

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on 19 January 2012 at 7.15pm

Members

C Smith (Mayor)

I Burns	S Coates
L Davies	P Graham
C M Jackson	A Kennon
A R Graham	J Laidlow
E Nicholson	A Smith
S Standge	

Also present: 1 press representative, 2 police representatives, D Ward & 1 member of the public

132 To authorise the Mayor to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last Meeting.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 21 December 2012 be signed as a correct record.

133 Declaration of Interest

L Davies, S Standage, C M Jackson declared personal interests regarding item 7 due to being members 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.

134 Mayors Announcements

Agreed – That the list of events attended since the November meeting be noted.

135 Attendance by Police

During December 2011, 37 crimes were reported in the Cockermouth area.

Hilary Dandy, a front counter clerk at Cockermouth Police Station is to become a Member of the Order of the British Empire for her services to policing in Cumbria.

A new police non emergency number (101) was introduced last month.

Clerk to request the urgent return of our flower beds on the Main Street.

136 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

137a Planning Applications

2/2011/0956

Insertion of new window and door opening on the North West elevation of the building, Fairfield House, Station Road, Cockermouth.

Recommend – Approval

2/2011/0960

Replacement of 4 windows with upvc.

42, St Helens Street, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval

Our recommendations on following applications were given prior to the meeting due to time constraints:-

2/2011/0939

Replacement of aluminium windows with upvc double glazed sliding sash windows, 18, Fell View, Cockermouth.

Recommend – Approval

2/2011/0941

Replacement of window to rear to upvc.

41, Derwentside Gardens, Cockermouth.

Recommend – Approval

2/2011/0945

Part demolition, proposed dormer window to front and extension to rear, 33, Mountain View, Cockermouth

Recommend - Approval

137b Tree Works, land at Cockermouth Cemetery

Agreed – That the approval be noted.

138 Highway Matters

Resolved – That the following issues be reported:-

- Drain near the Catholic Church on Crown Street needs dug out, it has been reported and attended to three times but water is still standing
- Street light number 499, opposite Sandair, Fitz Road has been burning night and day for over a year despite being reported several times
- Pot holes on Highfield Road
- Street lights 4 and 5 on the entrance to Riverside Car Park have been off for months despite being reported several times
- Five or six lights have been off on Lorton Road due to a cabling fault.

139 Financial Matters

139a Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £3,658.57 as set out in the expenditure transactions approval list be formally approved for payment.

139b Georgian Fair

Resolved – That £100 of financial support be given to the Georgian Fair Group.

139c Precept 2012/13

Resolved – That a precept of £222,860 be unanimously agreed.

140 Schedule of correspondence, notices and publications

140a Retirement Payments

Agreed – That the contents of the retirement payments legal topic note be noted.

140b Concurrent Grant

Agreed – That it be noted that Allerdale will review our concurrent grant for 2013/14.

140c The Green, Limetree Crescent

Resolved – (a) That Mrs Cane be gifted two used benches removed from the Memorial Gardens for use on The Green, Limetree Crescent, Cockermouth.

(b) That Mrs Cane be advised to check the legal status of The Green with Allerdale Borough Council and obtain permission for siting the benches (if required).

(c) That the cost of siting the benches, future maintenance and insurance be not provided by the Town Council.

140d Front Runners Steering Group

Agreed – That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2011 be noted.

140e Front Runners Steering Group

Agreed – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2011 be noted.

140f Consultation on Budget Savings

Allerdale Borough Council has identified several areas where significant cuts in funding can be made, these include reducing building costs, working more efficiently, reducing contract costs and creating more income whilst trying to protect front line services.

Councillor Standage was wholly against Allerdale's proposal to stop funding the monitoring of CCTV cameras in Allerdale and moved that the Town Council objected to the proposal. This was seconded. He asked for a recorded vote.

S Standage – supported objection
C M Jackson – supported objection
S Coates – supported objection
P Graham – supported withdrawal
I Burns – supported withdrawal.
A Smith – abstained
L Davis - abstained
J Laidlow – abstained
E Nicholson – supported objection
A Kennon – supported objection
A Graham – supported objection
C Smith – abstained

Resolved – That the potential changes to Customer Services and the re-location of the Silloth Tourist Information Centre be supported but that the cessation of the monitoring of CCTV cameras be wholly opposed because of the community benefit. Allerdale Borough Council to be asked to seek funding from other partners.

140g Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Agreed – That the Trust's 50th Anniversary be noted.

140h Garden Party at Buckingham Palace

Cumbria Association of Local Councils has been allocated two places at this year's Garden Party on 22 May 2012. All names put forward will be drawn out of a hat.

Resolved – That Councillor C Smith be put forward into the draw.

140i Malcolm Wilson Rally

Resolved – That no objection be raised to the road closure on 3rd March 2012 between 7am and 7pm.

140j Public Consultation on proposals for changes to Cumbria’s household waste recycling centres

Cumbria County Council is dealing with the most significant ever reductions to its budget. A review of the provision of its household waste recycling centres had shown that they are under utilised and that significant savings could be made.

The following is proposed:-

- Close 6 of the county’s least used centres
- Move to seasonal opening hours
- Close sites on the least used days i.e. Thursdays & Fridays
- Introduce a mobile household recycling service to offset the impact of closures
- Introduce charges for the disposal of soil, rubble, asbestos, plasterboard and car tyres

Members felt that the proposals would increase fly tipping.

Resolved – That individual responses be sent to the consultation paper.

140h Technical Reforms of Council Tax

The Government has published a consultation regarding technical reforms of Council Tax. These include:-

- Giving principal authorities the power to levy full council tax on second homes
- Allowing billing authorities to levy an ‘empty homes premium’ in respect of dwellings which have been left empty for two years or more
- Allowing council tax to be paid in 12 equal instalments rather than 10 as is the norm at present
- Allowing authorities to publish online information supplied with demand notices

Resolved – That the proposed changes be noted.

140i Localism Act

The Localism Act includes provisions which require local authorities to hold a referendum where the proposed increase in council tax is excessive. These provisions were brought into effect by SI No. 2896 on 2 December 2011. Equivalent principles will not apply to town and parish councils for 2012/13 although they may in future years.

Agreed – That the briefing note from CALC be noted.

140j Taste Cumbria Food Festival

Agreed – That the minutes from the Steering Group Meeting held on 14 December 2011 be noted.

140k Use of Former Reception Area on Ground Floor as a Temporary Exhibition Space

Grampus Heritage and Training Ltd would like to use the former reception area on the ground floor of the Town Hall as a temporary exhibition space to display some of the restored artefacts from the 2010 Broomlands excavation and excavations at Papcastle in Autumn 2011. The project will end in December 2015 and at this time Grampus Heritage and Training Ltd will be seeking to create a more permanent display.

Resolved – That Grampus Heritage and Training Limited be allowed to use the former reception area on the ground floor of the Town Hall which is currently unused as a temporary exhibition space at a cost of £650 per annum subject to Grampus Heritage and Training Limited renovating the space and providing their own display cases.

141 Provision of a free ride bike park

Resolved – (a) That Tarn Close be chosen as the preferred location for the free ride bike park.

(b) That the Town Clerk discusses the issue further with the legal and planning departments of Allerdale Borough Council and reports back to the next meeting.

142 Provision of a lift in the Town Hall

Resolved – (a) That due to siting difficulties and structural changes required by building control which will lead to a substantial increase costs, the provision of a lift in the Town Hall be not pursued.

(b) That the Council Chamber be relocated in the tourist information centre.

(c) That the Town Clerk be relocated on the ground floor.

(d) That the cost of the installation of a stair chair be investigated.

(e) That the access to the tourist information centre be improved.

143 Old Folks Tour of the Lights

Resolved – That due to reduced attendance, the Town Clerk contacts all care homes in the Cockermouth area regarding their views on the withdrawal of the tour of the lights.

144 Clerks Report

Those present considered the content of the Clerks report.

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

- (b) That Mark Elliot be allowed to rent Victoria Hall from 23 January to 31 March 2012 at a weekly rent of £50.00 for use as a photography studio.
- (c) That should this partnership be successful, Mark Elliot be offered the use of Victoria Hall on a long lease on terms to be agreed by the Town Council.
- (d) That the Caretaker be given 12 weeks notice of our intention to make him redundant.
- (e) That NSquare Limited be allowed to lease the office next to the tourist information centre at a rental of £2000 per annum from 1 February 2012.
- (f) That it be noted that the Environment Agency has received permission to carry out tree works in the Memorial Gardens.
- (g) That Councillor Smith contacts Allerdale Borough Council regarding the yellow and green theme being adopted in the floral displays this year.

145 Town Centre Flood Recovery Co-ordinator

The Clerk informed those present that this year's Food Festival would be now be held on the 29 & 30 September 2012.

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

146 Various Play Areas in Cockermouth

Cutting the grass surrounding the play areas on Isel Road, Towers Lane, Greyrigg Avenue and Harris Park extension every 10 days in the summer was estimated to cost in the region of £1522.00 per annum.

Resolved – That the Town Council agrees to undertake the maintenance of the land surrounding all 4 play areas as well as the equipment as of 1 April 2012 subject to the new equipment being installed and the lease being signed.

Resolved –

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be removed for the following items of business due to the threat of further legal action being taken, tender prices and staffing issues being discussed.

147 Memorial Gardens

Those present considered the content of Mr Lasper's letter dated 18 December

2011, the letter warned of possible legal proceedings (with the judges permission) regarding the for sale/to let sign sited in the West Gardens at Wakefield Road/Gote Corner

Resolved – That the agreement with Priority Signs be not renewed at the end of January 2012.

148 Main Street Improvements Group

Agreed – That the minutes of the Main Street Heritage Improvements Group dated 20 December 2011 be noted.

149 Future Staffing in the Tourist Information Centre

Members considered various staffing options based on the re-location of the tourist information centre to 4 Old Kings Arms Lane, Cockermouth.

Resolved – (a) That the tourist information centre be re-located to 4 Kings Arms Lane as of 1 April 2012.

(b) That staffing during 2012/13 remain as existing.

(c) That staffing in 2013/14 be reduced between Easter and 31 October to one member of staff and the manager

(d) That the viability of a private/community partnership be explored prior to 2014 and that staffing be reduced to a part time manager only.

(e) That the above be re-considered should the profitability of the tourist information centre improve as a result of re-location.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm