

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Thursday 15 May 2014 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor P Graham (Mayor)
Councillor I Burns
Councillor S Coates
Councillor L Davies
Councillor A Graham
Councillor C M Jackson
Councillor A Kennon
Councillor J Laidlow
Councillor E Nicholson
Councillor A Smith
Councillor C Smith
Councillor S Standage

Also Present: - 1 Police Representative, 17 members of the public & Steve Robinson, Allerdale Borough Council

Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor, Councillor P Graham outlined the highlights of his Mayoral year. He thanked Elizabeth, The Town Clerk, Kirsty Goodger, his fellow councillors and the many volunteers in Cockermouth for their hard work and support during his year in office.

1 Election of Town Mayor/Chairman

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Town Mayor/Chairman for 2014/15. Only one nomination was received and seconded and on being put to the vote it was unanimously

Resolved – That Councillor A Graham be elected Town Mayor/Chairman in 2014/15.

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

The new Mayor then read out and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took over the Chair. His wife, Lynn had agreed to be his Mayoress. The outgoing consort, Elizabeth Malloy then duly handed over the Consorts chain. The Mayor thanked Councillor P Graham and Elizabeth Malloy for all their hard work during the past year. He praised them both regarding the £2,100 they had raised for their charities. Andrew announced that his charities for the year would be Friends of Chernobyl Children NW Branch, Cockermouth Mountain Rescue and Age UK West Cumbria. Andrew further stated that it was an honor and a privilege to be elected the Mayor of Cockermouth and that he would carry out this role to the best of his 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 Julie Laidlow be elected as the Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chairman of the Council for 2014/15.

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

3 Declaration of Interest

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

Councillor J Laidlow declared a personal interest in any item relating to the Cockermouth Chamber of Trade due to being a member.

Councillor Nicholson declared a personal interest in relation to planning application 2/2014/0278 due to owning land in the vicinity.

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 16 April 2014.

5 Election of Committees/Sub Groups

Resolved – (a) That all 12 councillors be appointed to serve on the following committees, sub groups and panels for 2014/15 as follows:-

- Town Twinning and Town Advisory Committee

(b) That the Christmas Illuminations Panel comprise of 11 councillors excluding Councillor Nicholson.

6 Police Report

11 crimes were reported in the All Saints Ward for April. These crimes included growing cannabis plants in a property, an assault on Main Street, damage to a vehicle door and an attempted burglary at the Town Hall.

13 crimes were reported in the Christchurch ward for April. These crimes included a burglary, several thefts, an assault and possession of amphetamine.

7 Public Participation

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

8 Planning Matters

8a Planning Applications

2/2014/0106 (as amended)

Condition 10 indicative Drainage Strategy Plan

The Fitz, Low Road, Cockermouth

Recommended – approval

2/2014/0225 (as amended)

Change of use of land from agricultural to parking

Waterside, Simonscales Lane

Recommended – Refusal original objections still stands

2/2014/0237

Erection of a single storey extension

11, Grayson Close

Recommended - approval

2/2014/0244

Replacement of white UPVC windows to 1st floor and dormer in sliding sash style

1, Victoria Road

Recommend - Approval

2/2014/0252

Single storey side and rear extension (rear extension increased from 3700mm to 4675mm) (resubmission to 2/2013/0247)

151, The Parklands

Recommended – Approval

2/2014/0257

Change of use of barn/workshop to dwelling

Ruddbank, Skinner Street

Recommend – Approval

2/2014/0276

Outline application for 5 detached self build houses and new vehicular access onto Lorton Road

Land adjacent to Cockermouth RUFC, Lorton Road

This application was subsequently withdrawn.

2/2014/0278

Outline application to relocate existing tennis courts and car park to provide improved sports facility and construction of 24 dwellings including new vehicle access onto Lorton Road (re-submission of 2/2013/0245)

Land at Lorton Road

Recommend –Refusal due to there being no provision for affordable houses and concern regarding the exit onto Lorton Road.

2/2014/0291

Listed building consent to 1. Demolish wall to rear yard to provide parking and 2. Change

roof of outhouse to sloped roof and re-render and 3. Install new traditional door to replace non-traditional front door and 4. Reinstate original floor levels

The Cottage, Albion Yard, Kirkgate

Recommend - Approval

8b Tree Works

Recommended – That the application to reduce the lower branches of Tree 2 and Tree 3 due to the risk of property damage at 10, Strawberry How be approved.

8c Tree Works

Agreed – That the approval of the following applications for tree works be noted:-

- Felling a tree, 20, Albemarle Street
- Crown reduce 10 trees, Hill Top, Victoria Road
- Reduce height of a lime tree, 2, Fern Bank
- Reduce size of canopy, 115, The Parklands

8d Tree Works

Agreed – That the appeal against the refusal of a householder application at 15, Challoner Street be noted

9 Financial Matters

9a Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £15,572.80 as set out in the Expenditure transactions approval list be formally approved for payment.

10b Insurance

Resolved – That the insurance cover for 2014/15 be endorsed.

11 Schedule of correspondence, notices and publications

11a Service 58

Agreed – That the amendments to Service 58 be noted.

11b Calc Circular

Agreed – That the contents of the May 2014 circular be agreed.

11c Derwent Owners Association

Agreed – That the minutes of the Derwent Owner’s AGM held on 14 April 2014 be noted.

12 Clerks Report

Members considered the content of the Clerk’s report.

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

13 Reducing Poverty

This item was deferred pending the attendance of Mrs Rollo.

14 Transfer of Gote Road Allotments

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorized to sign the transfer of Gote Road Allotments from Cumbria County Council as part of their Community Asset Transfer Programme.

15. Referendum for our Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO)

The Examiner’s report had concluded that subject to making the recommended modifications, our draft neighbourhood development order meets the basic conditions and other relevant legal requirements and should proceed to referendum.

The Examiner also concluded that there was no overriding reason to extend the areas covered by the referendum and that the referendum should be limited to the properties within areas covered by the Order as shown on the maps attached to the NDO as appendices A, C & E.

The Town Council was applauded for grasping the opportunities offered by neighbourhood Planning.

Allerdale Borough Council concurred with the conclusions of the examiner and resolved on 7 May 2014 that the NDO incorporating the recommended modifications should proceed to referendum.

The referendum will be held on 26 June 2014 in Cockermouth.

The question posed at the referendum will be: “Do you want that type of development in the Neighbourhood Development Order for Cockermouth to have planning permission?”

Resolved – That an executive summary be produced and circulated to all properties within the areas covered by the Order as shown on appendices A, C & E of the Order.

16. Harris Park, Dogs on Leads

Those present discussed the proposed area for a dogs on lead area in a part of Harris Park as shown on the map accompanying the report. Allerdale Borough Council wanted to prevent damage to flower beds and dogs causing a nuisance when children are playing. Dogs would be able to roam free in the rest of the park. Allerdale Borough Council would be responsible for enforcement.

Resolved – That the proposed dogs on lead area in the top part of Harris Park be welcomed and supported.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm