council has now been completed.

9.1 Claimed footpath adjacent to Bailey Ground Lodge

This item was in response to a letter received from the Countryside Access Officer requesting comments on the request made for an Order to modify the Definitive Map by adding a public footpath adjacent to Bailey Ground Lodge.

DM emphasised the point that the Parish Council was only being consulted for information and that Cumberland Council Countryside Access Officer would make the decision. MF reported that it is the responsibility of the parishioner making the request to find evidence of use as a footpath by between 5 and 35 people and not the Parish Council.

DM requested that the Clerk responded to the Countryside Access Officer making the following points:

1. Following a previous request Parish Council communicated with the Countryside Access Officer in 2017 to ask if this was a public footpath as defined by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 53 and was told it was not a footpath
2. DM believed that the Parish Council had not received any comments about this footpath; however one email to the Countryside Access Officer had been cc'd to the Clerk
3. There are already three access points to the Dandy Path from the Banks: the Dell, the side

of Calder House and the side of Burnett House.

4. If Cumberland Council designate it as a public footpath, will they maintain it? There has already been a lot of communication between the Parish Council and Cumberland Council regarding the lack of maintenance of the Dandy Path.

(During this discussion, there was constant interruption from a member of the public which made it difficult to continue the discussion.)

9.2 KM had received a letter from a parishioner regarding speeding vehicles in Seascale and a request for more speed limit signs. There was further discussion about the lollypop ladies.

10. AOB [1 SEP]

BHC had been asked by residents in Links Crescent if the Parish Council would take over the grass cutting in this street. The residents of this estate are currently tied into management contracts for services by their freeholders such as grass cutting. The Parish Council cannot interfere in or comment on private legal contracts.

LM raised the issues of Grit bins and whether, as Cumberland Council will no longer provide them, a member of the public could spread grit on the public highway. One particular area that was noted required gritting is the entrance to the Sports Hall. LM will look into costings to get some grit for this.

DM reported that the Sellafield buses will be reduced by 11 starting from 20th January 2025.

MF asked about the councillor vacancy. No-one has come forward as yet and MF thinks he has someone who would be interested.

11. Members of the public questions submitted to Council [1 SEP]

A member of the public asked about the buses and was referred to the item above. She also asked that grass cuttings could be removed from paths and DM reported that the new blower has now arrived and would be used to remove grass cutting from paths from the next cutting year. She finally suggested that LM should pay for the removal of logs from the foreshore play area. It was pointed out that the Parish Council adopted responsibility for the foreshore play area on the completion of the re-design project.

A member of the public asked if it was correct that another resident was responsible for “wasting” public money. It was affirmed that a parishioner had caused an additional bill with the external auditor.

12. Date of forthcoming meeting [1 SEP]

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm

Next meeting to be held on 8th January 2025 at Seascale Methodist Hall (first Wednesday is a Bank Holiday)