

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 20 April 2016 at 7.00pm

## Members

J Laidlow (Mayor)

I Burns

A Kennon

E Nicholson

K Scales

S Standage

L Davies

D Malloy

S Nicholson

A Smith

A Tyson

Apologies: C M Jackson

Also Present: 1 member of the press

### **153 To authorise the Mayor to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 March 2016**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2016 be signed as a correct record.

### **154 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor A Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item relating to Allerdale Borough Council due to being the leader.

Councillor L Davies declared an other registrable interest in item 8 due to being a substitute member of Development Panel.

### **155 Mayors Announcements**

The Mayor had attended the following engagements since the last meeting:-

- Reception in the Town Hall for the French Rotarians
- Awarding of prizes for children's poetry reading competition in the Kirkgate Centre on Daffodil Day
- Mayor of Allerdale's Civic Dinner
- Bag pack at Sainsbury's

### **156 Police Report**

There was no police representative present at the meeting.

### **157 Public Participation**

There was none.

### **158a Planning Matters**

**The following planning applications/tree works applications were circulated prior to the meeting due to time constraints:-**

CAT/2016/0005

Reduction by 2m and 25% thinning, lime tree

14 Challoner Court

Recommended – No objections

CAT/2016/0006

Fell a cherry & prune a large multi stemmed shrub

12 Derwentside Gardens

Recommended – No objections

CAT/2016/0007

Pollard, 6 aspen, 1 ash & 1 sycamore

Crown House, Curwen Grove

Recommended – No objections

2/2015/0716 (as amended)

The demolition of existing building and the re-development of the site to provide a hotel and accompanying restaurant and parking including access, layout, appearance, landscape and associated infrastructure details

Shepherds Hotel, Egremont Road

Recommended – No objections

2/2016/0072

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a new 3 bed house

1, Beech Lane

Recommended – No objections

2/2016/0135

Installation of garage door to existing car port to prevent future flooding

32 Challoner Street

Recommended – Approval

2/2016/0138

Two storey extension and demolition of existing detached garage

13 Bellbrigg Lonning

Recommended – Approval

2/2016/0158

Extension to bungalow to create two storey dwelling, Sun Vale

Recommended – Approval

2/2016/0154

Replace wooden patio doors with more flood resistant upvc patio doors

19 Derwentside Gardens

Recommended – Approval

2/2016/0166

Repairs and partial rebuild to boundary wall

41, Kirkgate

Recommended – Approval

**The following planning applications were considered at our meeting:-**

2/2016/0117

Listed Building Consent for a single storey rear extension, detached double garage and external alterations to dwelling including replacement front door

86 Kirkgate

Recommended – Approval

2/2016/0202

Single storey rear extension and detached double garage

86 Kirkgate

Recommended – Approval

2/2016/0172

Replacement timber windows to tilt and turn upvc

31 Derwentside Gardens

Recommended – refusal due to use of tilt and turn.

2/2016/0178

Extension to form link between Lloyd Mini and adjacent BMW dealership

Lloyd Motors Ltd, Low Road

Recommended – Approval

2/2016/0186

Proposed food store and non-food retail unit, customer car parking, access, landscaping and associated works

Land to West of Lakes Homecare Centre, Low Road

Recommended – Refusal due to inadequate flood risk assessment

2/2016/0187

Erection of satellite dish

The Kirkgate Centre

Recommended – Approval

2/2016/0194

Listed building consent for rear glazed entrance porch

Trout Hotel, Crown Street

Recommended – Approval

2/2016/0195

Proposed rear sunroom

3, Lancaster Place

Recommended – approval

2/2016/0196

Single storey extension

3, Castlegate Drive

Recommended – approval

2/2016/0210

Proposed rear glazed entrance porch

Trout Hotel, Crown Street

Recommended – approval

2/2016/0212

Replace existing two pvcu windows with new pvcu windows

42 St Helens Street

Recommended - approval

2/2016/0214

Proposed first floor extension (re-submission)

12 Thirlmere Avenue

Recommended – approval

2/2016/0150

Listed building consent to increase height of existing external flood walls, install timber flood gates and tanking to party walls

Bridge End House, Gote Road

Recommended - Approval

## **159 Finance**

### **159a Schedule of Payments**

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £31,724.51 be formally approved for payment.

### **159b Europe Prize Scholarship Fund**

Resolved – That a £500 grant be given to the Europe Prize Scholarship Fund.

## **160 Correspondence**

### **160a Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2016/17**

Agreed – That it be noted that the Section 137 Expenditure limit for 2016/17 has increased to £7.42.

### **160b Cockermouth Live! Festival**

Agreed – (a) That the contents of Cockermouth Festivals Groups' Annual report be noted.

(b) That a £500 grant be given to Cockermouth Live! 2016.

### **160c Banner Poles**

Resolved – (a) That Cockermouth Festivals Group be authorised to use banner Poles 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, & 16 between 26 May 2016 & 27 June 2016 to advertise Cockermouth Live! 2016.

(b) That 'open weave' be removed from our banner policy.

### **160d Victoria Hall**

Agreed – That it be noted that the Trustees of Age UK West Cumbria do not wish to renew the lease on Victoria Hall when it ends on 31 March 2016.

### **160e CALC Circular**

Agreed – That the contents of the April 2016 edition of the CALC circular be noted.

### **160f Hedge, Towers Lane Play Area**

Further to minute number 146i (2016/17), those present considered the contents of a letter from the occupier of 42, Towers Lane regarding work he had carried out to our hedge adjacent the Towers Lane Play area.

The occupier of 42, Towers Lane was of the opinion that the action he had taken would improve the vitality of the hedge and return its original strength and vigour.

He asked that the Town Council consider granting written permission to continue his actions and agreed that he would not carry out any further remedial work until the matter was resolved.

Resolved – (a) That permission to carry out further remedial work be not granted to the occupier of 42, Towers Lane.

(b) That any future maintenance be carried out by our own contractor.

**160g Hedge, Towers Lane Play Area**

Further to minute number 146i (2016/17), the complainant, Mr Bowen had circulated a modified copy of the Town Council's reply to him to several residents of Towers Lane.

This action had caused confusion as several residents had rang the Town Clerk to ascertain why the Town Council had written to them regarding the hedge.

The occupier of 42, Towers Lane believed this to be a criminal offence and requested that the Town Council consider seeking legal advice.

Resolved – That legal advice be not sought regarding the circulation of a photocopied, modified letter to residents of Towers Lane.

**161 Clerks Report**

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

(b) That the variation in the Tourist Information Centre Manager's hours be agreed.

(c) That Sam Lockyer's appointment as a Tourist Information Assistant be noted.

(d) That a survey of the war memorial be arranged.

**162 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Further to minute number 149 (2015/16), the Town Clerk submitted a report which outlined the process, timescale, potential costs and grant funding available for the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for Cockermouth.

All neighbourhood plans must meet specified basic conditions and will be subject to independent examination and referendum.

The production of a Neighbourhood Plan for Cockermouth represented a serious commitment over several years.

A lengthy discussion ensued as those present carefully weighed the opportunities against the time/cost implications.

Councillor E Nicholson moved that a Neighbourhood Plan be not produced. This was seconded by Councillor Standage.

Councillor A Smith moved that a Neighbourhood Plan be produced. This was seconded by Councillor Davies.

Councillor Nicholson requested a recorded vote with regard to whether or not a

a Neighbourhood Plan for Cockermouth should be produced.

The result was as follows:-

Councillor Standage	Against
Councillor Tyson	Against
Councillor S Nicholson	Against
Councillor Burns	For
Councillor Smith	For
Councillor Davies	For
Councillor Malloy	Abstain
Councillor E Nicholson	Against
Councillor Scales	Against
Councillor Kennon	Against
Councillor Laidlow	For

Resolved – That a Neighbourhood Plan for Cockermouth be not produced for the following reasons:-

- The preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan represents a serious commitment over several years, this would seriously stretch existing resources and may affect the town councils ability to take on further assets/services
- Duplication – the current planning system uses community engagement methodologies to engage local communities in the statutory planning process
- A neighbourhood plan cannot conflict with the strategic policies in the local plan prepared by the Local Planning Authority
- A neighbourhood plan cannot be used to prevent development that is included in the local plan
- There was no evidence of any community support for the development of a neighbourhood plan
- It was difficult to anticipate costs as these were dependent on the complexity of the plan and the cost of specialist advice and support. It was acknowledged however based on research into the cost of other neighbourhood plans that the £9,000 grant on offer from DCLG would be insufficient and that the true cost would be in the region of £50k
- Further resources would be required to regularly review the plan.
- Lack of evidence of any local benefit
- Allerdale Borough Council has a ‘duty to support’ the production of a plan but have made it clear that we will not receive the same level of support we did as a front runner during the production of our Neighbourhood Development Order

### **163 Town Centre Funding 2016/17**

The following suggestions were made as to how Allerdale Borough Council may wish to spend their 2016/17 town centre funding:-

- New planters, Main Street
- Additional planters in Market Place

- CCTV
- Under planting of flower beds with daffodils

Recommended – That these suggestions be forwarded to the Town Centre Manager for consideration/action.

**164 Highfield Community Centre & Sports Field**

Resolved – That consideration of our nomination as an asset of community value be deferred pending confirmation of ownership.

**165 Charles Holmes, Head of Community Services**

Resolved – That it be noted that our senior management point of contact within Allerdale Borough Council was Charles Holmes, Head of Community Services.

**166 Date of August 2016 Council Meeting**

Resolved – That the date of the August 2016 meeting be changed from Wednesday 17 August 2016 to Wednesday 10 August 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm