

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 17 May 2012 at 7.15 pm

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

Apologies:- C M Jackson

Also Present:- 1 member of the Press & 3 members of the public.

1 Election of Town Mayor/Chairman

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Town Mayor/Chairman for 2012/13. Only one nomination was received and seconded and on being put to the vote it was unanimously

Resolved – That Councillor I Burns be elected Town Mayor/Chairman in 2012/13.

Councillor C Smith then handed over the Chain of Office to Councillor I Burns.

The new Mayor then read out and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took over the Chair. Her daughter, Rachel Irving had agreed to be her consort. The outgoing consort, Councillor A Smith then duly handed over the Consorts chain. The Mayor thanked Councillor C Smith and Councillor A Smith for all their hard work during the past year.

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 P Graham be elected as the Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chairman of the Council for 2012/13.

The Town Mayor then presented the Deputy Mayor's badge to the Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairman. Councillor P Graham read out and signed his declaration of office. He thanked his fellow councillors for their nomination.

3 Declaration of Interest

Councillor A Smith declared a personal interest in any item relating to Allerdale Borough Council due to being their leader. Councillors S Standage and L Davies declared personal interests in item 9 due to being members of the Development Panel. Councillor L Davies also declared a personal interest in item 12a due to being a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

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 19 April 2012 subject to I Burns being listed as being in attendance.

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 2012/13 as follows:-

- Town Twinning and Town Advisory Committee
- The Special Events Sub Group

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

6 Police Report

Members expressed their disappointment at the non-attendance of the Police as they had wished to discuss what action they were proposing to take to slow down speeding vehicles within the town.

7 Public Participation

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

8 Planning Matters

8a Planning Applications

Resolved – That the Council's observations on the following planning applications to date be forwarded to the Head of Planning Services:-

2/2012/0263

Change of use of premises to use classes A1, A2, A3 and B1 together with the formation of a loading bay, Tithe House, Station Road, Cockermouth.

Recommend Refusal – insufficient detail contained within the application regarding usage and felt that the formation of a loading bay would be detrimental to highway safety.

2/2012/0264

Listed building consent for formation of window and door openings, construction of car park and external works, construction of external bin store, conversion of ground floor to form residents lock-up stores, conversion of first to fourth floors to form 16 no. two and three bed apartments.

Recommend Refusal – Dire need in Cockermouth for affordable rented accommodation.

2/2012/0286

Proposed alterations to shop front and side elevations, WCF, Station Road, Cockermouth.

Recommend – Approval

Comments for the applications listed below were forwarded prior to the meeting due to time constraints.

2/2012/0222

Two storey extension to provide 4 no. additional bedrooms and single storey gym extension to replace extant permission 2/2009/0222 & 2/2009/0224, The Trout Hotel, Crown Street, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2012/0223

Ground and first floor extension to side of property, 6 Melbreak Avenue, Cockermouth

Recommend Approval

8b Tree Works

Recommended – That the overhanging branch be removed to the boundary of 20 Parklands Drive but that permission be refused to remove other low lying branches.

8c Tree Works

Agreed – That it be noted that the tree works at Holme Leigh, Brigham Road is exempt due to it being dead.

8d RUFC, Strawberry How

Agreed – That the submission of an appeal by Rockford Holdings be noted.

8e National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Agreed – That it be noted that the NPPF came into effect on 27 March 2012.

9 Highway Matters

9a Urban Area Highway Response Team

Resolved – That the following be reported:-

- Town Clerk to write to Vanessa Banks regarding overhanging branches on east side of Towers Lane
- Members were pleased to note that the pot holes in Sullart Street Car Park had been filled in.
- Blocked drain on Kirkgate outside the old shop half way down
- Clerk to request that the post office boxes in the Town be cleaned particularly the one on Brigham Road which was filthy and covered in moss.
- Clerk to request that all road signage within the town be cleaned
- Clerk to request the pot holes on St. Helens Street be filled in.

10 Financial Matters

10a Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £11,438.48 set out in the expenditure transactions approval list be formally approved for payment.

10b Insurance

Resolved – That subject to various small amendments, the insurance cover as stated be agreed and the insurance premium paid.

11 Schedule of correspondence, notices and publications

11a Overview and Scrutiny

Resolved – That no items be put forward for the work plan.

11b Calc Circular

Resolved – That the contents of the May 2012 circular be noted.

11c Cockermouth TRO Review

The clerk circulated the summaries for phases 2 and 3 prior to the meeting.

Resolved – That the proposals consulted upon be supported.

11d Kirkgate Report

Agreed – That the contents of their annual report be noted.

11e Memorial Gardens

Resolved – (a) That a licence be issued to Cockermouth Summer Festival Group for the use of the Memorial Gardens on 21 June 2012 between the hours of 4.30pm and 10.00pm for the purposes of a Summer Solstice Picnic subject to the appropriate licences being obtained.

(b) That a licence be issued to Cockermouth Summer Festival Group for the use of the Memorial Gardens on 23 June 2012 between the hours of 12.30pm and 6.30pm for the purposes of Cockermouth Live subject to the appropriate licences being obtained.

(c) That the Cockermouth Summer Festival Group be allowed to use the car park in front of the Town Hall for a musical event on Saturday 23 June 2012 between 10.30am & 4pm subject to the appropriate licences being obtained.

12 Clerks Report

Members considered the content of the Clerk's report.

Resolved – (a) That a site visit be held in the Memorial Gardens prior to the next meeting.

(b) That the July Council meeting be re-scheduled to Tuesday 17th July 2012.

(c) That an additional battery be ordered for our speed indication device costs are estimated to be in the region of £100.00.

(d) That a temporary events notice be submitted at a cost of £21.00 for the Olympic Torch Event

(e) That Fairfield Infants School be allowed to use Harris Park Extension to hold a community sports day on either Tuesday 17 July or Wednesday 18 July 2012 (if wet on the Tuesday between 12 noon and 3pm).

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm