

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on 21 December 2011 at 7.15pm

Members

C Smith (Mayor)

I Burns

L Davies

A Kennon

J Laidlow

A Smith

S Coates

P Graham

A R Graham

E Nicholson

Apologies: C M Jackson & S Standage

Also present: 1 press representative, 1 police representative & 2 members of the Public & Dr L Tickner.

115 To authorise the Mayor to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last Meeting held on 16 November 2011 and the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 7 December 2011

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 16 November 2011 and 7 December 2011 be signed as a correct record.

116 Declaration of Interest

L Davies declared a personal interest regarding item 7 due to being a member of the Development Panel. Councillor A Smith declared a personal interest in any item related to Allerdale Borough Council due to being the Council Leader. E Nicholson declared a prejudicial interest relating to item 16 entitled Christmas Lights and J Laidlow declared a personal interest relating to planning application 2/11/9016 due to her employment at the school.

117 Mayors Announcements

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

118 Attendance by Police

The main topic of discussion was the announced closure and sale of Cockermouth Police Station. Councillors were dismayed that they had not had prior notice of the closure and that a senior police officer had not attended the meeting this evening to explain the current situation. It was understood that there would be a police presence in the town but the exact location was unknown.

A shop lifting operation was being undertaken within the Town, two plain clothes police officers were mingling with shoppers. Members were also pleased to note that the speed indication device was in use around the town.

119 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

120a Planning Applications

2/11/9016

Section 73 Application to Vary Condition 1 of planning consent 2/06/9019 to extend the life of a temporary portacabin consisting of two classrooms for a further five years

Cockermouth School, Castlegate Drive, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2011/0727

Change of use from doctor's surgery to 3 no. residential units including external alterations and a rear single storey extension (unit 3) and erection of a detached garage and sub-division of garden space.

South Street Surgery, South Street, Cockermouth

Amendment- Proposed site plan, floor plans, north and south elevations and window and door elevations

This application was approved on 24 November 2011.

2/2011/0740

Listed building consent for external alterations and rear single storey extension in association with the change of use from Doctors Surgery to 3 no residential units and sub-division of garden space

South Street Surgery, South Street, Cockermouth

Amendment- Proposed floor plans, north and south elevations, site plan and window and door elevations

This application was approved on 24 November 2011.

2/2011/0824

Listed building consent for installation of CCTV camera- retrospective

Derwent House, Wakefield Road, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2011/0826

Listed building consent for installation of CCTV camera to front elevation-retrospective

46 Main Street, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2011/0830

Change of use of ground floor to hot food takeaway & installation of extract duct to rear elevation

35 Station Street, Cockermouth

This application had been approved on 14 December 2011.

Clerk to invite a senior planner to the next meeting of the Town Council to explain why plastic signage was approved as part of this application.

2/2011/0832

Alterations to install new doors & windows

18 Dale View, Cockermouth

Recommended - That the application be approved.

2/2011/0834

Listed building consent for installation of solar PV system

Brougham House, 25 St Helens Street, Cockermouth

Listed building consent was refused on the 14 December 2011.

2/2011/0838

Change of use from commercial (office) use to 3 bedroomed flat

7 Station Street, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2011/0840

Replacement of wooden front windows with white UPVC and replacement of wooden front door to composite door

8 New Street, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval

2/2011/0842

Timber decking to west elevation

Fellcroft, Windmill Lane, Cockermouth

This application was approved on 14 December 2011.

2/2011/0843

Removal and replacement of access gates and creation of disabled fishing access platforms

Land at Memorial Gardens, Wakefield Road, Cockermouth

This is our own application which has been withdrawn.

2/2011/0852

Replace single glazed timber windows with double glazed upvc. Replace timber front door with upvc door. Demolish and rebuild front porch and rear kitchen extension. Create door opening from ground floor window

The Laurels, 2 Rubby Banks Road, Cockermouth

Recommend - Approval

2/2011/0857

Double hipped conservatory to rear of dwelling

4 Vale Close, Cockermouth

This application was approved on 13 December 2011

2/2011/0859

Single storey domestic extension to existing residential bungalow

11 Willow Lane, Cockermouth

This application was approved on 14 December 2011

2/2011/0871

Alterations and extension to create additional floor space for hairdressers in relation to existing retail unit

Slatefell Stores, Windmill Lane, Cockermouth

This application was approved on 14 December 2011.

2/2011/0878 & 0879

Change of use from hairdressing salon to laundrette and installation of ventilation ducting through roof at rear of building

6 Market Place, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2011/0885

Repairs and alterations to existing garage

Middle Ruddings, Skinner Street, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2011/0897

Variation of condition 3 of planning approval 2/2007/1109 to allow car repairs and MOT testing (B2) use unit 14

Unit 14 Derwent Mills Commercial Park, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval

Members were concerned at the number of planning applications that had been determined prior to them being able to make their comments.

Resolved – That in future the following procedure be adopted:-

- (a) That all planning applications be date receipted.
- (b) That the Town Clerk calculate the response date
- (c) That all members of the Town Council be advised of any planning applications requiring response dates prior to the next Town Council Meeting
- (d) That comments be collated by the town clerk and the majority view forwarded to the Planning Department.

120bTree Works, land at Victoria Court

Resolved – (a) That the approval be noted.

(b) That the Clerk contact Derwent and Solway regarding the removal of the 4 stoops and the inadequate making good.

121 Highway Matters

Resolved – That the following issues be reported:-

- Blocked drains in Kirkgate
- Unlit streetlight outside the church door on Church Walk
- S Coates to re-report blocked drains on Crown Street

122 Financial Matters

122a Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £5,470.44 as set out in the expenditure transactions approval list be formally approved for payment.

122b External Auditors Report

Resolved – That consideration of the request for financial assistance for the Georgian Fair be deferred until after 1 April 2012

123 Schedule of correspondence, notices and publications

123a Calc Circular

Agreed – That the contents of the December – January 2012 circular be noted.

123b Calc Conference

Resolved – That all councillors be encouraged to attend the free half day conference on the geological disposal of radioactive waste in West Cumbria.

123c Cumbria Rural Housing Trust

Agreed – That the range of services provided by the Trust be noted.

123d The Localism Act

Agreed – That the contents of the briefing paper be noted.

123e Community Travel Plans Review 2011

Agreed – That the following schemes be included:-

- New access onto the A66

- No entry from Kirkgate onto Market Place

123f Christmas Lights

Fairfield Infants were working hard to achieve Silver Eco Status and would like the Town Council to support switch off fortnight by reducing the length of time that the Christmas lights are switched on by just 5 minutes a day.

Resolved – That in 2012, the Christmas lights be switched on 3pm – 12.30am. Half an hour less than usual.

123g Street Naming

Members considered the contents of a letter from Mr P Todd suggesting that the works of Bernard Bradbury could be recognised by incorporating his name into a new development taking place in Cockermouth.

Resolved – Members supported this idea and requested that a copy of the letter be forwarded onto Adrian Potts at Allerdale Borough Council.

123h Cumbria in Bloom

Resolved – That where possible, floral displays in the Town reflect a red, white and blue patriotic theme in support of the Diamond Jubilee. Clerk to contact the Rotary to request an Olympic theme on their flower bed on Lamplugh Road.

123i Electoral Review of Cumbria: Draft Recommendations

The Electoral Commission were proposing a single member Cockermouth North and Cockermouth South. Cockermouth North would take in the north and Cockermouth Parish and Papcastle and Cockermouth South division would take in the south of Cockermouth Parish together with the more rural parishes to the south and west of the town.

Resolved – That a letter of objection be send to the Review Officer regarding the proposed North/South divide outlining the following:-

- The river and Main Road provide a natural divide in an East/West split
- A North/South divide will confuse residents, estates and streets will be split
- A North/South divide is not coterminous with the Borough boundary
- A North/South divide is not coterminous with the parish boundary

123j Relocation of Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service Control to Cheshire

Agreed – That the response from the Chief Executive of Cumbria County Council regarding our letter of objection to Cumbria County Council's Cabinet decision to

relocate the Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service Control to Cheshire be noted.

123h Land near Michael Brows

In 1995, the former Town Clerk approached Edwin Thompson regarding the creation of a permissive footpath from the Memorial Gardens through the Lands area owned by Egremont Estates and on to land owned by Mr Milbourn exiting via the existing footpath stile onto the back lane which runs back into Cockermouth.

The only condition placed upon the Town Council at the time of consent was that the stile or gate must be stock proof and must be constructed in a proper and acceptable standard.

However, after all these years, Edwin Thompson were requesting the following:-

- Signage
- That the Town Council enter into a permissive footpath agreement
- The erection of a length of fence to be erected to form a boundary between their clients land and the footpath and for the Town Council to erect the fence and maintain it in the future
- Meeting Mr Milbourn's costs

Resolved – That the Town Clerk walk the route with S Coates early in the New Year to explore alternative routes.

123i West Cumbria : mrws

Agreed – That the contents of E-bulletin No.15 be noted and that all members of the Town Council be encouraged to attend the community events.

124 Clerks Report

Those present considered the content of the Clerks report.

Resolved – (a) That the content of the report be noted.

(b) That the car parking situation be monitored.

(c) That progress on the restoration of the Memorial Gardens be noted.

(d) That a cost be sought for the works identified in our Annual Play Inspection Report.

(e) That councillor Standage be replaced by councillor C Smith on the Cockermouth and Papcastle Recreational Trust from the 8 April 2012.

(f) That a county road closure be obtained for switch on day next year.

(g) That our scheduled January meeting date be altered to Thursday 19th January 2012.

- (h) That the Titans £390 rent for Tarn Close be waived in 2011 and 2012.
- (i) That the winners of the Grand Window Competition and Window Spotting Competition be noted.
- (j) That the future of the Old Folks Tour of the Lights be considered at the next meeting.
- (k) That it be noted that the offices will closed on Saturday 24 December 2011 and re-open on Tuesday 4 January 2012.
- (l) Clerk to write to Chamber of Trade and ask them to thank all the shops who decorated their windows.

125 Town Centre Flood Recovery Co-ordinator

Members were very pleased to note that co-ordinator post funding will continue until 31 March 2012.

Several hundred visitors had attended the Main Street public consultation exercise held on the 24th, 25th & 26th November 2011.

A temporary road closure is required to carry out the infrastructure repairs on Market Place, it was felt inappropriate to undertake any works until the New Year in case it had a detrimental effect to the businesses.

Next years Taste Cumbria Food Festival will be held on 22nd and 23rd September 2011. An economic impact assessment had estimated that this years festival had brought £1,540,299 into our local economy.

Agreed – That the content of Dr Tickner’s report be noted.

126 Review of fees and charges and annual staff salaries/conditions review

Resolved – (a) That the revised fees and charges contained within the report be agreed.

(b) That the annual staff salaries/conditions review be agreed.

127 Annual Risk Assessment

Agreed – That the content of the annual risk assessment be noted.

128 Effectiveness of internal audit

Resolved – That Mrs J Airey continues to be our internal auditor.

129 Contract for Christmas Lights

Resolved – (a) That financial standing order 11.1c be waived to award E. W. & P. A. Nicholson the contract to erect Cockermouth's Christmas lights for the next 3 years at the following cost:-

Year 1 - £12,650.00 plus inflation

Year 2 – Sum of year one plus inflation

Year 3 – Sum of year two plus inflation

The extensive reasons for waiving standing orders were set out in the report.

- (b) That the plastic figures be phased out and snowflake figures be added to the display instead.
- (c) That the clerk investigates the cost of erecting lights up Gallowbarrow and High Sand Lane
- (d) That more red lamps be added in the town centre.

130 Greyrigg Avenue

The Town Council considered a request from Allerdale Borough Council to take over a set of goal posts and a seat at Greyrigg Avenue. Those present also considered the content of an agreement between Allerdale Borough Council and Cockermouth Town Council in respect of management and maintenance of play equipment on four sites within Cockermouth.

Resolved – That the clerk investigates the costs of taking on the maintenance of the land surrounding all four play areas as well as all the equipment.

131 Provision of a free ride bike park in Cockermouth

Resolved – That it be noted that either Tarn Close or Harris Park Extension are the preferred sites.

132 Alteration of our January 2012 meeting date

Resolved – That our January 2012 meeting date be amended to Thursday 19 January 2012.

133 Memorial Gardens

Resolved – (a) That the receipt of the tree survey be noted.

(b) That the concept designs for the replacement planting be approved.

Resolved –

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be removed

for the following items of business due to tender prices being discussed in respect of item 21 and staffing issues being discussed in item 22.

130 Review our Payroll Supplier

Resolved – That as of 1 April 2012, the Town Council's payroll be provided by Eslip.

131 Future of Victoria Hall and Tourist Information Centre

Bookings in Victoria Hall had slumped to an all time low despite its recent renovation and reasonable charges. Members considered a number of options regarding its future use.

Allerdale Borough Council had given the Town Council notice that its £19,043 per annum concurrent grant towards the running of the tourist information service was likely to be reviewed in 2013 and may be reduced significantly or cease. Members considered a number of options regarding its future location and staffing.

Resolved – (a) That the Clerk explore leasing out Victoria Hall

(b) That the Clerk provide various staffing options based on re-location to King's Arms Lane

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm