

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

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

1. Apologies for absence: none

2. Announcements from the Chair: none

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 DM and seconded by CHC that the minutes were true and accurate, with all in favour; signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising

5.1 Ideas for tidying up the land to the side of the Railway Car Park – action ongoing

5.1 MF could find no emergency plan; he will look into producing one and will speak to Neil Henderson of the Seascale Scouts to see what assistance they could provide – action ongoing

5.3 CHC to check measurements of Sports Hall car park for a potential ice rink - action ongoing

6. Planning

6.1 The Parish Council noted that they had received a letter from Sellafield in response to the objections of the Parish Council to application 4/24/9001.

6.2 4/25/2041/0F1 – Creation of a batting net and two storage containers on the cricket field – Seascale Cricket Club. There were no objections to this application.

6.3 4/25/2049/TPO – Removal of fallen spruce tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order and pollard a poplar tree to 12ft protected by a Tree Preservation Order – Pinethwaite, Lingmell: There were no objections to this application.

Two further application were received after the publication of the Agenda and the Council decided to provide their comments on them rather than have to defer the applications by another month:

4/25/9006 – Extension of Planning Permission for long term monitoring of groundwater – Brawn Bank. There were no objections to this application.

4/25/2075/0F1 – Demolition of garage and replacement home office/snug – 3 Links Crescent. There were no objections to this application as long as there is provision for off-road parking.

7. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

7.1 Mid Copeland Community Partnership

The Parish Council will write to the Mid Copeland Community Partnership and the local MP

Josh McAlister regarding its concerns about the areas of focus around Seascale. The letter suggests that the two sites lack suitability and suggests three other sites that may be more appropriate because they are closer to the railway line. This would reduce the need for a transport corridor for spoil removal not described in the areas of focus announcement. These areas are Moorfield, the land from Whitriggs bridge to the LLWR and Eskmeals site. MF also recommended that the Parish Council should promote the two drop-in sessions planned at Seascale School on the 28th March (3:30 to 7:30 pm) and 29th March (10 am to 3 pm). He also urged Seascale residents to register their property with the Property Protection Scheme which is designed to protect against the fall in property prices due to the proposed construction of a GDF in the area.

8. Finance

8.1 RFO Report for March 2025

Bank balances at 28th February 2025

Seascale Parish Council General Reserve	£95,016.90
Seascale Parish Council Current	£23,709.82
Total:	£118,726.72

Payments for February 2025

Payee	Cost	VAT	Description
Quality Cleaning & Contracting	162.00	27.00	Litter bin emptying
Octopus Energy	45.65	2.77	Toilet block electric - January
Octopus Energy	706.25	117.76	Library electric - January
EE Limited	24.28		DAV monthly SIM maintenance
Waterplus	477.62		Toilet block water charges Nov-Feb
Seascale Recreation Assoc.	74.66		SRA Zurich Insurance policy
T&C Biggins	1030.00		Sports Hall - electrical repairs
T&C Biggins	1038.00		Sports Hall - electrical repairs
WF Cascade	116.06	19.68	Bin Bags
Unity Trust Bank	8.10		Service Charge

Payments for March to date

Payee	Cost	VAT	Description
Quality Cleaning & Contracting	144.00	24.00	Litter bin emptying
PATA	37.35		Payroll services
Singletons Building Services	150.00		Fitment of cycle parking rack

9. Parish Assets

9.1 Library

MF had spoken to a business manager at Octopus Energy about the very high electricity bills received. There have been issues with the meter and a smart meter will be installed. Once this is in place the monthly charges should be in the region of £80-100 a month and the Parish Council will receive a sizable refund.

Day Cummins are about to submit the planning application for the library refurbishment. The Clerk will pay the application fees as soon as they are received.

9.2 Play areas

MP reported that Playdale had made a site visit to the Foreshore play area with a few suggestions. They suggested a price of approximately £30,000, but have yet to supply and

detailed plans and costings. MF will start exploring other equipment suppliers.

9.3 Toilet block

Further repairs need to be done following the damage caused by Storm Éowyn. At the moment only the Disabled Toilet can be opened. LM suggested taking this opportunity to have the entire building refurbished, but it was pointed out that there will probably not be enough funding available from the GDF this year. DM suggested that John Miller be contacted again to see whether it can be patched or a new roof is needed. This work could be paid for by an insurance claim as it was storm damage. LM to speak to John Miller again.

9.4 CCTV

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

9.5 Sports Hall

BHC reported that the Sports Hall Management Committee did not have a key to the notice board and wanted to access it. The Parish Council will check if they have it; if not, it was suggested the Management Committee replace the existing lock.

MP reported that there had been some complaints about the hall hire increasing to £12.50. It was agreed that an explanation of the increase in charges should be placed on Facebook. In fact this is an issue for the Management Committee and not for the Parish Council.

DM reported that he has secure two waggon loads of road peelings from the works being done at Holmrook. These will be used for levelling out the Sports Hall car park.

10. Highways and Transport

KM stated that the new street lights along Gosforth Road have made a great impact and said Cumberland Council have done a good job.

DM reported that the potholes between Seascale and Gosforth were currently being repaired. The former Copeland Council grass-cutting team have been awarded the contract to cut the verges on the Viking Way twice a year.

DM asked that grass-cutting be added to next month's agenda to discuss grass-cutting in Seascale, in particular opening a contract with Mill Garage and Garden Machinery, the training of the volunteers on using the new trimmers, and deciding on which areas the Parish Council should cut.

MF asked for two volunteers to join the newly approved Transport and Parking Committee. He said the committee's first priority should be to establish contacts with Cumberland Council and the Police. MF and MP agreed to form the committee.

MF also made a plea for volunteer drivers for the Muncaster Microbus. The bus has recently been asked by Gosforth Parish Council to take over the regular shopping bus service from Gosforth to Seascale.

KM asked about the potholes on the road up to the station on the Foreshore side. DM responded that this was the responsibility of Avison Young.

11. AOB

11.1 Updates to the Website

MF and BHC are working on making updates to the Parish website.

11.2 InPost lockers

There was no update on the InPost lockers as the contract had not been received from the supplying company. MF raised his concerns about the impact of the lockers on the Post Office and recommended that the contract should be cancelled. MP also strongly disagreed with the installation of the lockers. It was pointed out that a local business had also shown an

interest in installing the lockers, so they would be installed in Seascale whether or not by the Parish Council. DM pointed out that a vote had already taken place and it was not usual to vote again on the same issue within six months. However in light of the concerns of the two councillors a vote was taken. DM proposed that Seascale Parish Council should enter into a 12-month contract with InPost on the understanding that it would be cancelled if there was any detrimental impact on the Post Office. LM seconded the proposal. Five Councillors voted in favour and two against.

11.3 Imagine Festival

LM invited Kieran Sheehan and Georgina Boyce of Everyone Here to speak about their proposal to hold an arts festival in Seascale on 10th May 2025. This would be a one-day festival led predominantly by local people, including artists, local groups and mental health organisations, celebrating arts and crafts. They were seeking permission from the Council to hold the festival which will be funded by the Arts Council. The Parish Council agreed to the proposal.

12. Correspondence

12.1 Further concerns about the supports of the wishing well roof. The resident had supplied some photographs of where the supports slot into the bases. It was agreed LM and DM would make a site visit.

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

A member of the public made a statement about a section of fence between the car park and road that has not been replaced. She claimed it was a health and safety issue.

The manager of the Post Office will monitor any impact the InPost lockers have and report these to the Parish Council. Another member asked if the Parish Council would take responsibility if the Post Office closed. LM responded that the Council would monitor the situation.

14. Date of forthcoming Ordinary Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 7 pm.