

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Thursday 16 May 2013 at 7.15 pm

Present: Councillor I Burns (Mayor)
Councillor S Coates
Councillor L Davies
Councillor A Graham
Councillor P 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 member of the Press, Inspector Kelly & approximately 18 members of the public.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor, Councillor Isabel Burns outlined the events that she had attended since the last meeting. She thanked Rachel and her fellow councilors for their support during her year as Mayor.

1 Election of Town Mayor/Chairman

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Town Mayor/Chairman for 2013/14. Only one nomination was received and seconded and on being put to the vote it was unanimously

Resolved – That Councillor P Graham be elected Town Mayor/Chairman in 2013/14.

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

The new Mayor then read out and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took over the Chair. His partner, Elizabeth Malloy had agreed to be his consort. The outgoing consort, Rachel Irving then duly handed over the Consorts chain. The Mayor thanked Councillor I Burns and Rachel Irving for all their hard work during the past year. He also thanked Sheila, Kirsty, members of his family and acknowledged his late mother, Mary Graham. He announced that his charities for the year would be McMillan Nurses, Cockermouth First Responders and Age Uk West Cumbria. He acknowledged the hard work of the many volunteers within the Town and expressed his wish to make the most of his year and leave a lasting legacy.

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 2013/14.

The Town Mayor then presented the Deputy Mayor's badge to the Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairman. Councillor Laidlow who then 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.

Councillors C M Jackson, S Standage and L Davies declared an other registrable interest in relation to item 9 due to being members of the Development Panel.

Councillor Nicholson declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 2/2013/0245 due to being a neighbour of the site and agenda item 9e due to being distantly related to the applicant.

Councillor Nicholson declared a personal interest in items 15 and 16 due to his ownership of land adjoining.

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 17 April 2013.

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 2013/14 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

Inspector Kelly reported that 5 offences had been committed in Christchurch Ward and 5 offences had been committed in All Saints Ward since the last meeting.

Eight section 27 banning orders had been issued in the town centre.

A new Shop Watch Scheme was to be introduced in the next 2 weeks.

A new Farm Watch Scheme was being encouraged in the area.

PCSO Sarah Brown was organizing a Football event on the 3 July 2013.

PC Kelly promised to look at syringes being left on Waterloo Street, inconsiderate parking at the top of Church Walk and parking on the pavement in Market Place.

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:-

2/2013/0204

Change of use of workshop/office to funeral parlour including external alterations/refurbishment and demolition of 3 existing garages to create on-site parking

Additional information regarding activities and scale of operation

Former Lomas and Wilson Ltd Bridge Street Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2013/0219

Single storey extension to the rear of dwelling and demolition of garage

29 Mountain View Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2013/0237

Replacement of 4 windows to front and rear with white sliding sash windows

6 Skinner Street Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2013/0241

Change of use from A1 retail to A2 beauty salon

2 Lowther Went South Street Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2013/0245

Outline application to relocate existing tennis courts and car park to provide improved sports facility and construction of 24 dwellings including new vehicular access onto Lorton Road – Re submission of 2/2011/0802

Land at Lorton Road Cockermouth

Recommended – Refusal due to no affordable housing being included within the scheme.

2/2013/0246

Change of use of 1st floor and 2nd floor flat to retail and storage associated with existing retail at ground floor level

16a Main Street Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval

2/2013/0247

Single storey side and rear extension

151 The Parklands Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2013/0249

Proposed porch rebuild on existing porch footprint

23 Henry Street Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2013/0261

Proposed extensions to side and rear. Revision of 2/2012/0557

20 Brackenhill Lane Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2013/0262

Change of use from A1 retail to A2 beauty salon

6 Old Kings Arms Lane Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2013/0284

Listed building consent for installation of two roof windows to rear elevation

Derwent Bridge House, Gote Road Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2013/0285

Single storey extension to the rear containing kitchen and shower room

16 The Parklands Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2013/0291

Replacement of 4 existing front wooden sash windows with white upvc sliding sash windows and replace existing wooden front door with a composite door

19 New Street Cockermouth

Recommended – Refusal. This property is in the conservation area and the replacement windows and door should be made of traditional materials.

2/2013/0297

Demolish an existing derelict outbuilding and build a new detached garage

87 St Helens Street Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

2/2013/0298

Demolish existing conservatory and build new larger extended conservatory

101 The Parklands Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

8b Tree Works

Recommended – That the felling of two alder trees leaning towards 113, The Parklands be opposed. The Town Council felt that this woodland should be better managed and the trees pruned rather than removed.

8c Tree Works

Resolved – That permission be given to crown lift the trees in the Memorial Gardens overhanging Millcroft Vets to give the trees a better shape rather than just removing the limbs of one side.

8d Allerdale Local Plan (Part 1) – Pre-Submission Draft Consultation

Recommended – That no comment be made on the Pre-Submission Draft.

8e Land at Wellington Farm

Resolved – (a) That it be noted that an planning appeal had been lodged against 2/2012/0544.

(b) That the following additional response be sent to the Inspector:-

The Town Council feels strongly that the adverse and significant harm that this development will cause to the character and quality of the landscape is not outweighed by the benefits of this proposal in this locality.

The positioning of this turbine within this locality would become an incongruous element in this particular landscape and also within views experienced within the

locality and the wider landscape of the area.

This development is contrary to policies EN19 and EN25 of the Allerdale Local Plan which seeks to protect and enhance landscape within green countryside.

We also believe that the development would be contrary to the requirements of Chapter 11 of the NPPF in respect of conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

The Town Council feels that without any essential employment or local need, the wind turbine as proposed constitutes non-essential development outside defined settlement to the detriment of the visual amenity of the open countryside, surroundings and may have an adverse effect on Dubbs Moss Nature Reserve (an area of woodland and wetland owned by the Cumbria Wildlife Trust which supports a good number of species of plants, butterflies, moths and birds).

The turbine as proposed could, in our opinion, have a detrimental effect on Tourism.

8f Markets Policy

Recommended – That the contents of the draft Markets policy be agreed.

8g Notes on Neighbourhood Planning

Agreed – That the contents of edition 5 be noted.

9 Financial Matters

9a Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £19,109.65 set out in the expenditure transactions approval list be formally approved for payment.

9b Insurance

Resolved – That the insurance cover as stated be agreed.

9c Cockermouth Swimming Club

Resolved – That no grant be given to Cockermouth Swimming Club at the present time but that their application be kept on file.

9d Cockermouth Music Society Piano Appeal

Resolved – That no further grant be given to the piano appeal.

10 Schedule of correspondence, notices and publications

10a Dog Control Order – Memorial Gardens

Resolved – (a) That it be noted that Allerdale Borough Council do not have the resources to continue with the advertisement of the Dog Control Order on the Memorial Garden.

(b) That the Town Council does not proceed with the Dog Control Order on the Memorial Gardens due to the lack of budget provision.

11b Derwent Owners Association

Agreed – That the minutes of the AGM be noted.

11c Calc Circular

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

11d Memorial Gardens

Resolved – That Cockermouth Festivals Group be allowed to use the Memorial Gardens for the Festival Picnic on Sunday 2 June 2013 between 4.30pm and 9.30pm if the weather allows subject to the appropriate licences being obtained.

11e Cockermouth Harmonic Society

Resolved – That due to financial constraints no grant be given to the Cockermouth Harmonic Society in support of their choral concert to be held in June 2013. Their application was to be kept on file.

12 Clerks Report

Members considered the content of the Clerk's report.

Resolved – (a) That volunteers from the festival committee be approached regarding putting up the bunting.

(b) That it be noted that the jockey wheel on the carnival float had been repaired.

13 Taste Cumbria – Charitable Association

Resolved – That councilor Andrew Graham be nominated to represent the Town Council on Cumbria Food & Drink Festival and Activities Group.

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

removed for the following items of business due to terms being discussed.

14 Tarn Close

Resolved – That the Town Council acquires the freehold of Tarn Close subject to a covenant that the site is only to be used as a sports and recreation ground at a cost of £25,000.00.

15. Licence for Tarn Close

Resolved – (a) That the content of the licence with Cockermouth Junior Football Club be agreed.

(b) That Cockermouth Junior Football Club be allowed sole occupation of Tarn Close for the term of the licence.

(c) That the other informal users of the site be informed that they will not be able to use Tarn Close for the length of the licence.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm