

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 14 December 2016 at 7.00pm

Members

S Standage (Mayor)

I Burns
R Hanson
J Laidlow
E Nicholson
A Smith

L Davies
A Kennon
D Malloy
S Nicholson
A Tyson

Apologies: K Scales

Also Present: Richard Huteson, Rapleys & Daniel Sowerby, WCF, Joe Broomfield & two police representatives.

116 To authorise the Mayor to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 November 2016

Resolved – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 November 2016 be signed as a correct record.

117 To authorise the Mayor to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last Special Planning Meeting held on 1 December 2016

Resolved – The minutes of the Special Planning Council Meeting held on 1 December 2016 be signed as a correct record subject to A Smith being removed from the list of those present.

118 Declaration of Interest

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

Councillor Malloy declared a prejudicial interest in respect of planning application 2/16/9011 due to being an employee of United Utilities. He left the room whilst the application was being discussed.

Councillor Kennon declared personal interests in planning applications HOU/2016/0056 & HOU/2016/0066 due to knowing the applicants.

119 Mayors Announcements

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

- Concert in Christ Church
- Christmas Lights Switch on
- Rotary Charter Night

- Formation of Flooding Response Group
- Judging Grand Window Competition
- Mayor's Coffee Morning
- Castlegate Singers Concert

120 Police Report

Two police representatives attended the meeting.

Those present discussed the recent spate of petty thefts. Members sought advice regarding preventative measures.

121 Public Participation

There was none.

123a Lidl Cockermouth

Members received a detailed presentation regarding signage proposals for the new Lidl/WCF stores on Station Road.

Concern was expressed regarding the height of the proposed pylon sign.

Agreed – That a computer generated image of the proposed sign in situ be provided and circulated for comment.

123b Planning Applications

HOU/2016/0045

Replace existing upvc patio doors to rear of property with timber window, style to match existing (retrospective)

43, Derwentside Gardens

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2016/0056

Fit Caro lightweight aluminium flood resistant barrier to front door

17a Waterloo Street

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2016/0066

Proposed ground floor garage/kitchen/sunroom extension and proposed first floor bedroom extension

17 Willow Lane

Recommended – Approval

2/2016/0734

Variation of condition 2 on application 2/2015/0716 to site new substation and various internal and external alterations

Shepherds Hotel, Egremont Road

Recommended – Approval

The following application is a County Matter

2/16/9011

Extension to works site, erection of plant, machinery and kiosk buildings and related ancillary development

Cockermouth Wastewater Treatment Works, Low Road

Recommended – Approval

123c Tree Works

Recommended – That the tree be removed from St Joseph's Presbytery, Crown Street as requested.

124 Finance

124a Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £9,099.71 be formally approved for payment.

124b Provisional Employer Contribution Schedule

Members were delighted to note that a funding level of 116% had resulted in deficit recovery contributions of:-

2017/18	-£6,000
2018/19	-£6,100
2019/20	-£6,200

Agreed – That the schedule outlining payments required for employer pension contributions due after April 17 for the following 3 years be noted and welcomed.

124c CADs

Resolved – That a £300 contribution be given to CADs towards the production of Jack and the Beanstalk.

125 Correspondence

125a Public Rights of Way, Tom Rudd Beck

Recommended – That the application for an Order to modify the definitive map and statement of public rights of way by adding lengths of public footpath near Tom Rudd Beck, Cockermouth based on uninterrupted user evidence be supported.

125b Calc Circular

Agreed – That the contents of the November 2016 Calc circular be noted.

125c North West Coast Connections

The National Grid is staging its final round of consultation events in Cumbria this month to give people the opportunity to help shape plans for the project to connect the proposed new nuclear power station, Moorside, into the electricity network.

Concern was expressed regarding the cables not being buried underground and the lack of socio-economic benefits for Cumbria.

Recommended – That mono pylons be used instead of lattice pylons as they are less obtrusive.

126d Fibre Broadband

Connecting Cumbria Broadband Hub Co-ordinators were requesting that parish councillors encourage the uptake of fibre broadband within their communities.

Recommended – That the uptake of fibre broadband be encouraged.

126e Conservation Areas in the UK

2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the first introduction of Conservation areas in UK through the Civic Amenities Act 1967.

Cockermouth Civic Trust would like to take the opportunity to play their part in the National Campaign and seek to raise the profile and implementation of Cockermouth's conservation areas during 2017. They also feel that it would be a good idea if the Town Council and Cockermouth Civic Trust marked the anniversary together.

Resolved – That a member of the Civic Trust be invited to our 15 February 2017 meeting to discuss this issue further.

127 Clerks Report

Agreed - That the contents of the report be noted.

128 High Sand Lane

Councillor Hansen wished to discuss the possibility of a business rate reduction or other financial support for traders affected by the roadworks.

Recommended – That affected traders be signposted towards the Valuation Office.

129 Town Centre Funding

Several suggestions were made regarding how the remaining 9k of town centre could be spent.

These included:-

Continuing the 3 hours parking for £1 until end March when the works on High Sand Lane/Main Street would be completed.

Improving access to Bitterbeck

Improving access at the Library

Supplementing snagging works proposed for Market Place

Replacement of broken fencing on Low Road

Planting trees along the better ways to school route on St Helen's Street

Improvements to Victoria Jubilee Bridge

Signage encouraging footfall to Market Place

Recommended – (a) That £2,000 Town Centre funding be spent continuing the 3 hours parking for £1 until the end of March 2017.

(b) That the Market Place specification be examined to ascertain where enhancements can be made.

(c) That the Town Centre Manager investigates signage encouraging footfall to Market Place.

Resolved – 'That under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded for the following item of business for contractual reasons'

130 Double Mills Youth Hostel

Councillor Hanson requested that Double Mills Youth Hostel be sold conditionally with public access to the river beach.

Resolved – That Double Mills be not sold conditionally with public access to the river beach.

131 Review of salary of Administrative Assistant to the Town Council

Those present reviewed the salary of the Administrative Assistant to the Town Council.

Resolved – (a) That the hours worked per week by the Administrative Assistant to the Town Council be increased from 35 hours per week to 37 hours per week.

(b) That the salary of Administrative Assistant to the Town Council be re-graded to Scale 4 from 1 January 2017.

(b) That progression to scp 20 be subject to her attendance on a Clerk Induction Course, Local Council Finance Course, Minute Taking Course and Website and Social Media Training Course.

132 Review of salary of Town Clerk

Those present reviewed the salary of the Town Clerk.

Resolved – (a) That the salary of the Town Clerk be re-graded to LC3 (scp 39-42) at scp 40 from 1 January 2017.

(b) That the Town Clerk's salary be reviewed upon reaching scale maximum.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm