

Cockermouth Town Council



9 March 2023

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to the **Annual Parish Meeting** of Cockermouth Town Council to be held in the Town Hall, Cockermouth on **Wednesday 22 March 2023 at 7.00 pm** for the purpose of the under-mentioned business.

Please let me know if you are unable to attend.

All welcome.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Semple, Mayor of Cockermouth

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **To authorise the Mayor to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last annual parish meeting held on 6 April 2022 (pages 1-12)**
3. **To receive the Annual Report of Cockermouth Town Council for 2022/23 (pages 13-21)**
4. **To receive observations of the County Councillors for the Town (Mr A Kennon & Mrs C M Bell) and Borough Councillors for the Town (Mr A Smith, Mr A Semple, A. Kennon & Mr R Munby) (pages 22-32)**
5. **To receive observations of the Cumberland Councillors for the Town (Mr A Semple & Mrs Tucker (pages 33-34)**
6. **To receive a report from Cockermouth & Papcastle Recreational Trust (pages 35-38)**
7. **To deal with any other business of which at least 48 hours notice has been given to the Chairman by emailing clerk@cockermouth.org prior to the commencement of the meeting.**

NOTE: By virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, all members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting as observers, but only electors of Cockermouth are entitled to speak or vote.

Press and Public Welcome

Town Hall, Market Street
Cockermouth
Cumbria
CA13 9NP

Tel:

01900 821869

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01900 827166

Website:

www.cockermouth.org

Facebook:

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Sheila Brown, *Town Clerk*
clerk@cockermouth.org

Kirstie Goodger
admin@cockermouth.org

Amy Pattinson
assistant@cockermouth.org



Joint Winners

Council of Europe Year 2000

Europe Prize

Previous Awards

Plaque of Honour, Flag of Honour

European Diploma

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2022

Present: Councillor A Smith, Town Mayor/Chair
Councillor I Burns
Councillor J Laidlow
Councillor D Malloy
Councillor A Semple
Councillor A Tyson
Councillor R Watson

Apologies were received from: Councillors A Kennon, G Bennion, S Nicholson, C Smith & C Bell.

Also Present: 3 electors

Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5 May 2021 were signed as a correct record.

Annual Report of the Town Council

As we begin to emerge from the covid 19 pandemic we can see the impact it has left on our lives, our communities and our country. We can also look back with immense pride at how our community rose to the challenge of the crisis and offered targeted support. One of the first actions I took as Mayor was to hold a social event to thank those who assisted others.

Local Government as we know it will change forever when two new authorities are launched on 1 April 2023. Cumbria County Council and Allerdale Borough Council will cease to exist. Two new authorities Cumberland Council in the west and Westmorland and Furness Council in the east will be formed. The Local Reorganisation (LGR) Programme Board is working to create two new unitary authorities for Cumbria.

Elections for the new councils, as a Shadow Authorities will take place in May 2022 and then in May 2027 and every four years thereafter.

Themes and workstreams have been created to support the Programme Board and ensure that every area of each council's services and responsibilities are taken into consideration during the complex move from seven authorities to two.

The impact on town and parish councils is yet unknown.

Town Council meetings can now be recorded and filmed and as a result the Town Council has adopted a Protocol which is displayed at the entrance to our meeting room.

The Town Council is consulted by the Borough Council on all planning applications within the town of Cockermouth and in all cases, comments have been forwarded to the Borough Council setting out the Town Council's views. The final decision on planning applications does not always agree with the views of the Town Council however the majority of decisions do agree.

Special Planning meetings are now held on the first Thursday of every month if required.

I am pleased to inform you that every square inch of available space in the Town Hall is used. The Citizens Advice Bureau and Allerdale Borough Council continue to hold their outreach sessions each Wednesday in a ground floor office. Allerdale Borough Council enforces usage of our car park on our behalf.

Victoria Hall is currently leased by Mrs Bealt. The Vicky Business Centre opened on 21 February 2018 providing vibrant, flexible and affordable office space for home workers, start-up businesses etc. Flood resilience works were completed and paid for with a flood resilience grant and should help protect the premises from future flooding.

The Tourist Information Centre moved to the library on Main Street on 3 April 2017. We remain committed to work in partnership with Cumbria County Council to deliver a library service. The healthy lunches given out in partnership with Highfield Community Centre were well received. Healthy Start vitamins are being distributed by library staff in a CCC pilot scheme. The outdoor area has been decorated with bunting and colourful benches purchase to brighten up the area.

We welcome the return of a weekly outdoor market and wish it every success.

Our website contains lots of useful information including councillor details, dates of town council meetings, minutes of meetings, events etc. Check out www.ckermouth.org. Agendas were published as of May 2019. We have also added a 'green section' to our website.

We launched our cockermouth town council face book page in July 2020, it has been instrumental in sending out information to a wider audience.

Our twinning links continue to flourish despite tough economic times and a global pandemic

Sadly our 38th Anniversary Visit to Cockermouth was cancelled for the second time due to covid.

Hopefully our 39th Anniversary Visit to Cockermouth will take place in October 2022.

In June 2017 we became a 'sister city to Hebron, New Hampshire. Originally Hebron was part of a larger colonial town named after Lord Cockermouth.

Cockermouth was founded in 1766. By 1792, it had grown into two geographically

distinct villages. As a result, Cockermouth was split. The western portion became Groton and the eastern portion became Hebron.

A representative from Hebron visited Cockermouth in September 2019.

As a result of the town being awarded the Europe Prize in the year 2000 a Europe Prize Scholarship Fund was set up and has now become established and a great help to Cockermouth 6th form youngsters pursuing their studies in Europe. The Committee continues to raise money to keep the fund going for the foreseeable future. The Fund did not meet in 20/21 due to covid.

The Council provides allotments on two sites St. Helen's Street and the Gote. The Gote Road allotments were transferred to the Town Council from Cumbria County Council under a community asset transfer. There are currently approximately 52 people on the waiting list for an allotment. The Town Clerk continues to meet members of the Allotments Association on a regular basis and provide information for their annual report.

We sponsored and delivered as many events as we could in 2020/21 including Cockermouth Live, Taste Cumbria, Remembrance Service, Switch on Day, Taste Christmas and Carols round the tree. 2021 was the 800th anniversary of Cockermouth holding a Royal Market Charter and the Town celebrated the anniversary with a number of events.

The fireworks display held in the Memorial Gardens was cancelled due to the severe flooding of the site.

The Town Council donated a bench/plaque in the Memorial Gardens in memory of Kevin Twigg.

We are working with other local organisations to deliver a programme of events over the Platinum Jubilee. We have also planted 1212 trees on Harris Park Extension to commemorate this event.

As Mayor of Cockermouth I had the pleasure of unveiling a new happy to chat bench outside the URC Church on Main Street. Loneliness is a real issue in our town. Cockermouth Linking Lives were instrumental in its creation. I awarded Linking Lives the Phillip Graham Community Champion Shield in recognition of the work they do to combat loneliness in our town.

The Council's Internal Auditor, Jean Airey, a former Town Clerk of Keswick, regularly audits the Town Council's accounts and reports back to the Council. This year's annual accounts have been prepared and the Clerk will shortly be sending off the required Annual Return to the External District Auditor. The repeal of Section 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 now allows enables the Town Council to finally embrace modern banking methods.

The Council continues to employ Tivoli as their Maintenance Contractor.

The Wonder of Grimm was performed by Heartbreak Productions in the Memorial Gardens on 7 August 2021.

A 30-year lease was signed with Cockermouth Junior Football Club for their future use of Tarn Close Sports Ground. Their vision involves the creation of a football centre at Tarn Close for use by all teams in the town, junior, senior and veteran serving in the region of 500 members initially. Their long-term vision involves the erection of a synthetic indoor pitch to serve Cockermouth and the surrounding villages. A planning application for a new clubhouse is under consideration.

Play areas and land at Greyrigg Avenue, Harris Park Extension, Isel Road,

Towers Lane and Memorial Gardens continue to be maintained by Cockermouth Town Council. The Memorial Gardens play area was fully refurbished in 2019. The path crossing the Greyrigg Avenue site has been restored.

The Localism Bill published on the 13 December 2010 aims to shift power from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and Councils by lifting the burden of bureaucracy, empowering communities and strengthening accountability to local people. A range of new powers and reforms will be introduced as a result of the Bill.

One of those new powers is the General Power of Competence (GPC). I am pleased to announce that on the 15 May 2019, the Town Council re-confirmed that it meets both criteria for eligibility for use of the General Power of Competence as set out in a statutory instrument known as the Parish Council's (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 which came into force in April 2012.

The new General Power of Competence will fundamentally change the way Local Government behaves, giving them the same capacity to act as an individual generally which will enable us to do anything apart from that which is specifically prohibited. This will result in greater innovation and a new more confident entrepreneurial approach which should in turn lead to greater efficiencies, improved partnership working and the ability to help our community in ways previously outside our remit.

The Town Council adopted a revised Code of Conduct on 17 July 2012. Copies of the Code can be obtained from our website. The long-awaited report of the Independent Committee on Standards in Public Life (previously the Nolan Committee) on Ethical Standards in Local Government was published on 4 February 2019. It contains a special chapter on town and parish councils and many of the 26 recommendations intend to promote and maintain the standards expected by the public, relate directly to them.

The Town Council continues to maintain three bus shelters two on Main Street and one on Castlegate Drive.

We have purchased a new speed indication device and continue to monitor hotspots around town.

A community defibrillator has been installed in Kings Arms Lane. The Town Council continues to monitor and pay for the maintenance costs of this machine.

The Town Council were instrumental in the installation of cycle stands on the Main Street and are now responsible for their maintenance.

Six pieces of adult fitness equipment were installed in Harris Park Extension on 7 May 2019 following the receipt of a 6k grant from the United Utilities Legacy Fund.

All four public toilets transferred to Cockermouth Town Council on 31 July 2017.

The toilets on Main Street have been fully refurbished. We are investigating funding to replace the old toilet block in the Memorial Gardens with a new modular system.

The Council Chamber became an alternative venue for Cumbria County Council's

Ceremony Room based in Fairfield. Our first wedding was held on 14 October 2016. Wedding booking continue to thrive and I am pleased to announce that our licence has been extended for a further three years.

An artist Nem Sarton has completed the wall painting on Cocker Bridge to assist and encourage pedestrians/visitors to continue their journey along Main Street and explore what Market Place has to offer. The artist has used traditional techniques and materials. The Town Council will maintain the sign going forward.

We have become increasingly concerned about the increase in theft and anti-social behaviour. I am pleased to announce that we made a successful application to the Police and Crime Commissioner for £3k towards the cost of the installation and maintenance of a CCTV camera on Main Street. The camera was installed on 25 February 2021.

Cockermouth Town Council declared a climate change emergency on 19 June 2019. A list of simple, achievable actions were drawn up and a task group formed.

We are working closely with Allerdale regarding the installation of electric vehicle chargers in Fairfield Car Park.

Our C1, C2 & C3 town bus service which started on 4 February 2020 has been maintained during lockdown.

Metalcraft Cockermouth Community Fund was launched in March 2020. Metalcraft

We hope this fund will help to ensure a diverse range of organisations can continue to operate and grow. Organisations must be based in Cockermouth parish and be 'not for profit' organisations operating for the benefit of the local community.

Allerdale Borough Council has secured funding from the Government's Welcome Back Fund. They wish to work with us as a delivery partner to use £12,000 of funding to put in place additional measures to create and promote a safe environment for local trade and tourism, particularly in High Streets as local economies grow over covid. All projects must be completed by 31 March 2022.

The fund has purchased a Christmas Advert, two Pride banners, new planters and associated planting for the Main Street and a mural at the library.

We have managed to maintain and operate all our services during the pandemic. I would like to thank all our staff for their hard work.

Finally, I would like to thank our NHS Staff and other key workers who continue to work so hard during this pandemic. I would also like to thank the thousands of volunteers who are helping the most vulnerable within our own communities.

Alan Smith - Town Mayor

Observations from County Councillor and Borough Councillor Alan Kennon

During this time the majority of meetings have been conducted virtually using online platforms such as Zoom or Teams. These have been an excellent method to keep contact with most if not all parishes during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Due to having treatment for cataracts I have been unable to travel to evening meetings, hopefully once the evenings are lighter that will then allow me to attend the rest of the remaining meetings.

- Local Committee for Allerdale
- Allerdale Highways and Transport Working Group
- Scrutiny Advisory Board – Communities and Place
-

Funding for various schemes from my local area allowance to improve the town and surrounding areas has been reduced to £2000 per member this year and into the future.

Cockermouth:

- £2,000 Cockermouth Town Council – Memorial Gardens toilets (£1,000 each from you and Catherine – members allowance)

- £5,000 Cockermouth Wasps (Rugby) – new outdoor games area (£500 from you and Catherine)
- £800 Kirkgate Arts – new hearing loop
- £2,000 Cockermouth Football Club – new goal posts (your members allowance committed last year but paid this year)
- £2,200 Highfield Food pantry
- £2,200 Kings Church meal share
- £500 Cockermouth Titans – flooring (members allowance you and Catherine)
- £1,000 Cockermouth Scouts – new lighting (members allowance you and Catherine)
- £3,000 Aphid control project (will be delivered this Spring/Summer)

Allerdale wide:

- Digital inclusion project (digital support handbook and borrowing device scheme)
- Adult Learning (1:1 support)
- Christmas food parcel project
- Hardship funding grants - food, utilities, white goods. Allerdale wide project but payments administered by Cockermouth Rotary.
- Youth survey
- Teenage sexual health e-clinic pilot
- Right 2 Work – supporting disengaged young people
- Cumbria Family Support – supporting with family disputes
- DWP youth hub
- CADAS – youth champion project
- Cumbria Youth Alliance – Dream scheme project
- Centre for Leadership Performance – additional support for vulnerable people to apply for the Dream Placement programme
- Street Tag – youth activity app
- Cumbria Youth Alliance – Friday Night Youth Projects (includes Amplify which King's Church run from The Hub in Market Place
- Every Life Matters - suicide awareness training and sessions for young people
-

Observations from County Councillor Catherine Bell

Contributions to local community:

- £2,000 to Cockermouth Town Council – Memorial Garden Toilets (£1,000 contributed from myself and £1,000 from Alan
- £5,000 to Cockermouth Wasps (Rugby) for the new outdoor area (£500 from myself and Alan)
- £800 Kirkgate Arts – new hearing loop

- £2,000 Cockermouth Football Club for new goal posts, committed in the previous year but was fulfilled this year
- £2,200 to Highfield Food Pantry
- £2,200 Kings Church meal share
- £500 Cockermouth Titans – flooring (members allowance from myself and Alan)
- £1,000 Cockermouth Scouts – new lighting (members allowance from myself and Alan)
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What I have being doing individually:

- I have been attending Parish meetings by monthly at Papcastle
- Reporting blocked drains and pot holes around the community, pleased to say most of these have been resolved. But the issue still remains in Market Place, awaiting further information for the date the repairs will commence
- In contact with the environment agency, speaking about the river. I am trying to ensure that what is possible is done. To reduce the risk of possible flooding. (Tree in river past Gote Bridge adjacent to Aldi has been reported)
- Councillor Alan Tyson keeps me informed of all issues in the All-Saints Ward.
- I keep in contact with Jo Crozier, Cockermouth Emergency response group.

Mr Hully expressed his disgust regarding the non-attendance of any County Councillors at the Annual Parish Meeting. He had wanted to discuss highway issues on Market Place and at the bottom of Castlegate.

Observations from Allerdale Councillor A Semple

This has been another year where the pandemic has affected so many lives and my heart goes out to all the families that have lost loved ones. Many of the personal cases I have helped with this year as Borough councillor have been related to the impact or recovery from the pandemic, as vulnerable people are affected so severely.

I spend significant amounts of my leisure time enjoying the open spaces that our beautiful town has. Over the past year I have noticed how many more people you see in Harris Park and the Memorial Gardens; people really value our parks. I have developed an effective working relationship with the Allerdale officials who look after Harris Park. An example of this was just after New Year's Day the dog waste bins were overflowing and following my early intervention it was all sorted. I have also flagged up the need to ensure the whole park -down to the river and the other side – is serviced at holiday times.

Still on the subject of waste collections, I used my right to have a 5 minute speech about my Ward, at the Allerdale Full Council meeting in January. I spoke about how a small part of Christchurch ward is having a big impact: Sullart Street recycling centre. The issue was one of neglect and lack of enforcement. I am pleased to report that the portfolio holder from Allerdale, Cllr Lister, and Graham Harrison the senior official were really helpful. The new enforcement team from Allerdale have involved me in getting to see how they are tackling the problem and as I write this it is really reassuring to see the Sullart Street site looking neat and tidy.

Helping businesses to recover and grow is another big part of my role. I have been part of the Taste Cumbria Steering group. I have also been part of an exciting new initiative, led by a group of local business people, on making Cockermouth a cycling friendly town. I have engaged with the Leader of the council, Mike Johnson, who has pledged his support and I am working with the Allerdale team responsible for a similar Allerdale wide initiative.

The coming year is set to be a challenging one again and I will continue to do all I can to support our community.

Councillor Malloy stated that Cockermouth's bring site was much tidier. He enquired when Allerdale's crunch service would be re-instated.

Councillor Semple advised Councillor Malloy that he had been advised that the crunch service would not be re-instated as all the waste end up in landfill. He promised to pursue the matter and reply to Councillor Malloy.

Councillor Smith stated that he had raised the issue three times with Allerdale. He hoped that members of the new Authority would raise the issue.

Observations from Allerdale Councillor Alan Smith

Over the last twelve months Covid 19 Lockdowns have eased, Allerdale Borough Council offices have been closed, except for Tax Payers to book appointments, yet again the professionalism of the Officers, the Council has still functioned, and delivered all the statutory roles, a very well done to the Officers and our Contractors, Tivoli and FCC.

I have finally got a resolution to the Footpath leading down to the Cemetery next to Bellbrigg Park, the path has been tarmacked, a new soak away drain, has been laid and will ease pressure from sustained rainfall going onto the Greenway.

The Developer of Strawberry Grange has replanted some of the trees which were ripped out next to the Greenway, I am now pressurising to get them to finish the job.

The new play equipment for the Bellbrigg Lanning which came from the Section 106 Agreement, will be installed this Spring/Summer.

I have also had complaints regarding the footpath known as the Rope Walk, and I am again pursuing Officers and portfolio holder to have this path made up to a proper standard.

I still get lots of calls regarding social housing, so as I have a good repertoire with the Social Landlords, and can usually find an answer and solution to the questions and problems raised.

Hopefully with lockdown being relaxed I hope the town shopkeepers will see an increase in footfall and tourists start to come back.

The two Taste Cumbria events were again well attended, the Taste Events have now been piggy backed to other Allerdale towns, backing up the strap line to 'Come West'.

Hopefully we will see the reintroduction of the Northbound Festival on the Main Street. All these Festivals and events help to showcase the Town and area.

As your Allerdale Councillor for All Saints ward, I have slipped to 80% attendance recorded in the last 6 months due to an operation, but prior 6 months was the usual 100%,

Serving my Committee Roles, I am a member of:-

The Development Panel (Sub)

Licensing Panel, both Committee and Regulatory Panels.

Chief Officers Selection Panel

A Director of the AIP (Allerdale Investment Partnership)

Standards Committee.

Allerdale's Representative to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Again It has been a Honour and Privilege to represent All Saints Ward on Allerdale Borough Council for the past 27 years.

Observations from Allerdale Councillor Alan Tyson

Since 2019 I have served on the Development Panel, Audit Committee, (Chair in 21/22), and the Climate Change Group. Additionally in 21/22 I have been on the Licensing Panels, and, over Christmas, on the Budget Task and Finish Group. I have also served on two Sellafeld Sites Stakeholder Committees, one on Spent Fuel Management, the other on Risk and Hazard Reduction and Waste Management. As well as seeing work I spent 25 years on making progress at last, I can witness everything is being done to modern safety standards!

However, my biggest commitment since 2019 has been to Allerdale's Climate-change Group. In late November 2019 I attended an Allerdale Executive Meeting in this room asking for immediate urgent action on Climate Change with a Zero-carbon greenhouse-gas emissions target of 2030. Eventually, as Covid broke in March 2020 Allerdale grudgingly accepted this Target.

Climate-change is an EXISTENTIAL crisis. That means it threatens every child's future on this Planet! Today greenhouse-gases continue to rise, and extremes of weather around the World increase in frequency and magnitude. Eventually Boris set a target of 2050 for nett-zero carbon emissions!

On April 4th, TWO days before this meeting the Committee on Climate-change will publish a report on the chances of reducing Global Warming to below 3 degrees centigrade by Year 2300. It will say that many aspects of climate change are NOT reversible! It isn't like Covid- a cure won't be found in 12 months! The extremes of weather around the world will increase much more. Polar ice will melt, oceans will rise and many coastal cities will flood. Famine will become widespread. It is no use blaming China for this and doing nothing! China have many major infrastructure projects in place or planned now.

Planting daffodils and wild-flower seeds may make birds and bees fat, but they are not going to save the planet. Planting seedling trees and rushing to Aldi to buy firewood bundles for wood-

burning stoves will not just increase greenhouse-gases, but along with diesel gas-guzzlers, will increase harmful air-pollution!

Cockermouth and Papcastle Recreational Trust

The Town Clerk explained that the activities of the Trust over the last 12 months. Nine grants totalling £4,344 had been distributed.

Questions of which 48 hours written notice had been given

No questions were received.

The meeting closed at 7.23 pm

ANNUAL REPORT OF COCKERMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL 2022/23

1. There's now less than a few weeks until the two unitary authorities take over the running of local authority services in Cumbria and with the calendar counting down to 1 April 2023, there is a huge amount of activity taking place to ensure that public services will be able to operate 'safe and legally' from that day.

As Members of the Shadow Cumberland Council, Councillor Tucker and I will report later on regarding progress made to date.

2. Town Council elections will take place on 4 May 2023. New councillors will take office on Tuesday 9 May 2023 due to the additional bank holiday to mark the coronation of HM King Charles III.
3. Town Council meetings can now be recorded and filmed and as a result the Town Council has adopted a Protocol which is displayed at the entrance to our meeting room.
4. The Town Council is consulted by the Borough Council on all planning applications within the town of Cockermouth and in all cases, comments have been forwarded to the Borough Council setting out the Town Council's views. The final decision on planning applications does not always agree with the views of the Town Council however the majority of decisions do agree.
5. Special Planning meetings are now held on the first Thursday of every month if required.
6. I am pleased to inform you that every square inch of available space in the Town Hall is being used. The Citizens Advice Bureau and Allerdale Borough Council continue to hold their outreach sessions each Wednesday in a ground floor office. Allerdale Borough Council enforces usage of our car park on our behalf.
7. Victoria Hall is currently leased by Mrs Bealt. The Vicky Business Centre opened on 21 February 2018 providing vibrant, flexible and affordable office space for home workers, start-up businesses etc. Flood resilience works were completed and paid for with a flood resilience grant and should help protect the premises from future flooding.
8. The Tourist Information Centre moved to the library on Main Street on 3 April 2017. We remain committed to work in partnership with Cumbria County Council to deliver a library service. The outdoor area has been decorated with bunting and colourful benches purchase to brighten up the area. We continue to develop and expand this service. The recent introduction of Rhyme Time has proved very popular.
9. We welcome the return of a weekly outdoor market and wish it every success.

10. Our website contains lots of useful information including councillor details, dates of town council meetings, minutes of meetings, events etc. Check out www.cockermouth.org. Agendas were published as of May 2019. We have also added a 'green section' to our website.
11. We launched our cockermouth town council face book page in July 2020, it has been instrumental in sending out information to a wider audience.
12. Our twinning links continue to flourish despite tough economic times and a global pandemic. A number of events are planned for our 40th Anniversary.
 - 19 Cockermouthians will fly out to Marvejols in April 2023
 - We are preparing for a coach of Marvejolaise to come to Cockermouth in October 2023

In June 2017 we became a 'sister city to Hebron, New Hampshire. Originally Hebron was part of a larger colonial town named after Lord Cockermouth. Cockermouth was founded in 1766. By 1792, it had grown into two geographically distinct villages. As a result, Cockermouth was split. The western portion became Groton and the eastern portion became Hebron.

A representative from Hebron visited Cockermouth in September 2019.

13. As a result of the town being awarded the Europe Prize in the year 2000 a Europe Prize Scholarship Fund was set up and has now become established and a great help to Cockermouth 6th form youngsters pursuing their studies in Europe. The Committee continues to raise money to keep the fund going for the foreseeable future. Their next meeting will be held on 7 March 2023.
14. The Council provides allotments on two sites St. Helen's Street and the Gote. The Gote Road allotments were transferred to the Town Council from Cumbria County Council under a community asset transfer. There are currently approximately 65 people on the waiting list for an allotment. The Town Clerk continues to meet members of the Allotments Association on a regular basis and provide information for their annual report.
15. We sponsored and delivered as many events as we could in 2022/23 including Cockermouth Live, Taste Cumbria, Remembrance Service, Fireworks, Switch on Day, Taste Christmas and Carols round the tree. 2022/23 was Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Year, The Town Council and other organisation organised a programme of events that ended with a jubilee picnic in the Memorial Gardens. 1212 trees were planted in Harris Park Extension to commemorate this once in a lifetime event. We will hold a fun day on the Memorial Gardens in June 2023 to assist re-launching Cockermouth Carnival. Plans are also being prepared for an event to commemorate King Charles' Coronation.
16. Sadly Queen Elizabeth II died on 8 September 2022. The Town Council organised moment of reflection on Sunday 18th September 2022 in the Memorial Gardens and a book of condolences in our Library.

17. The Council's Internal Auditor, Jean Airey, a former Town Clerk of Keswick, regularly audits the Town Council's accounts and reports back to the Council.
18. The Council continues to employ Tivoli as their Maintenance Contractor.
19. Allerdale Borough Council has secured funding from the Government's Welcome Back Fund. They wish to work with us as a delivery partner to use £12,000 of funding to put in place additional measures to create and promote a safe environment for local trade and tourism, particularly in High Streets as local economies grow over covid. All projects were completed by 31 March 2022. The fund has purchased a Christmas Advert, two Pride banners, new planters and associated planting for the Main Street. I hope you will agree that our Main Street looked stunning last year.
20. A 30-year lease was signed with Cockermouth Junior Football Club for their future use of Tarn Close Sports Ground. Their vision involves the creation of a football centre at Tarn Close for use by all teams in the town, junior, senior and veteran serving in the region of 500 members initially. Their long-term vision involves the erection of a synthetic indoor pitch to serve Cockermouth and the surrounding villages. A planning application for a new clubhouse has now been approved. Representatives from the Club will attend our March 2023 to tell us all about this exciting prospect.
21. Play areas and land at Greyrigg Avenue, Harris Park Extension, Isel Road, Towers Lane and Memorial Gardens continue to be maintained by Cockermouth Town Council. The Memorial Gardens play area was fully refurbished in 2019. The path crossing the Greyrigg Avenue site has been restored.
22. The Localism Bill published on the 13 December 2010 aims to shift power from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and Councils by lifting the burden of bureaucracy, empowering communities and strengthening accountability to local people. A range of new powers and reforms will be introduced as a result of the Bill.

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23. The new General Power of Competence will fundamentally change the way Local Government behaves, giving them the same capacity to act as an individual generally which will enable us to do anything apart from that which is specifically prohibited. This will result in greater innovation and a new more confident entrepreneurial approach which should in turn lead to greater efficiencies, improved partnership working and the ability to help our community in ways previously outside our remit.

24. The Town Council adopted a revised Code of Conduct on 17 July 2012. Copies of the Code can be obtained from our website. The long-awaited report of the Independent Committee on Standards in Public Life (previously the Nolan Committee) on Ethical Standards in Local Government was published on 4 February 2019. It contains a special chapter on town and parish councils and many of the 26 recommendations intend to promote and maintain the standards expected by the public, relate directly to them.
25. The Town Council continues to maintain three bus shelters two on Main Street and one on Castlegate Drive.
26. We have purchased a new speed indication device and continue to monitor hotspots around town.
27. A community defibrillator has been installed in Kings Arms Lane. The Town Council continues to monitor and pay for the maintenance costs of this machine.
28. The Town Council were instrumental in the installation of cycle stands on the Main Street and are now responsible for their maintenance.
29. Six pieces of adult fitness equipment were installed in Harris Park Extension on 7 May 2019 following the receipt of a 6k grant from the United Utilities Legacy Fund.
30. All four public toilets transferred to Cockermouth Town Council on 31 July 2017. The toilets on Main Street have been fully refurbished. We are investigating funding to update the old toilet block in the Memorial Gardens.
31. The Council Chamber became an alternative venue for Cumbria County Council's Ceremony Room based in Fairfield. Our first wedding was held on 14 October 2016. Wedding booking continue to thrive and I am pleased to announce that our licence has been extended for a further five years.
32. An artist Nem Sarton has completed the wall painting on Cocker Bridge to assist and encourage pedestrians/visitors to continue their journey along Main Street and explore what Market Place has to offer. The artist has used traditional techniques and materials. The Town Council will maintain the sign going forward.
33. We have become increasingly concerned about the increase in theft and anti-social behaviour. I am pleased to announce that we made a successful application to the Police and Crime Commissioner for £3k towards the cost of the installation and maintenance of a cctv camera on Main Street. The camera was installed on 25 February 2021.
34. Cockermouth Town Council declared a climate change emergency on 19 June 2019. A list of simple, achievable actions were drawn up and a task group formed. This Task Force meets quarterly, its achievements to date include our popular Give and Take Days, the re-distribution of pre-loved school uniform and fancy

dress costumes, planting of trees, use of water retaining planters etc.

35. Our C1, C2 & C3 town bus service which started on 4 February 2020 has been maintained.
36. Metalcraft Cockermouth Community Fund was launched in March 2020. Metalcraft hope this fund will help to ensure a diverse range of organisations can continue to operate and grow. Organisations must be based in Cockermouth parish and be 'not for profit' organisations operating for the benefit of the local community.
37. The Town Council assisted and produced a warm spot leaflet in conjunction with a multitude of local organisations to sign post those in need to warm welcoming spaces, advice and assistance during this very difficult winter.
38. Representatives from Mayfield School attended our September 2022 meeting to outline their exciting new plans for St Joseph's Primary School. An initial cohort of 23 pupils were due to arrive in school before Easter. It was anticipated that 60-70 pupils would join the school over the next few years.
39. A High Street Task Force visited Cockermouth on 4 November 2022 to undertake an Unlocking Your Place Potential diagnostic visit. The purpose of the visit was to diagnose the main barrier to transformation. As a result of the diagnostic process, the need for a collaborative new vision was identified as the main barrier to transformation in Cockermouth. A number of recommendations were made. These included the formation of a Town Board or Task Force. We are closely monitoring how this develops.
40. Finally, I would like to thank our fellow councillors and staff for their hard work. I would also like to thank the many volunteers who are helping the most vulnerable within our own communities.
41. It has been an honour and a privilege to have served as Mayor of Cockermouth. I shall not be standing for election this May. However, I am looking forward to playing my part in the new Cumberland Council, representing Cockermouth South. This also means I shall still be a regular visitor to Town Council meetings and I will be doing all I can to support the fine work that Town Councillors and our valued staff do for Cockermouth.

Andrew Semple - **Town Mayor**

Attendances 2022/23

Date of Meeting	Alan Kennon	Andrew Semple	Alan Smith	Alan Tyson	Christine Smith	David Malloy	Grace Bennion	Isabel Burns	Julie Laidlow	Richard Watson	Simon Nicholson	Stephen Barnes
19.05.2022												
31.05.2022												
15.06.2022												
07.07.2022												
20.07.2022												
04.08.2022												
17.08.2022												
01.09.2022												
22.09.2022												
06.10.2022												
19.10.2022												
03.11.2022												
16.11.2022												
21.12.2022												
18.01.2023												
02.02.2023												
PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDANCE (SO FAR)	87.5%	93.75%	68.75%		43.75%	87.5%	68.75%	75%	62.5%	43.75%		

* Cllr Alan Tyson resigned 4th November* 7 Newlands Road, Cockermouth, CA13 0AH

Attendances 2021/22

<i>Date of Meeting</i>	Alan Kennon	Andrew Semple	Alan Smith	Alan Tyson	Christine Smith	David Malloy	Grace Bennion	Isabel Burns	Julie Laidlow	Richard Watson	Simon Nicholson	Stephen Barnes
20.05.21												
03.06.21												
16.06.21												
01.07.21												
21.07.21												
05.08.21												
18.08.21												
02.09.21												
15.09.21												
07.10.21												
20.10.21												
04.11.21												
17.11.21												
15.12.21												
10.01.22												
19.01.22												
16.02.22												
03.03.22												
PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDANCE	100%	72.22%	77.77%	83.33%	72.22%	100%	55.55%	88.88%	66.66%	61.11%	94.44%	72.22%

Attendances 2020/21

<i>Date of Meeting</i>	Alan Kennon	Andrew Sample	Alan Smith	Alan Tyson	Christine Smith	David Malloy	Grace Bennion	Isabel Burns	Julie Laidlow	Richard Watson	Simon Nicholson	Stephen Barnes
21.05.20												
17.06.20												
02.07.20												
15.07.20												
19.08.20												
27.08.20												
03.09.20												
17.09.20												
01.10.20												
21.10.20												
05.11.20												
18.11.20												
03.12.20												
16.12.20												
20.01.21												
04.02.21												
18.02.21												
17.03.21												
01.04.21												
21.04.21												
PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDANCE	100%	95%	90%	90%	90%	100%	60%	85%	75%	90%	80%	90%

Attendances 2019/20

	Alan Kennon	Andrew Sample	Alan Smith	Alan Tyson	Christine Smith	David Malloy	Grace Bennion	Isabel Burns	Julie Laidlow	Richard Watson	Simon Nicholson	Stephen Barnes
15.05.19												
06.06.19 SP												
19.06.19												
18.07.19												
01.08.19 SP												
21.08.19												
05.09.19 SP												
18.09.19												
03.10.19 SP												
16.10.19												
07.11.19 SP												
20.11.19												
05.12.19 SP												
18.12.19												
15.01.20												
19.02.20												
05.02.20 SP												
18.05.20												
15.04.20 virtual												
07.05.20 SP												
PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDANCE	95%	70%	75%	90%	70%	90%	80%	95%	90%	95%	60%	75%

Annual Parish Report 2022/23

Alan Kennon, County Councillor & Allerdale Borough Council
My District Cockermouth South includes the Parishes of Dean, Greysouthen,
Brigham with Broughton Cross and Little Clifton.

Catherine Bell, Cockermouth North

Cockermouth South – Alan Kennon

Cockermouth RUFC is a sporting community hub providing facilities for a number of local youth and adult groups as well as rugby union training and competitive games. The nursery school adjacent to the club uses their grounds for daily physical activity and the club offers free to use weekly open night sessions for teenage girls.

To shape the next 10 years, the club consulted and engaged with local schools and potential sports clubs, the outcome of this being that a need was highlighted for a multi-use, modern open space facility to cater for all abilities.

The club were awarded £5,000 in March 2022 and £2,000 in August 2022 towards developing a multi-use games area, with Cllrs Catherine Bell and Alan Kennon both using their divisional allowances to support this project.

Cllr Alan Kennon said, “the club do a great job giving the young people of Cockermouth something to work towards and a multi-use games area will only further improve their lives and health”.

Cockermouth North – Catherine Bell

Last year The Rotary Club of Cockermouth introduced Incredible Edibles to Cockermouth. This is a national scheme with a vision to create kind, confident and connected communities through the power of food.

The club have planted fruit trees in Harris Park, which in future years when the fruit is ripe anyone may pick and enjoy. The club have built planters in various locations around Cockermouth and this Spring will plant herbs and vegetables in them, and once these have grown the community will be able to pick and use.

The project was awarded £2,000 funding in November 2022 with Cllrs Catherine Bell and Alan Kennon both using their divisional allowances to support this project.

Cllr Catherine Bell said, “this is an excellent sustainable initiative which allows people to benefit from free, healthy food grown in their community”.

Cllrs Bell and Kennon feel that working together supporting projects gives a better outcome for their community.

Update on other Issues

1. In hand are work on Papcastle Bypass Bridge.
2. More work on Market Place due to raised area stones moving/adrift.
3. Inspection to all trees on Main Street has been carried out with the report of no issues.
4. St Helens Street has been reported for uneven surface/potholes awaiting further repairs.

5. Station Street pavements outside Premier Shop is awaiting repairs for uneven surface.
6. Lorton Road is awaiting repairs for potholes.
7. Kirkgate has had repairs for drainage issues completed.
8. Highfield Road has had drains cleaned due to blockages.
9. Cycle way lighting is still awaiting repairs/reinstatement.
10. Parkside Avenue/ Fern Bank. Repairs/resurfacing is underway.
11. Wakefield Road potholes have been repaired and monitored.
12. Kirkgate/Windmill Lane continues potholes repaired and monitored.
13. South Street potholes repaired.
14. Papcastle several potholes repaired.
15. All Main Street relined and remarked.
16. Anti-social behaviour issues are still a concern.
17. Both the Rivers Derwent/ Cocker is being monitored by environment agency.
18. The Cherry Trees on Oaktree / Cherry Lane have been replaced.

Alan Kennon/ Catherine Bell – Please do not hesitate to contact us on
07787551073 or email alan.kennon@cumbria.gov.uk
Catherine.Bell@cumbria.gov.uk

General Provisions

Organisation	Project	Funding
Capital Programmes Team	Aspatia Community Hub	£88,368.00
Community Development Team - Allerdale and Copeland Project	Digital Inclusion Project (Digital Support leaflet to all households and Digital Borrowing Device scheme pilot). Part funded by Copeland Local Committee and Copeland Community Fund	£19,290.00
CADAS (Lakes College)	Young Health Champions course at Lakes College	£3,199.00
Barnardo's	Summit 22	£5,000.00
West Cumbria Domestic Violence Support	United Together Project	£5,000.00
Highways	Churchtown Bollards	£1,068.00
Allonby Parish Council	EA Permit for Allonby Flood Group	£1,000.00
Allerdale Borough Council	Schools Art Project	£600.00
Boltons Parish Council	5 Benches	£1,000.00
Workington Heritage Group	Improvements to walkways around Jane Pit	£10,000.00
Glasson Community Association	Recreation area improvements	£850.00
Silloth RFC	Repainting clubhouse exterior	£1,500.00
Sticky Bits Cafe	Rainbow stripes award event	£1,266.00
Keswick Youth Centre Services	Storage unit, fencing & surveys	£10,000.00
Aspatia Dreamscheme	Catering Kitchen	£10,000.00
Holme Low Parish Council	Building renovations at Causewayhead cemetery	£1,000.00
Wigton Theatre Club	Solar Panel Batteries	£10,000.00
PAUSE	Peripatetic Pause Practitioner	£11,040.00
Oval Centre	DWP Youth Hub Project	£2,860.00
Netherhall RFC	Electrical work	£1,000.00
Workington Cricket Club	Setting up a ladies' softball team	£400.00
Lorton Parish Council	Interpretation boards	£1,000.00
ENTRA	Volunteer equipment	£1,000.00
Rotary Club of Cockermouth	Incredible Edibles	£2,000.00
St Paul's Church, Seaton	Warm spot equipment	£1,000.00
Keswick Town Council	Stable base for cycle racks	£1,000.00
Vanguard Sailing Club	Defibrillator	£1,200.00
Crosscanonby Community Centre	Heating system	£2,000.00
Centre for Leadership Performance	Mill Race Lonning Project	£2,000.00
Calvert Trust	Riding Hats	£810.00
ENTRA	Signage, whiteboards & outdoor magazine racks	£550.00
Castle Hill Trust	Replacement Tables	£2,200.00

Workington Town Council	Moorclose Play Area	£1,000.00
Sustainable Keswick	Promotional material & room hire	£890.00
Together We	Development a CBT approach to managing physical health conditions	£1,968.00
Active Cumbria	Activate kits for community venues	£2,300.00
Silloth Youth Club	Fees to obtain building control approval	£3,978.00
Family Action	Play equipment	£4,500.00
Total		£213,837

Organisation	Project	Funding
Capital Programmes Team	Aspatria Community Hub	£30,080.00
1 st Cockermouth Scouts	Repairs and upgrade Scout Centre	£1,000.00
Thursby Baby & Toddlers	Sensory equipment, printer & storage boxes	£1,000.00
CADAS (Lakes College)	Young Health Champions course at Lakes College	£2,251.00
Little Stars at St John's	Setting up a toddler group	£1,400.00
Oughterside & Allerby Parish Council	Playgroup improvements	£5,000.00
Aspatria Dreamscheme	Jacket Potato Oven	£1,000.00
Right2Work (Oaklea Trust)	Supporting young people disengaged with school/college	£11,088.00
Cumbria Family Support	Family links training	£1,296.00
Allerdale Borough Council	Schools Art Project	£1,000.00
Glasson Community Association	Recreation area improvements	£900.00
St Michael's Nursery	Sensory garden	£1,000.00
Cockermouth RUFC	Multi-use games area	£2,000.00
1 st Cockermouth Scouts	Improvements to Scout Centre and outdoor area	£4,500.00
iCan Health & Fitness	MOG & WOW programmes in 2 Allerdale schools	£4,800.00
NADT	Laptop & Materials for Wigton Wombles sessions	£2,426.00
Workington Heritage Group	Art & craft materials	£1,000.00
Netherhall RFC	Electrical work	£1,000.00
St Cuthbert's Church	Wigton Food Pantry	£500.00
Carnegie Theatre	Children's Music Centre Project	£1,000.00
Centre for Leadership Performance	Mill Race Lonning Project	£2,000.00
Allerdale Borough Council	BMX Track	£10,000.00
Friends of Fairfield School	Bike & scooter storage facilities	£4,480.00
Workington Sea Cadets	Carpet & furniture	£1,000.00
Workington Town Council	Moorclose Play Area	£3,500.00
NADT	Social & wellbeing support programme	£4,928.00
Salterbeck STAR	Fun days	£3,438.00
Total		£104,187.00

Universal Youth

Organisation	Project	Funding
Aspatia Dreamscheme	Youth Provision	£8,000.00
Wigton Youth Station	Youth Provision	£4,060.00
Cumbria Youth Alliance	Friday Night Project – Youth Provision across Allerdale	£20,848.00
Total		£32,908.00

Environment Fund

Organisation	Project	Funding
Bowness Community Group	Improvement to the Banks area	£18,000.00
Countryside Access Team	Improvements to Pigeonwell Lonning, Maryport	£5,000.00
Countryside Access Team	Improvements to Bessemer Way, Workington	£90,000.00
Community Development Team	Improvements to Jubilee Walk, Aspatia	£8,642.00
Countryside Access Team	Improvements to the footpaths in Harrington	£60,000.00
Highways	Planting of trees in Cockermouth	£1,580.00
Cockermouth Town Council	Aphid control pilot project	£400.00
Caldbeck Parish Council	Hesket Newmarket pond	£2,346.00
Lorton Parish Council	Interpretation boards	£500.00
Port of Workington	Interpretation board and bench	£2,000.00
Allerdale Borough Council	Workington cycle path repairs	£6,000.00
Community Rail Partnership	Planters at Maryport Railway Station	£1,500.00
Total		£195,968

Cost-of-Living – Community Support

Organisation	Project	Funding
PAUSE	Energy saving Items	£500.00
M&D Electrical	Vouchers for light bulb swap	£833.00
Community Development Team	Food and Finance Support Leaflet Printing	£160.00
Baby Basics	Essential Items	£1,000.00
Wigton Food Pantry	Vouchers to support customers	£500.00
Harriston Community Food Pantry	Vouchers to support customers	£500.00
Aspatia Dreamscheme	Vouchers to support customers	£500.00
Cockermouth Christian Centre	Vouchers to support customers	£500.00
King's Church	Vouchers to support customers	£500.00
Workington Derwent Rotary Community Food Pantry - payment 2	Vouchers to support customers	£500.00
Children's Services	Vouchers to support customers	£4,500.00
West Cumbria Domestic Violence	Vouchers to support customers	£1,000.00
Christ the Good Shepherd	Vouchers to support customers	£500.00
Castle Hill Trust	Warm spot utility support	£500.00
Citizens Advice Allerdale	Vouchers to support customers	£4,500.00
Family Action	Vouchers to support customers	£4,500.00
Health & Wellbeing Coaches	Vouchers to support customers	£2,000.00
Oval Centre Food Group	Vouchers to support customers	£2,207.00
Libraries	Pyjama Project	£200.00
Keswick Food Group	Vouchers to support customers	£1,000.00
Total		£25,400.00

Cost-of-Living – Food Support

Organisation	Project	Funding
Aspatia Dreamscheme	Food and Warm Spot support and x2 warmth hubs	£4,500.00
Harriston Community Food Pantry	Food support	£3,600.00
Highfield Food Pantry	Food support	£4,100.00
King's Church	Food and Warm Spot support and x2 warmth hubs	£5,000.00
SWYP	Food support	£2,500.00
Northside Community Centre	Food and Warm Spot support and x2 warmth hubs	£4,000.00
Workington Derwent Rotary Community Food Pantry	Food support	£4,600.00
Wigton Food Pantry	Food support	£4,100.00
Castle Hill Trust	Warm Spot support	£500.00
Christ Church Cockermouth	Warm Spot support	£500.00
Port Carlisle Methodist Chapel	Warm Spot support	£500.00
St. Michael's Workington	Warm Spot support	£500.00
St Cuthberts Church	Warm Spot support	£1,000.00
Cockermouth Christian Centre	Warm Spot support	£1,000.00
Keswick Food Group	Food support	£2,200.00
St Marys, Maryport	Warm Spot support	£500.00
Total		£39,100.00

Household Support Fund

Organisation	Project	Funding
Aspatia Dreamscheme	4 o'clock club	£4,305.00
Wigton Youth Station	4 o'clock club	£4,320.00
Carnegie Theatre	4 o'clock club	£5,000.00
HAF	Food Support	£4,180.00
South Workington Youth Partnership	4 o'clock club	£4,770.00
NADT	4 o'clock club	£2,125.00
RV Projects	4 o'clock club	£4,640.00
Total		£29,340.00

Cllr Alan Smith All Saints Ward Cockermouth 2022/23 Allerdale Report to Town Meeting

Once again it has been an Honour to represent All Saints ward on Allerdale Borough Council, for this 4 year term, this will be my last report as your Ward Councillor.

Another busy year, with Housing Issues again taking most of my Ward Work.

There will be Two Outstanding projects to complete after Allerdale finishes in April :-

The Bellbrig Lonning Play Area will be upgraded with new play equipment March/April, this is funded by the Section 106 from the Strawberry Howe Development, and the verges on the Bellbrig Park New Path will be sorted once they have dried out.

I have helped out with funding opportunities for:-

Linking Lives

Highfield Food Pantry

Cockermouth Food Bank

I have a 100% attendance record at Full Council Meetings and 85% on my Committees:-

Chief Officers Employment Panel

Cumberland Joint Committee

Development Panel

Licensing Panel

Licensing Committee

Licensing Regulatory Panel

Personnel Tribunal

Cllr Alan Smith All Saints Ward Cockermouth 2022/23 Allerdale Report to Town Meeting

Standards Committee

Substitute – Overview & Scrutiny Committee

My Appointments to Outside Bodies include:-

Allerdale Investment Partnership

Cumbria Police & Crime Panel Joint Committee

Apart from my ward work, I find the Development Panel the most interesting, as this Committee has the power to change peoples lives, both for the applicant and the people in the area.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking the electors of All Saints Ward for putting their trust in me as their elected representative for the past 28 years, and that I was never defeated by the Ballot Box in that time.

Cllr Andrew Semple's Cumberland Council Report to Cockermouth Parish meeting 2023

Since election to the new council as the Member for Cockermouth South, I have been a "shadow" member before taking up the post fully on "vesting day": 1 April 2023.

Most of my time has been spent on work that will have an overall high impact on all residents: the appointment of a Chief Executive and ten Directors – the Cumberland senior leadership team. I was one of seven councillors, including the Leader and deputy Leader of the Council, on the Senior Appointments Committee. We met between July and January. It was a rigorous process and a side benefit is that I now know the senior leaders and vice versa. That can only be a good thing as we form the working relationships we need to deliver services for the people of Cockermouth.

We also invested a lot of time in getting the agreement of all councillors, across parties, to the future community based work Cumberland needs to do. I took an active part in the final "Localism and Communities" workshop in the Autumn of last year.

The plan is to have 8 Community Panels. Cockermouth will be in the configuration that also includes Maryport, Dearham and Broughton, Bothel and Wharells and Keswick. Panels will meet four times a year. They will act as committees of Cumberland Council, providing a local point of contact for all areas; a place where opinions and views can be explored and voiced on a range of issues impacting on our community. We are keen to promote active community decision making, providing a focus for local engagement.

I learned so much from my time as a Cockermouth Town Councillor and you can count on me for ensuring that Town and Parish Councils are supported to enable working together across Community Panel boundaries.

Also under current consideration are more informal neighbourhood and community meetings. All this is part of the Cumberland Vision which aims to take a fresh approach to the delivery of inclusive services that are shaped by our residents and communities.

I am very much looking forward to continuing to work, albeit in a different role, with Cockermouth Town Council

Councillor Andrew Semple

Cumberland Council: member for Cockermouth South

Cllr Andrew Semple's Allerdale Report to Cockermouth Parish meeting 2023

This is my last ever report as an Allerdale Borough Councillor. I have only served one term but it is still sad to see an end of an era.

My Mayor's report is included in this meeting and I represent the same named Ward – Christchurch although it of course has different boundaries. As I have said before, my back garden is in Christchurch and my front in Double Mills! Thus many of the duties and meetings I have attended as Mayor have also been as Ward councillor.

This year I have supported many residents with Planning issues and I am particularly pleased to have helped some vulnerable people. It is never easy for individual residents to fight their way through a lot of what can seem incomprehensible detail.

I have supported residents who had problems with their doorstep refuse/recycling service. Issues were resolved following my intervention and I have always found the officers at Allerdale to be extremely supportive and quick acting.

I have attended, as substitute, many meetings of the Development Panel and have played my part in helping to come up with decisions that impact on the people of Cockermouth.

My new Cumberland Council Ward comprises a good deal of the old Christchurch – and I look forward to no longer seeing the Cocker as the divide as I have the other side (well, some of it) now. It has been my privilege to be an Allerdale Councillor and look forward to sending in and discussing my Cumberland report at next year's Annual Parish meeting.

Andy Semple

Allerdale Borough Councillor, Christchurch, Cockermouth

Annual Parish Meeting – Cockermouth Town Council – 2023

As a member of the Shadow Cumberland Unitary Authority,, I have undertaken the following:

Attended all council meetings

Attended meetings of the Scrutiny Committee

Delivered an assembly to Year 13 students at Cockermouth School

Delivered a talk and answered questions at a meeting of Cockermouth Civic Trust

Met local residents and followed up o concerns of theirs

Cllr Helen Tucker

March 2023

**COCKERMOUTH AND PAPCASTLE
RECREATIONAL CHARITY**

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

2022-23

Registered Charity Number 1040902

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHARITY 2022-23

A. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAIL

A.1 The Cockermouth and Papcastle Recreational Charity is governed by a scheme sealed by the Charity Commission on 8th August 1994, with Registration Number 1040902.

A.2 There are seven trustees, currently

Mr Alan Smith (Chair)	nominated by Cockermouth Town Council
Mr Robert Jackson	nominated by Papcastle Parish Council
Mr Brian Merris	nominated by Papcastle Parish Council
Mr A Semple	nominated by Cockermouth Town Council
Mrs Christine Smith	nominated by Cockermouth Town Council
Mr. Alan Kennon	nominated by Cockermouth Town Council
Mr. John Conlon	co-opted
Mrs Ros Earthy	co-opted

Vacancies in the number of trustees are filled by the nominating bodies (Cockermouth Town Council – four, Papcastle Parish Council – two) with two individuals co-opted.

A.3 The administration of the Charity:

Secretary: : Mrs Sheila Brown, Cockermouth Town Hall, Cockermouth

Bank:: Cumberland Building Society, Station Street, Cockermouth

A.4 The Charity does not operate any committees.

A.5 For the purposes of the charity scheme, the area of benefit is the Parishes of Cockermouth and Papcastle.

B. THE PURPOSES AND WORKING OF THE CHARITY

The objectives of the Charity are to facilitate the provision for recreation or other leisure-time occupation for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area of benefit so as to improve the conditions of life for them.

C. THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

C.1 CHAIRMANSHIP

Mr Alan Smith was elected Chair following Mr Apperley's retirement.

C.2 FINANCES

The increase in market's volatility in 2022/23 has continued.

C.3 GRANTS FINANCED

- a) The charity normally meets just twice a year, in May and October. Applications are invited through public notice and/or invitation.
- b) In the year under review, [6th April 2022 to 5th April 2023], the charity made 10 grants ranging from £100 to £1000 as follows:-

Kirkgate Arts & Heritage	£150	Visit to Dove Cottage
Cockermouth Festival Group	£500	Cockermouth Live! 2022
Papcastle Social Committee	£100	Jubilee Street Party
Papcastle Village Hall Committee	£625	Printing of Villager Magazine
Cockermouth Rotary	£200	Incredible Edible
Cockermouth Carnival	£500	Carnival
1 st Cockermouth Scouts	£1000	New Kitchen
Papcastle Social Committee	£100	Halloween Party
Papcastle Social Committee	£200	Christmas Party
Cadets	£450	New Equipment

Total - £3825.00

C.3 SUMMARY OF RECENT GRANT PROVISION

Year of activity	No of grants	Value £
2005-6	8	2,150
2006-7	11	4,085
2007-8	10	3,500
2008-9	10	3,045
2009-10	5	1,850
2010-11	7	3,000
2011-12	7	1,300
2012-13	9	2,970
2013-14	4	1,900
2014-15	11	4,050
2015-16	8	3,308
2016-17	15	2,920
2017-18	12	3,033
2018-19	10	2,935
2019-20	9	2,880
2020-21	0	0
2021-22	9	4,344
2022-23	10	3,825
Total	155	51,095

Notes

- (1) The accumulated balance at the year-end is available for the award of grants later during the month of April.

(2) Average value per grant (last five years) £368.00

(3) Since its inception in 1994, the charity has made 257 grants to the value of £83,074

C.5 ADMINISTRATION

The Secretary is Mrs Sheila Brown.

Considered and approved by the Charity Trustees and signed for them

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Date