Seascale Parish Council

Minutes of the September 2025 Ordinary Meeting of the Seascale Parish Council

Held in Seascale Methodist Hall on 3rd September 2025 at 7pm

1/25 Attended;

Lizzie Mawson LM (chair) , David Moore DM (Vice chair), Bran Harvey-Chadwick BHC, Catherine Harvey- Chadwick CHC, Ken Mawson KM, Zoe O'Hanlon ZO, Louise Pegham LP, Jane Coltman JC

No apologies

2/25 LM opened the meeting by welcoming Mary Bradley, Chair CALC, to clerk the meeting. Following the resignation of the clerk, locum cover had been sought to clerk tonight's meeting unsuccessfully. Mary Bradley Chair CALC had agreed to clerk the meeting as it was important to progress agenda items. There have been no applicants for the clerk vacancy to date.

3/25 Announcements by the Chair

LM remarked that visitor numbers had risen and bin incidents reduced. Visitors reminded everyone how lucky they were to live in such a lovely place.

4/25 Requests for dispensations and declarations of interests

There were no **declarations of interests** for agenda items.

5/25 M**inutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2025**

These were approved with a number of minor amendments.

Approval – Proposed CHC, Seconded DM - approved

6/25 M**inutes of the extra- ordinary meeting held on 11th August** 2025

These were amended to clarify points raised by Cllr Pratt and to note that JC declared interest in a neighbouring property and subsequently left the meeting at 3.1 to return at 3.2. and 8.3 to a have the addition of a covering letter.

Approval – Proposed DM, Seconded CHC – approved.

7/25 M**inutes of the extra – ordinary meeting held on 18th August 2025**

These were amended to reflect that apologies had been received from KM

Approval – proposed – ZO Seconded by JC
The final 3 sets of minutes will now be available to be posted on the web site.

LM as chair sought approval to move item 8 to this point – agreed

8/25. Public Participation

Update on Winter Light Festival – Copeland funding has been secured, Art Council Funding response expected next week. It is now progressing with Community representatives sought to form a 'steering group'. Proposed dates are 12/13/14 December 2025. Professional companies have been approached to take on special elements of the festival. Primary Schools have been approached and BHC offered to support discussions with the sports hall. It was hoped that by seeking donations it would secure the ongoing support for the festival.

LM as chair will write a letter of permission from the Council to the Winter Lights Festival committee/steering group to use the land to stage the festival.

A member of the public spoke at length regarding his observations and comments he had received whilst out and about. These included fees for car parking and toilets, the condition of the play area, danger from electric scooters, signage and use of the car park, absence of road markings, mobile phone editing.

LM replied that many of the items will be covered on parish council agendas as appropriate.

A member of the public suggested that there should be a public meeting regarding the playground. She also asked if the contract with Stagecoach could be published.

LM replied that the playground is on the agenda and that the parish council did not have a contract with Stagecoach.

9/25 Finance

i) A summary was given by DM in the absence of the RFO.

At 31/8/25 there was:- General Reserve - £103,336.52

Current Account - £17,256.03

A list of payments and receipts were presented.-

Supplier	Description	Amount	Vat	Approve/ Ratify
Quality Cleaning	Foreshore litter bins	£162.00	£27.00	Ratify
WF Cascade	Foreshore litter bins – refuse sacks	£118.06	£19.68	Ratify
Amazon	TN2510 Toner Cartridge	£24.17	£4.04	Ratify
Ms A Gee	Toilet cleaning	£295.45		Approve

There were 3 payments to be ratified and 1 extra concerning the cleaning of the public toilets to be approved from Ms A Gee for £295.45 Proposed by DM seconded by ZO , approved with 1 x abstention.

ii) DM reminded Cllrs that there would be the transactions relating to GDF

iii) DM also expressed concern that due to a Cllr making a number of queries regarding the audited accounts, the auditors were revisiting these to provide responses. This was delaying the sign off and may have serious consequences regarding the ability to have signed accounts to secure external funding.

iv) RFO position was raised given that this is an integral role to the clerk. Michael Warmoth (resigned clerk) has agreed to continue to manage the financial transactions as a volunteer because of the challenges of changing bank details. DM will be his main point of contact and bring items to the meetings.

Proposed LM Seconded DM

Michael was thanked for his support in this role.

<u>**10/25**</u> To discuss and consider a **social media policy** fo the parish council

BHC had prepared a prior circulated paper, which he spoke to highlighting the intricacies of Facebook accounts. After much discussion it was agreed that the web site should be the main communication tool, but social media was important to highlight key activities. Seascale parish council has a press and media policy which is out of date. It was suggested that a policy on effective communication could incorporated social media, media, web site, and other elements.

Agreed to maintain current practice and agenda this item in the future.

11/25 To update **car park policy** in line with current by laws.

DM said as a Cumberland councillor he had spoken to the officer concerned but had no further update. ZO pressed home the point that she felt this was a serious issue. After discussion it was agreed that ZO would provide DM with the exact question(s) to be responded to with permission to share her contact details. DM would then present these to the Cumberland Officer concerned who would be requested to respond directly to ZO with DM copied in.

ZO to then advice if this needs to be an item on Oct/Nov agenda.

12/25 Report on the Flag pole

A paper had been prior circulated. All agreed there needed to be a solution but unclear exactly which was the best and longer term approach.

It was proposed to ask John Parson's who is the flag pole officer, to ask Harrision's (a specialist firm) to undertake an inspection survey so that a proposal and costs on the preferred solution can be agenda item at a future meeting.

Proposed by ZO seconded by DM – approved

13/25 T**o create a trail board**

LP spoke to a prior circulated paper which gave an overview of the potential trail. A diagrammatic version was circulated.

LP said that she had had very useful discussions with the artist. The use of QR codes to signpost people to businesses (e.g. a cafe) instead of using names would ensure it remained updated.

Options for funding were discussed alongside completion dates.

LP was asked to bring a paper to the next meeting with milestones dates and associated costs.

14/25 Library refurbishment

ZO spoke to this and said that there was no real update. DM siad he hope planning approval would progress quickly.
However after some discussion it was agreed that there are some emergency items to address to meet H and S requirements.
ZO agreed to speak to a plumber to see if a solution to obtaining hot water could be found and possibly the problem with the toilet sorted. Once a quote is obtained approval can be given within financial standing instructions.
LM agreed to aim to get the roof issue investigated.
DM said that although the library is on the GDF funding pipeline, it will be considered in next year's funding round.
15/25 Public toilets – deferred but then discussed later on agenda
16/25 CCTV
BHC spoke at length to this subject as there are a number of issues to be resolved and requires a financial plan. These included; a temporary refix, camera on toilet wall at end of natural life, a router at end of natural life, a shelf and wiring that is not compliant, and potentially a replace in the future of the whole system. There is also a need to update the CCTV policy to include who can view images.
BHC was requested to prepare a costed paper with timelines for the next meeting.
The sports hall committee had requested a further camera to be installed to cover the key box area. There was a discussion on who pays for this. BHC was asked to get a quote and discuss with the sports hall committee for a decision at the next parish council meeting.
17/25 Decision on grass cutting of the recreational field made 4th June 2025
JC spoke at length regarding her concerns as to how this agenda item had been progressed and whether DM should have declared an interest as a trustee of the SRA and a relative of the contractor being paid. She was concerned regarding the transparency of discussions around the machinery, volunteers, driving requirements and insurance. JC was not against collaboration and thought that the cost could be reduced to the SRA if volunteers were permitted to use the mover.
JC proposed a motion to review the June resolution with all information being presented to fully inform their decision.

DM responded by opposing the motion by expressing the following points: he was a trustee of the SRA but as trustee they are independent of decision making on grass cutting of the cricket pitch. He stores the Parish Councils grass cutter. Before the cutter is used it needs to be maintained. Any driver needs to have a ‘street work' qualification – whether a volunteer or paid personnel. Currently his grandson cuts the grass, reimbursed on an hourly basis, whilst DM does the strimming as a volunteer. DM said that he would be happy to hand this over but that no volnuteers had come forward.
LM, supported by others said that the grass in the village looked much better than it had for some time.
The parish machine proved inadequate to cut the cricket pitch short enough so DM organised to borrow back the machine used last year and the cricket club have successfully used this, making their own arrangements for expenses. DM reminded everyone how successful the cricket team had been this year and we should focus on that element.
JC said that if the mower was not suitable for use on the pitch, then the June resolution could be rescinded without problem.
LM proposed that JC's suggestion to rescinded the June resolution was accepted, which was supported by a majority.

LM asked the meeting to support moving to agenda item 7.3 as time was pressing.
18/25 Update on the Heart of the Community Grant
DM explained that there was £80k available which had been earmarked for the library, which will now not be ready to receive the funding by 31st March 2026. After various discussions he had had he asked that Cllrs supported using the funding for other projects. It was agreed to ensure this was an agenda item for Oct/Nov meetings as a decision was urgent. Actions agreed were; BHC to speak to the Sport Hall and 3 x suppliers and obtain a quote for solar panels for both the Sports Hall and the Pavillion.
LP to get quotes as in item 6.4. LP to get quotes in line with her paper on the public toilets (prior circulated but discussed here instead of item 6.6). These were considered to be well used amenity and worthy of investment.

19/25 Well used amenity – play park

LP had prior circulated photographs of the area showing areas where work was required. She has also prior circulated a paper suggesting that urgent items are addressed and a plan needs to be developed for the future in line with users views. The state of the playpark raised some concerns. It was agreed that in the morning LP would phone the Cumberland officer and ask him to do an immediate inspection to advise if any items need to be roped off until repaired or removed. Callum Scott will be asked for a quote to repair the items. It was agreed that financial standing orders for emergency repairs to the value of £5k should be approved in the interest of H and S.

Proposed by DM and seconded by ZO. approved. LP to progress.

20/25 Christmas lights refund

BHC reported that there was a refund owing to the Parish Council and the company involved were keen to bring this to a conclusion. The funds could either be a credit note or a transfer into the Parish Council account. The latter was preferred but LM requested that BHC used his initiative to bring this to a satisfactory conclusion.

21/25 Items deferred (agenda numbering from 3/9/25)

6.9 Maintenance of green spaces - ZO
6.10 Letter of support for growing well – CHC
6.12 Report on winter lights festival – BHC
6.13 Effective councillor training – JC
6.14 Effectiveness of Working groups – JC
6.15 Maintenance of defibrillators
7.1 Proposal to form a staffing committee -JC
7.2 Proposal to adopt NALC model of standing orders – JC
7.4 Proposal for committee re Christmas event – LP

- **22/25 Date of next meeting**

Full Parish council meeting Wednesday 1st October 2025

Signed and dated by the Chairperson

- EMawson 15/10/25