

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Thursday 21 May 2015 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor A Graham (Mayor)
Councillor I Burns
Councillor L Davies
Councillor A Kennon
Councillor J Laidlow
Councillor D Malloy
Councillor E Nicholson
Councillor S Nicholson
Councillor K Scales
Councillor A Smith
Councillor S Standage
Councillor A Tyson

Apologies: Councillor C M Jackson

Also Present: - Approximately 21 members of the public, 1 member of the Press & Steve Robinson, Allerdale Borough Council

Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor, Councillor A Graham outlined the highlights of his Mayoral year. He thanked his wife and son, The Town Clerk, Kirstie Goodger, his fellow councillors and the many volunteers in Cockermouth for their hard work and support during his year in office. He announced that £6827 had been raised for his charities during his year of office.

1 Election of Town Mayor/Chairman

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Town Mayor/Chairman for 2015/16. Only one nomination was received and seconded and on being put to the vote it was unanimously

Resolved – That Councillor J Laidlow be elected Town Mayor/Chairman in 2015/16.

Councillor A Graham then handed over the Chain of Office to Councillor J Laidlow.

The new Mayor then read out and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took over the Chair. The Mayor thanked Councillor A Graham and his wife Lynn for all their hard work during the past year.

Councillor Laidlow announced that her friend Lorna Martin had agreed to be her consort. The outgoing Mayoress, Lynn Graham then duly handed over her chain.

The Mayor announced that that her two charities would be Cockermouth Community Hospital League of Friends and Kirklands Car Home Amenity Fund. Councillor Laidlow pledged that she would carry out the role of Mayor to the best of her ability.

2 Election of Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chairman

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairman. Only one nomination was received and seconded and on being put to the vote it was unanimously

Resolved – That Councillor Sam Standage be elected as the Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chairman of the Council for 2015/16.

The Town Mayor then presented the Deputy Mayor's badge to the Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairman. Councillor Standage read out and signed his declaration of acceptance of office. He thanked his fellow councillors for his nomination and pledged to carry out the role to the best of his ability.

Resolved – That a letter of appreciation be sent to former councillors S Coates, P Graham & Mrs C Smith.

3 Declaration of Interest

Councillor A Smith declared a personal interest in any item relating to Allerdale Borough Council due to being their leader.

4 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on 15 April 2015.

5 Election of Committees/Sub Groups

Resolved – That councillors Burns, Standage, Tyson and Kennon be appointed to serve on the Town Twinning Advisory Committee.

6 Police Report

The Police report was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Councillor Smith expressed his dismay at their non-attendance yet again. He had wished to speak to them regarding the use of mobile phones in cars, parking on the zig zags on Main Street and the closure of the Police Station in Cockermouth.

Resolved – That an appointment be made with the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss the impending closure of the Police Station in Cockermouth.

7 Public Participation

No members of the public wished to speak in accordance with the public participation scheme.

8 Planning Matters

8a Planning Applications

PB/2015/0072

Removal of telephone and replace with defibrillator inside kiosk

Phone Box on Junction of Slatefell Drive, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval subject to future maintenance/inspection costs not falling on the Town Council.

PB/2015/0073

Removal of telephone and replace with defibrillator inside kiosk

Phone Box at Rose Cottage Lorton Road, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval subject to future maintenance/inspection costs not falling on the Town Council.

PB/2015/0075

Removal of telephone and replace with defibrillator inside kiosk

Phone Box at junction of Dunmail Crescent and Fitz Road Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval subject to future maintenance/inspection costs not falling on the Town Council.

PB/2015/0078

Removal of telephone and replace with defibrillator inside kiosk

Phone Box at junction of Grassmoor Avenue and Windmill Lane, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval subject to future maintenance/inspection costs not falling on the Town Council.

PB/2015/0084

Removal of telephone and replace with defibrillator inside kiosk

Phone Box opposite 7-9 St Helens Street Pinfold Close, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval subject to future maintenance/inspection costs not falling on the Town Council.

2/2015/0094 (as amended)

Variation of condition 2 to allow minor alterations to include windows, chimneys and garages to plots 2 and 3 only.

Holmewood Residential Home, Lamplugh Road, Cockermouth

This application had already been approved.

2/2015/0193

Advertisement consent

Land South West of Brigham Road, Cockermouth

This application had already been approved.

2/2015/0208

Replacement external lighting scheme to building and grounds (resubmission 2/2014/0651)

The Trout Hotel, Crown Street, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval

2/2015/0225

Listed Building Consent for fitting of a door to infill passageway

The Old School House, 31 Strawberry How, Cockermouth

This application had already been approved.

2/2015/0227

Demolition of existing shed and erection of detached garage including new access-

Re-submission of 2/2014/0524

87 St Helens Street, Cockermouth

This application had already been approved.

2/2015/0228

Rear extension and new roof to garage

7 Caldecote Avenue, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval

2/2015/0230

Replacement and enlargement of rear single storey offshoot

4 Horsman Street, Cockermouth

This application had already been approved.

2/2015/0233

Erection of one detached dwelling

Holmewood Residential Home, Lamplugh Road Cockermouth

This application had already been approved.

2/2015/0235

Revised design to former approved scheme (2/2012/0628) for the refurbishment and extension of the Kirkgate Centre
The Kirkgate Centre Kirkgate, Cockermouth
Recommended – Approval

2/2015/0237

Demolition of lean to and erection of a two storey side extension with solar panels to rear roof and insulated render to main elevation
Beckside Cottage, Skinner Street, Cockermouth
Recommended – Approval

2/2015/0243

Advertisement consent for various illuminated signs
Oakhurst Service Station, Lamplugh Road, Cockermouth
Recommended – Refusal, signage is obtrusive, out of context and unneighbourly.

2/2015/0253

Create small extension to side of the existing dwelling to create bedroom and ensuite facility
8 Cedar Lane, Cockermouth
Recommended – Approval

2/2015/0264

Erection of detached double garage
Ruddbank, Skinner Street, Cockermouth
Recommended - Approval

2/2015/0271

Replacement ATM machine
HSBC Bank, 1 Main Street, Cockermouth
Recommended - Approval

8b Tree Works, The Old School House, 31, Strawberry How Road

Recommended – That the application to carry out various tree works at 31, Strawberry How Road be approved.

9 Financial Matters

9a Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £21,683.51 as set out in the expenditure transactions approval list be formally approved for payment subject to AON being paid a premium of £5,595.74.

10b Insurance

Resolved – (a) That the insurance cover for 2015/16 be endorsed.

(b) That we enter into a 3 year long term agreement to reduce costs

(c) That it be noted that the schedule had been amended to include cover for the regalia.

11 Schedule of correspondence, notices and publications

11a Harris Park

Allerdale Borough Council would like to register a small area of land at the entrance to Harris Park which is currently unregistered in order to improve access to Harris Park.

Resolved – That this approach be supported.

11b Use of banner poles, Georgian Fair

Resolved – That the Georgian Fair Organising Committee be given retrospective approval to display their banners on lampposts 1,2,5,8,9,12,13,14 & 19.

11c Scrutiny Review

Allerdale Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee were in the early stages of developing their annual work plan and were asking for suggestions from town and parish councils about what should be included.

Recommended – That the following subjects be referred for review:

- (i) Toilets at Harris Park
- (ii) May 2015 Elections

11d Calc Circular

Agreed – That the content of the May circular be noted.

11e Pathway, Memorial Gardens

A local resident had suggested that a memorial walkway similar to the Wordsworth Garden in Grasmere be development in the Memorial Gardens.

Concern was expressed regarding the location of the path as the gardens were prone to

flooding.

Resolved – That the suggestion be accepted in principle subject to further investigation.

12 Clerks Report

Members considered the content of the Clerk's report.

Agreed – That the contents of the Clerk's report be noted.

13 Neighbourhood Development Order

Those present were pleased to note that Allerdale Borough Council had received 5 queries in relation to works permitted under the terms of the Order.

Resolved – That a new publicity drive be undertaken to restore awareness of the Order and its provisions.

14 Fusion Go

Those present considered a proposal from Fusion Go, a new not for profit company established to stimulate entrepreneurship, Startup businesses and grow young businesses for Cumbria. They wished to rent the Council Chamber and former Managers office on the ground floor of the Town Hall.

After a lengthy discussion it was -

Resolved – That the proposal was not feasible due to the fact that over 85% of the Town Hall was already in occupation by third parties and that a further increase may have detrimental effect upon Town Council activities.

15. Cycle Sands on the Main Street

Resolved – That Cockermouth Town Council signs a Memorandum of Agreement With Cumbria County Council to maintain cycle stands proposed for the Main Street.

16. General Power of Competence

Resolved – That Cockermouth Town Council confirms that it still meets the criteria set out by the Secretary of State (Localism Act 2011, sections 1-8).

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm