

Minutes of the Silverdale Parish Council meeting held on **3 June 2025** at the Silverdale village institute.

14027. Attended; Chair Liz Unsworth, Cllrs AJ Houghton, J Bennett, S Fishwick, K Reed, J Webster and TG Bond. Clerk S McDaid, locum deputy clerk, L Ash.

14028. Apologies: A Allum. Sgt Brown (Police)

14029. Declarations of Interest; Cllr Houghton declared an interest regarding the shore.

14030. Matters Arising from the previous meeting; None

14031. Police Report: The chair read out the report from Sgt Brown. Only three incidents to report: a walker had a medical episode and was assisted down from the Pepper Pot; a streetlight on Springbank was damaged; and two people were reported in difficulty on the sands, but were later found to be ok.

14032. Public Participation: several members of the public wished to bring matters on The Shore to the attention of council. The first speaker was disappointed that there have not been any signs erected to deter those who stay overnight. The second speaker was concerned that the beauty of the shore was being diminished by allowing a car park to emerge. They also questioned the suitability of the area for other works and the need for planning permission for them.

There was lengthy discussion about this issue, including what had been tried already, and how those things had not been successful for various reasons.

Cllr Bond asked those attending what they really want to see happen next, and the overwhelming reply was: an effective deterrent to stop those who cause a nuisance by parking illegally and indulging in anti-social behaviour. The methods offered up - to do this were: explicit signs and to fully remove any parking and allow the shore to naturalise.

Councillors reassured everyone that the issue is due for discussion later in the meeting and decision making will take place then.

A question was raised about the ownership of the new noticeboard outside the Gaskell Hall. It was confirmed that this was a joint purchase with joint responsibility for it. A statement to this effect was requested. Council to provide this.

14033. Reports.

Clerk updated councillors on the frustration of not being able to access the bank account yet. There is an issue with a regular payment that had previously been either a standing order or direct debit, but she was unable to investigate without access. She

has resolved the problem by paying by cheque. Cllrs agreed to help the clerk gain access as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Alan Greenwell reported the following:-

1) Fire Station Open Day 31/5/25

John Burrow and his team led a fascinating set of displays of equipment, games for kids, a scrunched-up vehicle - (to warn us to drive carefully) and much else; all part of a recruitment campaign to urge villagers to become an On-Call Firefighter.

2) Mobile phone cover

Some years ago, Vodafone had an interest in erecting a mobile mast on St John's church, then withdrew. Vodafone has merged with Three and has promised to invest more than £1bn in expanding its network coverage in the next year.

The new business, named VodafoneThree, will invest £11bn in its coverage over the next decade. It will invest £1.3bn in capital expenditure projects in its first year.

3) Pedestrian Access from Station to the RSPB car park

He is pressing key players on this. He has a marvellous photo looking down Storrs Lane, pulled from Google maps.

4) Second Homes and Holiday Lets

He has asked Mark Cassidy, Chief Officer for Planning & Climate Change, whether the developing Local Plan will refer to increases in second homes and holiday lets. His answer was not yet, but the Early Participation stage planned for later this year will explore the National Landscape issues in greater detail.

Work is currently ongoing in updating the Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape Management Plan. This work is being led by Lucy Barron at the AONB Unit, and there will be some form of wider engagement on the content and direction of the Management Plan in due course. The PC may wish to liaise directly with Lucy on this matter to see whether the issue of second homes can be explored in more detail within the newly emerging Management Plan.

5) New Mayor

Councillor Margaret Pattison has officially been sworn in as the new Mayor of Lancaster, a robust and very good-natured person.

Over the years, she has served as a "triple hat" councillor on Morecambe Town Council, Lancaster City Council, and Lancashire County Council, but after the recent elections, she only has a 'double hat'.

As her mayoral charities she has chosen St John's Hospice and 'Making Space', which supports those with mental health conditions or a learning disability.

Newly elected **County Councillor Rev Graham Dalton** introduced himself and was welcomed. He advised that he wanted to help the parish achieve its aims and will help

where he can. Cllr Unsworth agreed to send Cllr Dalton some information to include all village matters to him to help him with his understanding of the needs of the parish.

14034. Planning Matters. 25/00354/FUL, 6A Lindeth Rd, no objection. 25/00559/FUL, 8 Shore Cottages, was subject to a discussion. It was reasoned that there are several factors that might have been picked up by the working group, the planning team and the client. Of note is the large drop to the sea and a balcony that may bear a lot of weight. The conclusion was that no formal objection should be made, but these points be mentioned on the consultation response.

14035. Clerk's Report re Standing Order 25. Resolved to approve retrospective payments listed in favour of Baldwins Builders and to approve the extra spend on IT services purchased from iTek.

Clerk also mentioned a last minute invoice that is not on the Agenda but needs paying by 15th June for First Cut Ground Maintenance Ltd for £980.50 – Resolved to allow a cheque to be raised to pay this invoice.

14036. Correspondence received by the clerk and distributed to the councillors. Several matters needed to be addressed:

d) LALC meeting: Cllr Bond attended and shared that the matter of devolution was discussed and there are some important considerations to be undertaken, he asked for this matter to be included in a future agenda.

h) A request for use of the walkie talkies was made by Silverdale Field Day; Resolved to allow this

l) A resident raised concerns regarding parking that obstructed the highway outside the Bleasdale School.

m) A resident raised concerns about parking on Gaskell Close.

Both the above matters were discussed at some length and the council resolved to do the following:

- I. Send a copy of the photographic evidence to the Police
- II. Raise the matter again with Highways at Lancashire County Council.
- III. Discuss these matters again as part of the Village Parking Working Group reporting.

w) A resident raised concerns regarding overgrown hedges. Council resolved to respond to the resident asking that they report in via Love Clean Streets app to County Council.

Chair allowed a question from one of the residents present around hedge trimming. It was made clear that the responsibilities lie with the owner of the hedges. It is not encouraged that any other resident should take on this work.

It was noted that other hedges owned by the PC are on the contractors list to do.

14037. Working Groups

Council members were asked to state their intention to remain on the working groups they are currently part of. It was agreed that the following working groups have the following councillors.

Policies, Standards and Procedures: Cllrs Webster, Bond and Bennett
Regulations, Health and Safety, Tender Documents: Cllrs Webster, Bond and Bennett
Charities and Deeds: Cllrs Unsworth, Webster and Clerk Sarah McDaid
Affordable Housing: Cllrs Webster and Reed
Children's Playground: Cllrs Bennett and Unsworth
Footpaths: Cllrs Bennett & (vacant position)
Highways Maintenance: Cllrs Bennett and Houghton
Planning: Cllrs Reed, Fishwick and Webster
Net Zero Carbon: Cllrs Reed, Unsworth and Houghton (plus co-opted members City Councillor Greenwell, James Grundy, Craig & Anna McCoy)
Public Toilets: Cllrs Bennett and Reed
Transport and Access: Cllrs Reed, Unsworth and Houghton (plus co-opted members Sam Stalker/McCoy (NT), Lucy Barron (National Landscape), Lucy Arthurs (Leighton Hall Estates), Tony Houghton (Land owner))
Silverdale Emergency Resilience Group: Cllrs Webster, Unsworth and Houghton
Streetscape: Cllrs Bennett, Fishwick and Webster
Village Parking: See below
Woodland Management, Wells and Quarries: Cllrs Bond and Houghton

It was **Resolved** to merge Village Parking in the working group for Transport and Access. Cllr Fishwick has decided to leave the Village Parking group.

Working Groups Matters to Report

Chair allowed working group 7 on the agenda, **Transport & Access**, matters to be discussed first.

Standing orders were suspended

When standing orders are suspended members of the public may be included in the discussion around the topic involved. The agenda called for an update on progress with 'No Overnight Parking Signs' at the Shore to be discussed.

Cllr Houghton asked to speak to all those present as the landowner of area of the Shore that was subject to questions from members of the public earlier who were still in attendance. He covered the history of the site, the options he has tried in order to help with the overall village parking issues and the current situation.

Cllr Houghton also advised that the people who were the real cause of the trouble were less likely to be campervan owners. There are more likely to be car or small van owners

who stay over. They leave behind them all sorts of waste, both human and dog foul, and often start fires.

He asked everyone to consider the following things: to prepare a village wide parking strategy; to consider the right kind of signage as complicated signs are ignored; to consult with the wider village on what they want done with the shore; to consider asking him to close off the Shore to parking altogether.

A lengthy and passionate discussion followed between everyone present. The conclusion was as follows:

The general feeling was that Cllr Houghton should not close off the parking, but control of the parking is essential.

A transport strategy, including parking, was written some time ago and needs to be updated. **Noted: action required by the working group to update the strategy; Cllr Alan Greenwell would like to included.**

Noted: working groups are open to residents who are welcome to join.

Cllr Bennett showed everyone a sign that had been designed by a local firm and asked for everyone's thoughts. A heated discussion followed. The Chair asked that there was a show of hands for a preferred sign.

Cllr Fishwick shared that she felt the discussion was unlawful and abruptly left the meeting.

Discussion returned to signs and it was set out that the following three options should be considered:

- No Overnight Stays (wording in favour of 'Stay' rather than 'Camping' or 'Parking')

- A sign with pictures to indicate what is not acceptable

- Three signs locations at The Shore, Cove and Woodwell

The chair allowed a vote on these options and those there chose the wording 'No Overnight Stays' and agreed the three locations. A sign with pictographs was not agreed. **Noted: action required, delegated to Cllr Bennett to liaise with supplier.**

Standing Orders were reinstated.

The Chair allowed item 11 Working Groups. **10, Village Parking** to be brought forward next.

Councillors shared updates regarding a meeting that had taken place with the Head Teacher and Chair of the Governors at Bleasdale School. A discussion followed.

The issues raised included

- School buses and taxis blocking pavements and also the bus stop outside Gaskell Hall, whilst waiting to enter the school's drop off/pick up zone.
- Insufficient safe space allocated within the school grounds for timely drop off and pick up of school student and beginning and end of the day.
- Staff parking (circa 45 to 50 cars at present) in the wider village area due to insufficient spaces within the school grounds.
- Lack of input and help from County Council sources
- The extra pupil numbers added recently and due in the near future
- The extra staff numbers, and parking for their vehicles, to be added to deal with future pupil numbers.

Cllrs were pleased that there was a cooperative stance and the school understood the problems that everyone is trying to find a solution for. Reassurance was offered by school around the large pupil and staff numbers; it is hoped that larger numbers of the new pupils may be able to arrive in each bus, and whilst there will be more staff members it will not be one-to-one with pupil numbers.

Noted Cllrs will chase up County Council and apply some pressure on them to provide help to solve these long-term problems. Cllr Dalton asked for feedback to be sent to him.

Working Group 1, **Affordable Housing**

Noted Cllr Unsworth has distributed the results of the Silverdale Housing Needs Survey to the group. Lune Valley Community Land Trust AGM meeting is being held on 19 June.

Working Group 2, **Children's Playground**

Resolved The wetpour soft surfacing is suffering from algae, the PC will arrange for this to be removed by their contractor.

Noted The wetpour soft surfacing is aged and in places gaps are opening up. It will need to be replaced in the near future. New bins are required at the playground, the bins currently fill with water making it difficult to fill and empty in the normal way. The drystone wall repair will be carried out in due course.

Working Group 3, **Footpaths**

Noted Clarity is needed around who is paying for the maintenance of the footpaths as there is a considerable amount of cutting back to do. **Delegated to working group members**

Noted Cutting back vegetation on PC land is on the contractors list to do.

Working Group 4, **Highways Maintenance**

Noted Current list of notices published

Working Group 5, **Net Zero Carbon**

Noted all notes have been distributed to members and all councillors.

Working group 6. **Public Toilets**

Noted Phase one of the work is coming to an end. The ambition is to increase the provision of disabled access within phase two of the works, the scope of work will depend upon further successful bids for funding.

Working Group 8, **Silverdale Emergency Resilience Group**

Noted Cllr Unsworth distributed the notes from the previous meeting.

Cllr Houghton is investigating facilities at various locations for safe to rest places. Cllr Bennet brought attention to electrical work needed before the generators are tested. Cllr Unsworth asked that equipment listed was added to the list of emergency items, delegated to Cllr Webster.

Working Group 9, **Streetscape**

Resolved to adopt a Community Noticeboard Policy.

Noted Clock paintwork repairs are required and quotes for this work are being sought. Funding will be sought for this project.

Working Group 11, **Woodland Management**

Noted There are trees that need attention and quotes are being sought.

14038 Projects / Issues

- a) **Noted** Cllr Unsworth sent Silver Sapling Girlguiding Campsite a letter via email 17/05/25. Silver Sapling Girlguiding Campsite sent a very thorough response 29/05/25. Cllr Unsworth noted that the resident who raised the initial query had not been sent the response as it had arrived after the Agenda was sent out. **Resolved** - Clerk asked Silver Sapling Girlguiding Campsite if it was okay to forward their response to the resident. A representative of Silver Sapling Girlguiding Campsite agreed to this.
- b) Local Plan. **Delegated** to Cllr Reed, he will respond to a call for sites in the parish
- c) **Noted** that Cllr Webster and Unsworth attended a Rural Funding Webinar
- d) **Noted** Cllr Unsworth sent a thank you card to Ann at Silverdale Post Office
- e) **Deferred** Discuss matters arising from LALC meeting 21/05/2025

f) **Noted** Mobile Phone signal installers have been in touch on 3/6/2025, further details to follow in due course. The group will keep up the pressure on Planning to allow an installation.

14039 Parish Contractor

Resolved To send the contractor the agreed task list. To keep the contractors agreed hours at 200 over twelve months at the hourly rate of £25.

14040 Finance Matters

Audit Matters.

- a) The previous clerk has kindly completed the year end tasks, for which the parish councillors are very grateful.
The accounts were duly approved, the internal auditors comments were noted, the chair duly signed section 1 and 2 of the Annual Return. **Noted** Clerk to get a quote for accounting software Scribe to help with accounting accuracy.
- b) **Resolved** The internal auditors bill will be settled by council. **Noted.** Members are reminded that financial matters cannot be decided over email; nor can financial matters be decided by individual members of the council.
- c) **Resolved** To approve the list of payments

Regular Payments		Direct Debits/Standing Orders	
Clerk Salary & Expenses	£494.49	Waterplus (Toilets)	£47.23
Deputy Clerk Salary & Expenses	£183.73	iTek Computer Solutions	£112.80
HM Revenue & Customs (paye for Clerk & Deputy Clerk)	£111.00	EDF Energy (Clock)	£26.77
		EDF Energy (toilets)	£37.80
Other payments this month			
Baldwin Building Services (paid 19/05/25) – urgent request from Cllr Bennett (includes £30 + VAT cheque processing charge	£1722.00 Invoice BBS-2907		
Retrospective payment for Baldwin Builders as discussed in May Agenda and mentioned in May minutes (paid 09/05/25) £7700 + VAT (minute reference:14020)	£9240.00 Invoice BBS-2897		
iTek Computer Solutions (invoice INV-29734)	£144.00		
iTek Computer Solution (shortfall in March and April invoices)	£25.96		
Mrs L D Challenor (previous clerk handover/year end invoice)	£437.73		
Malcolm R. Richardson (Bill no. 1751)	£250.00		
HM Revenue & Customs VAT Re Payment (financial year 2024/2025)	£6075.04		

Noted Clerk reported that she has no access to the bank accounts so is unable to list payments that have gone through the bank accounts. **Noted** Clerk to pursue a new account with Unity Trust Bank ahead of our next meeting.

14041 To receive any items for a future agenda items.

Noted the following to be added to the July Agenda; Unity Trust Bank Account; LALC meeting notes; accounting software Scribe

14042 Date of the next meeting is 1st July 2025 at 7:00pm at The Institute, Springbank, Silverdale, LA5 0TE.

The meeting was declared closed at 9:25pm.