

Minutes of a special meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on 9 May 2013 at 7.00pm

Members

I Burns (Mayor)

S Coates
E Nicholson
P Graham
A Smith

L Davies
A Graham
A Kennon
C Smith

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs C M Jackson, Mr S Standage & Mrs J Laidlow.

Also present: 1 press representative & approximately 40 members of the public.

160 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Davies declared an other registrable interest in relation to all planning applications due to being a member of the Development Panel.

Councillor A Smith declared an other registrable interest in matters relating to Allerdale Borough Council due to being Leader of Allerdale Borough Council.

161 Public Participation

Mr Skillen asked the following question:-

'Have United Utilities improved the capacity of the Town's sewerage works?'

The Mayor replied as follows:-

'United Utilities have improved the capacity of the Town's sewerage works, however, they do not have, as yet the necessary permission from the Environment Agency to discharge into the River.

Mr West asked the following question:-

'Are Cockermouth Town Council going to organise a public meeting?'

The Mayor replied as follows:-

Cockermouth Town Council will not be organising a public meeting.

162 Strawberry How Road

Local house builder, Story Homes is preparing a planning application for residential development on land to the east of Cockermouth, adjacent to Strawberry

How Road.

As part of the development of the scheme, the views of the local community are being sought through a series of public exhibitions and meetings with the Town Council, Civic Trust and Chamber of Trade.

An exhibition had been held in the Saints Rooms and early feedback suggested that over 150 residents had taken the time to attend and express their views.

The scheme is in the early stages of development, with the proposal being informed by ongoing site assessment work, views of the local community, Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria County Council.

The tenure of the 350 – 400 new homes proposed had yet to be decided although 30% of the provision would be allocated as affordable housing.

Members of the Town Council raised the following issues/concerns:-

- Road structure improvements will be required for a development of this size and location
- Capacity issues at Cockermouth School
- Capacity issue in dental practices
- Capacity issues at doctors practices
- Capacity issues at the new hospital
- Is there a need for these houses?
- How Tom Rudd Beck would be managed
- The impact that an additional 350 – 400 houses will have on our gem town given recent planning approvals on The Fitz and Sullart Street and a pending planning application on Lorton Road.
- The management of heavy goods lorries whilst developing the site
- The loss of land to extend the cemetery
- Impact of loss of land to existing farmers
- Need for social rented accommodation in Cockermouth
- Need for 1 and 2 bedroom properties
- Will the affordable housing really be affordable?
- Play provision should be a given as part of the development

It was anticipated that the planning application would be submitted early summer.

The Mayor thanked those present for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm