

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COCKERMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, COCKERMOUTH ON WEDNESDAY
20TH AUGUST 2008 (7.00 P.M. TO 9.40 P.M.)

Present: Cllr W.D. Newton - Deputy Mayor/Chairman
Cllrs. S.T. Coates, Mrs C.M. Jackson, A. Kennon,
E.W. Nicholson, A. Smith, Mrs C. Smith,
S. Standage, Mrs M. Wood

3 Members of the Press

Apologies: Cllrs. Mrs I. Burns L.G. Lytollis, A. Tyson

The Deputy Mayor commenced by indicating it would be the last time he chaired a meeting with David as Clerk and wished him a long and happy retirement when the time came.

Minutes

Ref:M3

13412 RESOLVED

- a) “that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 16th July 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

A member referred to Minute 13409 concerning Locality Working and asked what progress had been made when the Clerk indicated a meeting would be organised when time permits

- b) that the notes of the Special Meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 5th August 2008 be considered in committee at the end of the meeting”.

A member referred to the letter dated 15th August 2008 received from the Secretary/Administrative Assistant and commented she understood that the matter referred to in the letter had been discussed at the meeting on 5th August when it had been unanimously decided no action would be taken in this connection. The Clerk commented that decision had not been conveyed to him at the meeting or since and pointed out that as this was a staffing matter it should also be considered in Committee later on and this was agreed.

Attendance by Police

There was no Police representative at the meeting but a report had been forwarded which the Clerk read out for members’ information.

The report indicated the Cockrock event had taken place over the weekend of 18th – 20th July at Wellington Farm and had been a successful event with up to 2,000 people attending. It had been well planned by the organisers and only 2 arrests were made over

the whole weekend for minor offences. The report also indicated one male is currently on bail for a number of thefts of motor vehicles, a further male had been arrested and charged with a serious assault on Main Street and was on bail as well as another female on both ASBO and bail conditions awaiting trial.

Officers had been paying attention to problems at the Lorton Road Cemetery and a press release had urged members of the public and local residents to ring the Police if they saw youths in the cemetery grounds.

The report also gave details of recent performance figures showing violent crime down by 15.6%, injury assaults down by 9.1% and criminal damage down by 7.4% when compared with the same period last year. Detailed figures were also included in the report relating to numbers of arrests and crime incidents.

As far as road safety was concerned, since the last meeting the Police had dealt with 6 injury accidents none of which were serious and 23 damage only collisions. An operation had taken place during August on the A66 targeting speeding motorists and vehicles in poor condition when several people had been reported for offences and fixed penalty notices had been issued. A campaign was also ongoing targeting speeding on trunk roads.

Finally the report indicated the Police had dealt with 4 missing person investigations during the period all of whom had been found safe and well, there had been one mountain rescue call, they had dealt with 4 sudden deaths none of which involved suspicious circumstances and one person had been detained under the Mental Health Act.

A member then referred briefly to the problem of youths in the cemetery indicating the situation was worsening.

Planning Applications

Ref:P3

13413 RESOLVED

- a) "that the Council's observations on the following planning applications to date be forwarded to the Chief Planning Officer".

2/2008/0583

Mr J. Swift, Swift Homes Ltd., per Holt Planning Consultancy, Maple House, Great Strickland, Penrith.

Regularise external pipework and equipment at 69 Main Street, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2/2008/0586

Azad Miah, per Duncan Stewart, Architect, Low Yard, Lesson Hall, Wigton.

Change of use to food takeaway at 14 South Street, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2/2008/0599

Mr B. Thomsson, per Mr B. Porter, West Gables, Farther Common, Hill Brow, Liss, Hampshire.

Replacement of two rear windows with pvc-u sash windows and replacement of gable end window with pvc-u window at 32 Crown Street, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL – COUNCIL AGAINST UPVC IN A HIGH PROFILE CONSERVATION AREA UNDER AN ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION

2/2008/0634

Mrs C. Smith, 24 The Parklands, Cockermouth.

Retrospective erection of a conservatory and trellis and wooden fencing/boundary wall at 24 The Parklands, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2/2008/0644

Ms A.M. Willmott, Impact Housing Association, per Day Cummins Ltd., Lakeland Business Park, Lamplugh Road, Cockermouth.

Demolition of existing market hall/depot building and construction of 8 no. dwellings at former Market Hall/Depot, Market Street, Cockermouth – Resubmission of 2/2008/0449.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2/2008/0655

Mrs R. Noonan, Cumbria Fitness Education, 9 Ashgrove, Lorton Street, Cumbria.

Change of use from Class D1 to Class D2, studio for pilates sessions and fitness instructor qualifications at Banks Court, Market Place, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2/2008/0680

Mr P. Brown, per Green Design Group Ltd., 64 Main Street, Cockermouth.

Alterations to include 10 new apartments (2 no. 1 bedroom & 8 no. 2 bedroom) in place of existing nightclub on ground floor level and first floor level hotel bedrooms and conversion and alterations to roof space to accommodate the upper level of the maisonettes at Globe Hotel, Main Street, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2/2008/0683

Mr P. Brown, per Green Design Group Ltd., 64 Main Street, Cockermouth.

Listed Building Consent for alterations to include 10 new apartments (2 no. 1 bedroom & 8 no. 2 bedroom) in place of existing nightclub on ground floor level and first floor level hotel bedrooms and conversion and alterations to roof space to accommodate the upper level of the maisonettes at Globe Hotel, Main Street, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2/2008/0692

Mrs K. Ingles, per Anthony Collier Associates, C/O Atlantic House, Parkhouse, Carlisle.

Proposed alterations to existing dwelling at 24a Crown Street, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b) that the various notifications of planning decisions as received from the Borough Council be noted
- c) that no objection be raised to the application by Mr I. Nelson to remove dead branches from trees on land at Strawberry How, Cockermouth subject to the works being carried out by, or under the auspices of a qualified tree surgeon
- d) that the Council recommend refusal in the strongest possible terms of the application by Mr & Mrs Clack of 6 The Parklands to reduce the branches overhanging the garage and shed at 6 The Parklands to one metre outside their footprint, to reduce other branches and stems overhanging the garden of 6 The Parklands by 2 metres and to remove and make safe dead, damaged or weakened branches of an Oak tree belonging to their neighbour at 8 The Parklands, Cockermouth and the Council note and agree totally with the tree consultant's report commissioned by the tree owner (at No. 8 The Parklands) which clearly states the oak tree is a fine specimen which does not require any work to be undertaken on it
- e) that no objection be raised to the application by Mr G. Courty to fell an Alder tree on land south of Fell View and adjoining Tom Rudd Beck, Cockermouth

- f) that any notifications of decisions concerning tree works and Tree Preservation Orders as received from the Borough Council be received and noted
- g) that the letter dated 30th July 2008 from the Planning Inspectorate indicating the Inspector had allowed the appeal in respect of 9 and 10 Holmewood Avenue, Cockermouth be received and noted”.

Cumbria Association of Local Councils – Allerdale District

Ref:A2

13414 RESOLVED

“that the Minutes of a joint meeting of the Allerdale District of the Cumbria Association of Local Councils held on 26th June 2008 at Aspatria Community Centre be received and noted”.

Allerdale Borough Council Environmental Services Consultation

Ref:H1

13415 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated 22nd July 2008 from the Borough Council enclosing an Environmental Services Consultation and indicating the consultation survey will be held quarterly commencing in September be received and Cllr. Mrs M. Wood fill in the questionnaire on behalf of the Council on a regular basis”.

Youth Hostel – Bed Nights 2007/08

Ref:D1

13416 RESOLVED

“that the Clerk’s report bed nights at the Youth Hostel for the year ended 28th February 2008 were 2,850 which was slightly down on last year’s total of 2,917 be received and it be noted an appropriate account had been sent”.

Workington Police Area Liaison Committee

Ref:M4

13417 RESOLVED

“it be noted the next meeting of the Workington Police Area Liaison Committee was being held on 9th September 2008 at 7.30 p.m. at the Stocksman, Wigton when a presentation on safer handling in custody would be made”.

Flood Fair

Ref:M4

13418 RESOLVED

“that the e-mail dated 31st July 2008 from the Environment Agency indicating that in conjunction with the Keswick Flood Action Group and the National Flood Forum a Flood Fair was being held at the Rawnsley Centre, Main Street, Keswick on Friday 26th September 2008 which would give people the opportunity to find out if they are at risk of flooding and what they can do to prepare themselves and their homes to reduce the impact of flooding when it happens, and finally indicating residents at risk of flooding in Keswick and Cockermouth would be sent an invitation to the event be received and noted”.

CALC Circular July/August 2008

Ref:A2

13419 RESOLVED

“that CALC Circular dated July/August 2008 be received and it be noted the proposed ‘Effective Council’ course had now been cancelled”.

River Derwent Access/Egress

Ref:M1

13420 RESOLVED

“that the e-mail dated 24th July 2008 from the Environment Agency concerning moving the canoe access/egress point on the River Derwent to a point downstream of Millers Footbridge be received and noted but they be informed the Council consider the access/egress point should stay in its present position upstream of the bridge”.

Bush Shelters in Town

Ref:M4

13421 RESOLVED

“that the e-mail dated 8th August 2008 from Dianne Standen concerning the lack of bus shelters in Cockermouth be received and noted but she be informed the Council is not in favour of bus shelters in the conservation area and in addition there are no funds available for their provision”.

Managing Radioactive Waste Safely –
Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal

Ref:M4

13422 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated 31st July 2008 from the County Council concerning the Government White Paper relating to Managing Radioactive Waste Safely – A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal be received and noted and the Council support the County Council in expressing a without commitment interest to examine whether there should be a repository in Cumbria”.

Highway Stewards

Ref:R4

13423 RESOLVED

“that the various papers passed on to the Clerk by Cllr. A. Smith following his attendance at the Area 2 Launch concerning Highway Stewards on 23rd July 2008 be received and it be noted the next time the Highway Steward is due to be in Cockermouth was on weeks commencing 20th and 27th October and the Clerk be appointed as the contact to whom specific matters to be brought to the attention of the Highway Steward should be passed”.

All Saints Church Walk

Ref:R4

13424 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated 31st July 2008 from the Senior Highways Engineer of the County Council concerning the Council’s request for a retractable bollard to be installed at All Saints Church Walk indicating perhaps 2 suitable placed bollards that reduce the width of the path would be more appropriate and suggesting a site meeting would be beneficial be received and noted but he be informed the Council see no advantage in a site meeting

being held and would like to see the installation of a fixed bollard at an appropriate point”.

Cumbria County Council Proposal to Replace Six Cumbria Care Residential Homes

Ref:H1

13425 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated 22nd July 2008 from the County Council enclosing a copy of the Cumbria County Council Proposal to replace Six Cumbria Care Residential Homes be received and noted”.

Lake District World Heritage Programme Project

Ref:M4

13426 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated July 2008 from the Director of the Lake District World Heritage Project indicating that over the last 12 months he has been travelling around giving presentations to lots of different groups be received and noted and he be informed he could hold a meeting in Victoria Hall for the townspeople of Cockermouth if he so wished”.

Rural Wheels

Ref:M4

13427 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated 28th July 2008 from the County Council giving details of the new Rural Wheels transport service be received and noted”.

Proposal for Footbridge over River Derwent

Ref:R4

13428 RESOLVED

“that the various correspondence received from Gill Greenhalgh concerning the proposal for a footbridge over the River Derwent to the Memorial Gardens at the point of the confluence of the rivers be received and noted and she be informed the Council will support her efforts as much as it can but cannot help financially”.

Proposed New Bus Services in Cockermouth/Maryport Area

Ref:M4

13429 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated 14th August 2008 from the County Council detailing changes to bus services in the Cockermouth/Maryport area be received and noted”.

Chestnut Tree, Kirkgate

Ref:R4

13430 RESOLVED

“that the e-mail dated 15th August 2008 from Neville Elstone expressing his concerns about the Chestnut tree in Kirkgate be received and the Clerks report on his subsequent enquiry of ISS Waterers concerning the state of the tree when they indicated they did not consider there to be any immediate danger of falling limbs but a decision has to be made on when to fell the tree rather than if, be noted and the Clerk contact the County Council with a view to a joint project to fell and replace the tree in due course”.

Victoria Hall

Ref:V2

13431 RESOLVED

“that the Clerk’s report giving details of advance bookings in the Hall for the month of September 2008 and indicating Andy Humpage of Young Cumbria had informed him he had contacted local residents following complaints and that volume levels had probably crept up as a result of some new equipment he had recently acquired but as well as contacting the complainant he had also asked the Allerdale Environmental Health Protection Department to visit a session and measure noise levels and talk to the young people about hearing safety and give advice on measuring noise be received and noted”.

Tourism and Publicity

Ref:T2

13432 RESOLVED

- a) “that the Clerk’s report giving details inter alia of Tourist Information Centre statistics for the month of July 2008, exhibitions in the Tourist Information Centre including an indication 440 people had visited the Festival Art Exhibition in the Council Chamber, indicating the results of the Cumbria In Bloom Competition would be announced on Thursday 4th September at 5.30 p.m. at the Houghton Hall Garden Centre when the Mayor and Mayoress will be present, that donations to date in respect of the Cockermouth in Bloom effort totalled £840, indicating he had contacted the Borough Council concerning the provision of a raised flower bed on Lloyds land at the Low Road entrance to Town when the Borough Council had indicated they were not able to accommodate the request due to budget restraints but the idea was not without merit if sponsorship could be found, and finally that a reply was still awaited from Home Housing concerning the cutting down of trees on land adjacent to 25 Dalton Street
- b) that the Clerk’s report relating to the Mystery Shopper assessment in respect of the Tourist Information Centre when 80% had been scored over the four categories covered be received and noted
- c) it be noted the Clerk had made arrangements for the annual advert to be placed in the Cumbria Tourist Board main guide at a cost of £641 plus VAT and his action formally approved”.

Town Twinning/Europe Matters

Ref:T8

13433 RESOLVED

- a) “that the Clerk’s report indicating the visit by adults with learning difficulties from ‘La Colagne’ in Marvejols to West House had taken place between 30th July and 10th August with a Civic Reception held on 6th August which had been very much appreciated, that a veterans football team from Marvejols would be coming to Cockermouth between 4th and 7th September with a Civic Reception being held for them on Friday 5th and matches being played on the 4th and the 7th, that this visit would be followed shortly after by the first leg of the school exchange when Cockermouth School would visit Marvejols and finally that the 25th anniversary celebrations would take place in Cockermouth between 26th October and 1st November and a meeting of the committee making arrangements for that visit would be called in early September be received and noted

- b) it be further noted the County Council had indicated they may be able to help in connection with renewing lettering and providing new crests on signs at the entrances to town but a formal reply was awaited”.

Memorial Gardens Play Area

Ref:M1

13434 RESOLVED

- a) “that the Clerk’s report it had been necessary to obtain a ‘Restriction of Title’ document from the Land Registry as requested by the Big Lottery Fund be received and noted
- b) it be noted that Proludic’s tender for the upgrading of the play area had been accepted this very day following notification from Allerdale Borough Council and the Lottery Fund that the Council could do so and that Cllr. Standage had agreed to act as Clerk of Works for the job”.

Memorial Gardens

13435 RESOLVED

- a) “that the Clerk’s report indicating Philip Hartley was currently in the process of renovating various seats, that a request had been received from Mrs M. Renney for a seat to be provided at the corner of Wakefield Road near the flower bed to the memory of her son Michael and in this connection permission was awaited from the County Council, that the seat requested by the Lionesses will be sited shortly and finally that sites needed to be found for the seats which had previously been removed from Market Place which have now been renovated be received and noted
- b) it be noted 20 x 25kg bags of daffodil bulbs had now been delivered and the Clerk would arrange for distribution to the various schools etc in due course but would retain some for planting near the play area during the 25th twinning anniversary celebrations
- c) it be agreed that two memorial trees which had been provided by members of the public in the Memorial Gardens and which had been recently vandalised be replaced
- d) that the Clerk make the necessary arrangements to have repairs carried out to the netting which is loose on the small bridge
- e) that the Clerk’s report the next meeting of the Allerdale Play Partnership would be held on Monday 19th September at 2 p.m. at Allerdale House, Workington be received and noted”.

Tarn Close

Ref:P6 (TC)

13436 RESOLVED

- a) “that the Clerk’s report indicating it had not been possible to carry out pitch levelling works at Tarn Close due to the recent bad weather and top soil needed for the job being unworkable at the present time but that the situation was being kept under review be received and it be noted the new season’s league fixtures were due to start on 28th August but the Titans had indicated they would be prepared to play one or two matches at Grassmoor until the repairs bed in if it is indeed possible for them to be carried out

- b) that the Cockermonth Titans Rugby League Club be informed the Council would be agreeable to an annual fee for use of Tarn Close in connection with their matches of £350 which would be payable in advance”.

Tarn Close Depot

Ref:T7

13437 RESOLVED

“that the Clerk’s report indicating he had asked the Carnival Committee to have a tidy up with a view to moving some of the floats into the small room adjacent to the main store to allow room for work to commence on checking Christmas illuminations and other associated things as soon as possible and that he would ask the landlord to have a look at the roof in the small room which was leaking be received and noted”.

Allotments

Ref:A4

13438 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated 28th July 2008 from a Mr John Acton of Essex indicating he was considering a proposal to sell off 39 acres of arable land in Lorton Vale for allotment use and requesting his proposal be publicised to those on the allotment waiting list be received and noted but no action taken in connection therewith”.

Town Hall

Ref:T5

13439 RESOLVED

- a) “that the Clerk’s report indicating that there was a small leak on the flat roof to the side of the building and indicating various repair works would be carried out shortly to the main roof, external downspout and replacing of glass to windows, that Cllr. Standage is to talk to Tommy Collins concerning the various decorating works required in the building, that concerning the upstairs front office it be noted this has now been cleared with the help of Eric Nicholson transport and that some saleable furniture had been taken to Mitchells Auction Company whilst other unsaleable office furniture and defunct equipment had been taken to the tip, that eventually specialist movers would be called in to move heavy office equipment from the Clerk’s existing office at home to the Town Hall, that new telephone lines as previously agreed by the Council would be installed on 1st October, that appropriate arrangements would be made for necessary electrical works and finally that a report was awaited from Edge Designs on the requirements in connection with new computer equipment which would be reported in due course be received and noted
- b) that the Clerk’s report the lease for the Town Hall Basement with the County Council had now been completed and had been executed by the Mayor and himself as requested by the Council’s solicitor and that all accounts for back rent had been sent to the County Council be received, noted and the action approved
- c) that the Cockermonth Museum Group be informed the Council does not consider the large display cabinet which they had offered to the Council would be suitable for use in the Town Hall”.

Cockermouth Festival

Ref:F2

13440 RESOLVED

“that the Clerk’s report indicating the Festival drew to a close on 2nd August and seemed to be well received throughout the town and thanking Cllr. Alan Tyson for all his help particularly concerning publicity and grant applications be received and it be noted Cllr. Tyson would be preparing a statement of final costs in due course”.

Annual Risk Management Assessment

Ref:I1

13441 RESOLVED

“that the Clerk’s report on the Annual Risk Management Assessment for Council activities be received and approved en bloc”.

Firework Display

Ref:I2

13442 RESOLVED

“that the Clerk’s report on his discussions with the Police concerning this year’s fireworks display and his indication the matters raised would need serious thought and that it would be necessary to appoint a Council representative to take charge of the event be received and noted and the matter considered further at the next meeting”.

Christmas Illuminations

Ref:C1

13443 RESOLVED

“that the Clerk’s report indicating he had started to make preparations in connection with this year’s Christmas illuminations, the switch on of which will take place on Sunday 23rd November with the display going through until 5th January, that the contractor had been furnished with all details of the revised tender price for this year which represents a 3% increase over last year’s figure and that all required paperwork had been forwarded to him, that the annual lamp stock had now been received together with 200 metres of half metre spacing festoon cable for stock/replacement of some sections which require replacement and finally that all other relevant authorities had been contacted in connection therewith be received and noted”.

Cockermouth Partnership

Ref:P10

13444 RESOLVED

“that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cockermouth Partnership held on 10th June 2008 be received and noted”.

Accounts for Payment

Ref:A3

13445 RESOLVED

“that accounts for payment amounting to £9,382.03 as set out in the Expenditure Journal be formally approved for payment which included the account for the Christmas lamp stock and replacement festoon cable”.

Internal Auditor's Report

Ref:A1

13446 RESOLVED

“that the Internal Auditor's quarterly report for the period 1st April to 30th June 2008 be received and it be noted there were no matters to bring to the attention of the Council”.

Staffing Matters

Ref:S6

13447 RESOLVED

- a) “that the Clerk's report indicating the Town Clerk's job advertisement exercise is now complete with adverts placed in the Times and Star at an estimated cost of £300 being the County Council rate as opposed to £535 quoted direct, Clerk & Councils Direct at a cost of £200 and The Clerk at a cost of £245 as well as various County and Borough Council web sites and circulation by CALC be received and noted
- b) it be noted the closing date had been agreed, following discussion with the Mayor, for Monday 8th September to allow a little extra time for anyone seeing the advert in The Clerk & Clerk & Councils Direct publications which do not come out until the end of August to put an application in
- c) it be noted to date 48 requests had been received for application packs with 3 applications having been returned which were being held by the Clerk until the closing date”.

In Committee

Staffing Matter

Ref:S6

Further discussion took place on the notes of the meeting held on 5th August 2008 when the Clerk indicated that whilst accepting that paragraph 5 on page 2 of those notes should be before paragraph 4, the only thing which was conveyed to him by the Mayor after the Secretary/Administrative Assistant and himself came back into the room was the grade at which the Town Clerk's position was to be advertised at.

The Clerk then referred to the application from the Secretary/Administrative Assistant dated 15th August 2008 requesting the Council to consider releasing her on interest of efficiency grounds with effect from 31st October 2008. Contrary to the indication earlier in this meeting that this matter had already been considered at the meeting held on 5th August the Clerk pointed out in his opinion the Council could not possibly have given detailed consideration to this request at that time as they did not have a formal application to consider and he had in fact been asked at the meeting on 5th August to come back with figures and options for the Council to consider.

It was obvious from other members' comments made there had been some confusion regarding the matter and after further discussion it was therefore

13448 RESOLVED

- a) “that the Notes of the Special meeting held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Tuesday 5th September 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to paragraph 5 on page 2 being moved to before paragraph 4
- b) that the Town Mayor, on her return from holiday, call a meeting of the Council during the week commencing 25th August 2008 to formally consider the Secretary/Administrative Assistant’s application”.

Chairman

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