

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 7.00pm

Members

A Tyson (Mayor)

I Burns
A Kennon
E Nicholson
S Standage

R Hanson
D Malloy
A Smith

Apologies: K Scales, S Nicholson, L Davies & J Laidlow

Also Present: One member of the public, one member of the press, Inspector Rachel Gale, Joe Broomfield & Cathy Newberry

85 To authorise the Mayor to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last Meeting held on 21 September 2017

Resolved – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 September 2017 be signed as a correct record.

86 To authorise the Mayor to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last special planning meeting held on 5 October 2017

Resolved – That the minutes of the last special planning meeting held on 5 October 2017 be signed as a correct record.

87 Declaration of Interest

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

Councillor D Malloy declared a prejudicial interest in item 11d due to being employed by United Utilities. He left the room whilst the item was discussed.

88 Mayors Announcements

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

- Silloth Civic Service
- Poppy Day Fund Raising Celebration
- Taste Cumbria Reception

89 Police Report

The Police report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Inspector Gale introduced herself and outlined her role.

Those present had a detailed discussion the following:-

- No further action being taken in cases of petty theft
- Anti-social behaviour Memorial Gardens
- Anti-social behaviour Challoner Street
- Anti-social behaviour by youths in cars
- Charity bag collections by unmarked vehicles
- Out of date Parish Police Reports

90 Public Participation

There was none.

91 Market Place Signs

Cathy Newberry circulated several draft designs which had been photo shopped in situ. Those present also considered the pros and cons of a board or wall painting. Several councillors gave their opinion on which design they liked best.

Allerdale Borough Council requested that Cockermouth Town Council adopt and maintain in perpetuity the painted signs. The painted signs would be painted in specialist hardwearing paint and treated to prevent weathering. Cathy envisaged that very little maintenance other than cleaning or touch up would be required.

Resolved – That subject to the landowner signing an agreement regarding access for future maintenance, Cockermouth Town Council agree to adopt and maintain the painted signs in perpetuity.

92a Planning Applications

HOU/2017/0209

Replacement of existing windows with double glazed wooden sliding sash windows

38 South Street

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2017/0210

Extension to rear and side (re-submission of application HOU/2016/0062)

23 Dale View

Recommended Approval

92b Tree Works

Recommended – That an application for tree works to fell two trees at 24 Fell View be approved.

93 Finance

93a Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £15,940.45 be formally approved for payment.

93b Financial Budget Comparison

Resolved – That the contents of the financial budget comparison be agreed and noted.

93c 2016/17 Annual Return

The audit for the year ended 31 March 2017 has been completed. There were no matters requiring the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report.

Resolved – That the annual return including auditors certificate be approved and accepted.

93d Insurance Renewal

Resolved – (a) That the cover be noted.

(b) That we enter into a 3 year long term agreement with Zurich thereby reducing premium costs.

94 Correspondence

94a Cockermouth Library

Those present considered the contents of a letter from Sue Hayman MP regarding the installation of a stair lift and extending library opening hours until 5pm one day per week at Cockermouth Library.

The previous stair lift was removed by Cumbria County Council following the 2009 floods.

Building Control have stated that after fitting the chair lift there must be 1m clearance from where the foot rest is down to the wall taking into account the handrail. Our staircase is too narrow to meet the regulations without impeding normal escape.

Additionally there have only been three incidents of users being unable to access upstairs since 1 April 2017. These users have been happy with staff bringing books downstairs for them.

Members were reluctant to amend current opening hours for the following reasons:-

- The busiest times for both the library service and Allerdale are 10.00am and lunchtime
- Town Council and Allerdale staff have recently agreed new contracts
- CCC are happy with the current opening hours
- There have been nil requests from library users for late night opening
- Cockermouth library is open at lunchtime
- Cockermouth library is open on Saturdays and most bank holidays
- The survey carried out by Cumbria County Council in February showed minimal usage between 4pm and 5pm

Resolved – That the Town Clerk reply to Sue Hayman MP thanking her for her observations. Explain why a stair lift is not feasible and that as the library is a new venture we wish to leave opening hours as is providing a period of stability for users and staff.

94b Friends of Chernobyl's Children

Agreed – That the letter of thanks be noted.

94c RAF Centenary Celebrations

Resolved – That we promote 'Royal Air Force In Bloom' by displaying the Royal Air Force Colours in the Lamplugh Road carpet bed.

94d West Cumbria Water Supplies Project

Agreed – That the progress report be noted.

94e Cockermouth Harmonics Society

Resolved – (a) That it be noted that Diana Tillman is the new chair of the Society.

(b) That Tim Hirst be thanked for his past services.

94f Calc Circular

Agreed – That the contents of the October 2017 circular be noted.

95 Clerks Report

Agreed – That the contents of the Clerks report be noted.

Resolved -

That under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item due to commercially sensitive information being discussed.

96 Double Mills Youth Hostel

Resolved – That consideration of the deed of easement relating to sewerage be deferred pending investigation into adoption by United Utilities.

The meeting closed at 8.42 pm