

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2025 ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
SEASCALE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in Seascale Methodist Hall on 2nd April 2025 at 7 pm**

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

1. Apologies for absence: none

2. Announcements from the Chair:

The Chairman reported that since the last Parish Council meeting the Parish Council had received the resignations of Mitch Franks and Mark Porter which reduces the Parish Council to five members. There is one vacancy available for co-option and ten residents have made a request to Cumberland Council for an election for the two remaining positions. An election will go ahead if three or more candidates put themselves forward for nomination and that such an election will cost the residents of the parish £3,500.

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 KM 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 – with the depletion of the Parish Council it was suggested this project would have to wait until more councillors were elected/co-opted. However, CHC suggested that a litter pick could be held on this land and be extended to other parts of the village. CHC to investigate.

5.2 It was decided to shelve producing a new emergency plan for the time being.

6. Councillor co-option

No-one came forward for co-option.

It was pointed out that prospective councillors need to have a better understanding of their powers and duties. An advertisement will be posted on the Parish Council website and social media asking for anyone who wants to become a councillor to come forward.

7. Planning

7.1 4/25/2111/0F1 – Permanent retention of a three-storey modular building – Sellafeld Ltd
The Parish Council had no objection to this application but noted that the building was modular, and therefore of a temporary nature.

One further application was received after the publication of the Agenda and the Parish Council decided to provide their comments on it rather than have to defer the applications by another month:

4/25/2113/0E1 – Application for a lawful development certificate for a proposed double garage – Sandiland, Drigg Road. There were no objections to this.

8. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

Mid Copeland Community Partnership

DM reported that there had been a Meet the Funders event held in Gosforth Public Hall on 27th March 2025 which he had attended. He said there were a number of funding organisations at the event, but some of the major local funders were not there. He met with a group of young mothers from Seascale who are keen to expand the facilities on the Coniston Play Area. He recommended to them that they breakdown their plans into three or four stages and that they come to the Parish Council meeting to present their plans when they are drawn up. He also reported that the GDF are now funding a person from the Cumberland Voluntary Service (CVS) to assist voluntary organisations with CIF funding applications.

DM reported that the two Areas of Focus drop-ins organised by the GDF on Seascale School on the 28th and 29th March 2025 were not well attended. He believed that they should have been better signposted. He also discussed the two letters received from Amy Shelton, Principal Community Engagement Manager and Andy Pratt, Chair of the Mid Copeland Community Partnership in response to the letter sent to NWS by the Parish Council commenting on the proposed Areas of Focus for the headworks. DM asked the Clerk to write to the NDA about their plans for Moorside and why it had not been included in the Areas of Focus as suggested by Amy Shelton in her reply to the Parish Council.

9. Finance

9.1 RFO Report for April 2025

Bank balances at 31st March 2025

Seascale Parish Council General Reserve	£95,615.12
Seascale Parish Council Current	£19,768.99
Total:	£115,494.11

Payments for March 2025

Payee	Income	Expenditure	VAT	Description
Cash Deposit	122.86			Car Park honesty box
Ian Singleton		150.00		Fitment Cycle Parking Rack
PATA		37.35		Payroll services
Quality Cleaning & Contracting		120.00	24.00	Litter bin emptying
John Parsons		14.99		Welsh flag for flagpole
Octopus Energy		40.24	1.92	Toilet block electric - February
Octopus Energy		613.30	102.22	Library electric - February
EE Limited		24.28		DAV monthly SIM maintenance
Cumberland Council		947.89	157.98	Repair of play equipment
Waterplus		820.41		Outstanding Toilet block charges
ICO		52.00		Data Protection fee
J Norman		173.30	28.92	Grass cutting equipment
D Moore		456.28		Mower insurance
Unity Trust Bank		1.80		Handling charge
Unity Trust Bank		7.65		Service charge

DM reported that the insurance for the mower was cheaper than the £800 quoted by Zurich Insurance. DM has also opened an account with J Norman for the purchase of the equipment needed for grass cutting.

9.2 Payments for April to date

Payee	Income	Expenditure	VAT	Description
Quality Cleaning & Contracting		162.00	27.00	Litter bin emptying
Waterplus		40.00		Late payment charges
Waterplus		97.94		Toilet block Feb/March
Cumberland Council		549.72	91.62	Monthly Play Area Inspections
Cumberland Council		585.00		General trade waste Jan-March

9.3 AGAR Report.

The Clerk reported that he had received the request from Moores to complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Report and will start work on it this month.

10. Parish Assets

10.1 Library

DM requested that the Clerk chase up Jen Metcalfe at Day Cummins as she had previously stated that the planning application for the Library refurbishment was ready to submit. The Clerk was also asked to write to the Library Trustees and inform them that there may be a delay in finding a new Parish Councillor to act as Library Liaison Cllr due to the councillor vacancies, but to assure them that this would not delay the refurbishment plans.

10.2 Play areas

LM stated that the remedial works had gone ahead and that she would pick-up the foreshore play area plans until a new councillor is found to carry on with this project.

10.3 Toilet block

Miller's Roofing Services have repaired the damage caused by Storm Éowyn to the Toilet block roof; the job was a bigger one than previously thought. Dawn Dennett has found a plumber to make the internal repairs including hygienic plastic walling. CHC stated that Dawn should be involved in the project as she had more of an idea what was required than the Councillors.

10.4 CCTV

Nothing to report

10.5 Sports Hall

BHC reported that Marnie Greggain was having problems getting numbers for the Easter Party at the Sports Hall on 21st April 2025. The Parish Council stated that they would assist in promoting the party.

DM reported that he was planning to use the road peelings he had secured for free from the works being done at Holmrook to level out the non-tarmacked part of the Sports Hall Car Park on Saturday 5th April 2025. The Parish Council would need to pay for the cost of hiring a digger and Seascale Cricket Club would cover the cost of the hire of a roller. It was planned that this work would improve the disabled access to the pavilion. CHC asked whether this would impact the Art Bus intending to park in the Sports Hall Car Park on the Saturday and DM replied that if it parked by the Water Tower it should be out of the way.

DM also reported that Cumberland Council are planning to bring a bus to either the Sports Hall Car Park or outside the Library for eight weeks in May or June as part of their social proscripting initiative. The bus would act as a place where local residents could meet with relevant Cumberland Council staff to discuss issues such as housing and welfare.

11. Highways and Transport

11.1 Grass-Cutting

DM reported that the plan was to start the grass cutting on the weekend of 5/6th April 2025. Volunteers will not be able to drive the mower, but they will be able to use the strimmers and related equipment. The Dell will be a challenging area to keep under control. The Parish Council will need to concentrate on their own areas, the Cricket Club will have to pay for fuel and manpower if they want the Parish Council to mow the pitch. Cumberland Council have agreed to cut the grass verges three times a year and the Parish Council will need to monitor this and look after any areas that Cumberland Council miss.

KM reported that the parking signs on the lay-by opposite the church were wrong, restrictions applying Monday to Saturday instead of Monday to Friday. DM said he would speak to Cumberland Council.

KM also asked the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Cumberland Council for the new street lights in the village. DM said that Cumberland Council is now looking at other areas of the village where the street lighting could be improved.

BHC stated that the parking on the Banks is becoming an issue and he had been asked who should be contacted. It was agreed that it should be the Police. Cumberland Council is planning to investigate unreasonable parking, but this may involve painting yellow lines which may make the issue more difficult as there is very limited off-street parking.

KM reported that the new community police officer, Louise Stubbings, has been conducting speed checks near the school. The Clerk reported that she had contacted him and would probably come to the next Council meeting.

KM reminded the Parish Council about the plans to replace the bench at Hallsenna Road. LM will purchase one and DM will ask Ian Singleton to remove the current bench and install the new one.

12. AOB

The Imagine Festival. Following the talk at the previous meeting by Kieran Sheehan and Georgina Boyce of Everyone Here (EH) about their proposal to hold an arts festival in Seascale on 10th May 2025, there have been a number of further questions received from Georgina Boyce regarding the use of various areas in the village. The Council stated that it had no objection to the use of the Sports Hall Car Park and the grass around the Sports Hall, but that EH would need to speak to the Cricket Club about their field. It was also suggested that EH could use the grassed area up to the BMX track. The Council also did not object to the use of Coniston Play area. There was one further question about over-spill car parking, and LM suggested that they use the Old Gosforth Showground and a shuttle bus as the C2C event had done last year. LM would respond to Georgina Boyce.

13. Correspondence

13.1 Letter from Jean Caulfield regarding Christmas lights at the Sports Hall and Pavilion. The Council agreed to make a donation of £200 toward the expenses of the Christmas lights at the Sports Hall and Pavilion.

13.2 Letter from Ashleigh Orrell regarding planning permission for WL Dog Training Club. The Parish Council restated its position that it could not support a planning application for a new garage. The Parish Council is the freeholder and has plans at some future stage to redevelop the area and these plans include storage space for organisations such as the Dog Training Club. DM reported that he believed the current garage is sound and only requires a new roof. It is suggested that the Club contact the Cricket Club about using the storage container which should become free shortly.

13.3 Letter from Seascale Library Link regarding a representative
This letter was dealt with under item 10.1

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

A parishioner made a statement about the licence to occupy between the Parish Council and Sellafield. She claimed that the document had not legally been signed. DM stated that the document has been signed. She further demanded to see a copy of the agreement. DM responded that Sellafield would supply the redacted version further to the FOI request she had made.

A parishioner asked whether the car park could be used 24 hours a day by any vehicle and this was confirmed as correct.

A parishioner reported that a large number of vapes were being dumped on land on Santon Way and asked what could be done about it. It was suggested that he needed to contact Environmental Health at Cumberland Council as it was hazardous waste.

The resident also asked about a piece of land in his possession that was being used by children on electric bikes. It was suggested he put a sign up on the land stating he was not liable for any injury and that he contact Louise Stubbing, the local community police officer for guidance.

15. Date of forthcoming Ordinary Parish Council Meeting: The next Ordinary meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at the earlier time of 6:30 pm. In addition to the Ordinary Meeting the Annual Parish Meeting 2025 and the Annual General Meeting 2025 will take place on the same evening.