

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2025 ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
SEASCALE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in Seascale Methodist Hall on 5th February 2025 at 7 pm**

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

1. Apologies for absence: Lizzie Mawson and Mark Porter.

2. Announcements from the Chair: The Chair welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting and proposed moving item 12.1 to the beginning of the meeting. He invited Steph Leow from the RSPB to address the meeting. Steph asked if the RSPB could place their information poster about the beach nesting grounds of the Ringed Plovers and Oystercatchers in the Wishing Well notice board and on the backs of the cubicle doors in the toilet block. The Chair said the Parish Council was happy to do this and would also post the information on the Parish Council's website and social media platforms.

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

(9.4) DM had replaced the Radar lock on the disabled toilet. CHC and BHC had not had chance to discuss the toilet block with the Renovation Man.

(11.4) The Clerk received a response from Northern Rail who will investigate the noise complaints about the tannoy system at the station. The Clerk also received a copy of the lease agreement between the Parish Council and Network Rail relating to the land to the side of the station car park. It confirmed that Seascale Parish Council is responsible for all the land from the car park to the arch. MF has been actioned to investigate any ideas for tidying up the area and possibly creating a memorial garden there.

(12.1) The Pavilion roof has been repaired by J. Miller who has also been asked to check the damage to the toilet block roof after the recent storm. The roof of the Wishing Well appears to be quite sound.

6. Planning

6.1 4/24/9003 – Sellafield Ltd – Amendments to 4/17/9011 -

The Parish Council had submitted concerns to the original planning application in 2017 on the grounds of traffic implications. The Parish Council objected to the current application based on its earlier concerns, as well as objecting to the expansion of the Sellafield site beyond its perimeter fence and allowing construction on a green field site.

6.2 4/25/2021/OF1 – Seascale Golf Course – Provision of covered driving bays on practice ground

The initial concern regarding this application was the nuisance of light pollution due to the

floodlights which had been addressed in the earlier planning application submitted by the Golf Club. The Parish Council has supported this project in the application for funding from the GDF as it should benefit the parishioners. Having recognised the actions to mitigate the lighting the Parish Council had no further objection to this application.

7. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

7.1 Mid Copeland GDF

There have been two national announcements that both impact the parish. The first is the plan to add plutonium to the GDF; this will result in a new repackaging plant for the plutonium which will create jobs locally. The second is the announcement by Nuclear Waste Services of two areas of focus around Seascale for the headworks of the GDF. The first “East of Sellafield” is land to the left of the Seascale to Gosforth B5344 road and the second “East of Seascale” is land to the other side of the road. The Parish Council objects to both areas of focus as they are both greenfield sites and the development would ruin good farmland. The Parish Council suggested that Moorside would have been a better area to consider in terms of transportation. The Parish Council is not totally opposed to the GDF, but believes better sites could be considered for the head works. The Parish Council encouraged the residents of Seascale to attend the NWS events at Seascale Golf Club so that they are better informed of the impact the selection of these sites will have on the parish.

7.2 LLWR – no report at this time

8. Finance

8.1 RFO Report

Bank balance at 31st January 2025 £122,941.64

January Payments

Quality Cleaning & Contracting	144.00	24.00	Litter bin emptying Waste collection foreshore Oct-Dec 2024
Cumberland Council	585.00		
Cumberland Council	156.00	26.00	Play area inspection
Cash deposit	27.23		
Octopus Energy	41.18	1.96	Toilet block electric - December
Octopus Energy	43.62		Library electric - December
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	48.39		Rent - land by station 2023-2024
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	50.47		Rent - land by station 2024-2025
T&C Biggins	510.00		Christmas lights
Millers Roofing Services	4404.00	734.00	Repairs to pavilion roof
EE Limited	24.28		DAV monthly SIM maintenance
David Moore	114.95		Radar Lock for Disabled Toilet
Unity Trust Bank	7.80		Service Charge

8.2 February payments to date

Quality Cleaning & Contracting	162.00	27.00	Litter bin emptying
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8.3 Parish Precept

A Working Group met on Monday 13th January 2025 to prepare a financial report to present at the February Parish Council meeting. The Working Group proposed that there was no need to increase the Precept for 2025/26. This was due in part to the fact that the income received from the Foreshore Car Park as well as the annual grant received from the LLWR allowed the

Parish Council to maintain the foreshore facilities as well as other assets in the village without increasing the burden on the residents. The Parish Council voted with all in favour of the proposal to keep the precept at the current level.

9. Parish Assets

9.1 Library

DM and MF met with Jen Metcalf of Day Cummins and the planning application for the Library refurbishment will be submitted this month. It is planned to complete the project by September 2026. The Library will be moved into the pavilion in the winter months while the refurbishment takes place.

9.2 Play areas

This was postponed to the next meeting

9.3 Toilet block

It has been suggested that the toilet block is totally refurbished. As such J. Miller will be asked to repair the damage done to the roof by the recent storm, but not replace the entire roof at this stage.

9.4 CCTV

BHC will continue to monitor the minor problems with the CCTV.

9.5 Sports Hall

BHC reported back on his meeting with the Sports Hall Management Committee on 4th February 2025. He asked for the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed. This was agreed and the MoU will be signed as soon as the Committee provide the Parish Council with a final version. The Management Committee are planning to allow the C2C event organisers to use the car park; this was agreed on the understanding it was only to be used by the event staff. The Parish Council was also asked about the location of a key to the Sport Hall notice board and whether they agreed to the Sports Hall changing its hiring fee to a flat rate of £12.50 per hour. The Parish Council responded that it was the responsibility of the Management Committee to fix the hire rate.

10. Highways and Transport

KM asked if Cumberland Council were planning to repair the pot holes on the Seascale to Gosforth B5344 road; DM reported that they are in progress. KM also asked why certain trees had been cut back at Bleawath, but not others. DM responded that it is for the expert who surveys the trees to decide which need to be cut down rather than the workmen choosing which trees to cut.

MF asked about the grass verge on the Gosforth Road opposite the school. The verge is so badly broken up it is like a ploughed field; it needs to be rolled and reseeded with grass. DM suggested it should be reported on the Highways hotline (land between the road and the pavement is the responsibility of Highways).

11. AOB

11.1 Emergency Plan

Following the power outage on Wasdale Park and the response from the Library volunteers opening the Library as a warm hub, MF asked if there was an emergency plan in place for the village. DM reported that one was in existence following the floods. MF will review the plan and update it with recommendations.

11.2 Updates to the website

Due to time constraints, this was shelved until the next meeting.

11.3 Ice Rink

CHC had suggested the Parish Council investigate having an ice rink on the Sports Hall car park over the Christmas period. She is going to check the measurements of the car park and MF will raise it at the next SRA meeting.

11.4 InPost Lockers.

Becky Pooley from Seascale Post Office read out a statement from her Area Manager regarding the plans by Seascale Parish Council to install a InPost Locker at the Sports Hall. The statement suggested that the installation of the lockers could impact upon footfall in the Post Office (and as a consequence the pharmacy), which in a worst-case scenario could lead to the closure of the Post Office. Although there is no evidence that these lockers do impact the Post Office, it is something the Parish Council needs to consider. DM responded on behalf of the Parish Council and admitted that the Parish Council had not initially considered any impact on the Post Office. Users of InPost currently have to drive as far afield as Egremont or Workington to use the service; they would not normally use the Post Office to send their parcels. The Parish Council also believes that the InPost lockers would increase the number of people coming to the village and have a beneficial effect on local businesses. MF was concerned about the effect that these lockers would have on the Post Office which is an important service to the elderly residents of the village. BHC reported that all the residents he had spoken to wanted the lockers in the village. DM stated that a commercial business in the village plans to set up InPost lockers at their premises if the Parish Council does not go ahead. If the Parish Council sets up the InPost lockers, there will be a guaranteed income of £1,000 per annum which will be used to support the Sports Hall to the benefit of the parishioners, which would be preferable to the profit going to a commercial organisation. It was pointed out that the contract is for 12 months and the Parish Council could cancel it if it was found to be detrimental to the Post Office. It was decided that the matter would be discussed again before any contract was signed.

12 Correspondence

12.1 RSPB signage on the foreshore – this item was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

13. Members of the public questions submitted to the Parish Council

A member of the public asked about the Sellafield buses and said there were just as many despite the change to the timetable. She also wanted to see a copy of the licence to occupy; DM responded that the document is a commercial agreement and cannot be shared unless both parties agree.

A member of the public asked about the speed limit between Seascale and Gosforth, DM reported that there are plans to reduce it to 50mph and this should be signposted very shortly.

14. Date of forthcoming Ordinary Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 7 pm.