

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermonth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermonth on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at 6.30pm

Members

I Burns (Mayor)

S Coates  
A Kennon  
D Newton  
C Smith  
A Tyson

C M Jackson  
L G Lytollis  
E W Nicholson  
S Standage

Apologies: Councillors A Smith and M Wood

Also Present: 1 police and 1 press representative.

13568 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Cockermonth Town Council held on 19 November 2008.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of Cockermonth Town Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008 be signed as a correct record.

13569 Declaration of Interest

Councillor E Nicholson declared a personal interest in relation to the proposed tree preservation order, Lorton Road due to living in close proximity to the property.

13570 Mayors Announcements

The Town Mayor gave details of the events she had attended since the last meeting.

These included:-

- Christmas Lights Switch on Day
- Europe Prize Presentations
- Rotary Charter Night
- Official opening of Market Place
- Lioness Charter Lunch
- Castlegate Singers
- Tours of the lights
- Rotary Carol Service

13571 Attendance by Police

The Police continued to see a reduction in youth related anti social logs within the dispersal area. The freezing weather conditions over the last 4 weeks had led to 37 road traffic collisions throughout the Cockermouth area but fortunately no fatalities. Copies of the final version of the policing pledge were circulated to Members. In the future, residents would be able to access a website which contained a crime database on a ward by ward basis.

#### 13572 Planning Applications

Resolved - That the Council's observations on the following planning applications to date be forwarded to the Chief Planning Officer.

2/2008/0920

Advertisement consent for 1 no. double sided projecting sign, 9 Station Street.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0923

Single storey kitchen extension, Mr & Mrs Cusack, 25, Henry Street

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0942

Listed building consent for the conversion of 3 storey dwelling into 3 two person flats, Beacham House, 44, Market Place

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0944

Conversion of a three storey dwelling into 3 two person flats, Beacham House, 44, Market Place, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0946

Single storey bedroom/wet room extension at 1, Ennerdale Close.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0957

Replacement of front elevation windows with rehau heritage pvcu sash windows, 9 Crown Street.

Recommend Refusal - the application does not comply with Cockermouth Conservation Area Design Guide.

2/2008/0958

Internal alterations and small extension to the rear of 13, Isel Road.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0959

Proposed garage and two storey rear extension, 43, Fitz Road, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0854 – Mr Miah

Change of use to food takeaway, including installation of external flue (amended plans)

Recommend Refusal due to unneighbourly development and anti-social behaviour. Members were very concerned that works had already commenced.

Resolved – (a) That the Director of Customer Services be invited to the next meeting to discuss the protection of the conservation area.

(b) That the Planning Inspector be provided with a copy of the Cockermouth Conservation Area Design Guide.

13573 Notification of decision from Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria County Council.

Agreed - That the various notifications of planning decisions as received from the Borough Council and County Council be noted.

13574 Applications for Tree Works

Resolved – (a) That a more detailed plan be requested with regard to the pruning of trees at land at Bridge House, Gote Road, Cockermouth.

(b) That no objections be raised in respect of the removal of a cypress tree, land at the White House,

13575 Notification of decisions regarding tree works and tree preservation orders

Resolved – (a) That the approval of the re-pollarding of 8 lime trees, land at Kirkbank, Cockermouth be noted.

(b) That TPO No 7 2008 (land opposite Hillcrest, Lorton Road, Cockermouth) be extended along the B5292.

13576 Computer Shop sign, Station Street

Response from H Dyke, Director of Customer Services with regard to approval of a sign for the computer shop. The applicant had appealed to the Secretary of State on the grounds that his sign was acceptable, being of no worse appearance than other signs in the vicinity and not being harmful to the character of the conservation area. The inspector had taken the view that both Allerdale Borough Council and the Town Council were wrong and that the sign was acceptable.

Agreed – That the contents of Mr Dyke's reply be noted.

13577 Letter from Taylor and Hardy regarding the installation of an External Flue at 14, South Street, Cockermouth

Members considered the content of the objection letter from Taylor and Hardy dated 4 December 2008 in respect of the installation of an external flue at 14 South Street, Cockermouth prior to their determination of the application.

Agreed – That the contents of the letters of objection be noted.

13578 Cockermouth Community Travel Plan – Provision of Pedestrian Refuges

Members considered details of the 2 schemes to provide pedestrian crossing facilities on the A5086 Gote Road and the A5086/C2068 mini roundabout.

Resolved – That the Projects Engineer be asked to investigate the possibility of placing the crossing on Crown Street and if this is not possible that the original siting be agreed.

13579 Quality Audit, Better Ways to School Scheme, Fairfield Junior School

Members considered the content of the quality audit of the Fairfield Junior Better Ways to School Scheme.

Agreed – That the audit be noted.

13580 Closer to Home Consultation

Agreed - That the six monthly update be noted.

13581 Annual Report – Age Concern 2007/2008

Agreed – That the contents of the Annual Report be noted.

13582 Workington Police Area Community Liaison Forum

Agreed – That the details of the next meeting to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 in the Wave be noted.

#### 13583 Model Publication Scheme

Resolved – That the model publication scheme be adopted and placed on our website.

#### 13584 Codes of Conduct for local authority members and employees – a consultation

Members did not support the inclusion of police cautions in the definition of a criminal offence.

Resolved - That the proposed response be sent prior to the closing date of 24 December 2008.

#### 13585 Solway Arts Annual Report 2007/2008

Resolved – (a) That the contents of the Annual Report be noted.

(b) That a meeting be held on the 20 January 2009 in the Town Hall, Cockermouth to discuss the 2009 festival arrangements.

#### 13586 Additional Parking

The Executive of Allerdale Borough Council had agreed to an additional 10 hours of free parking in Cockermouth.

Resolved – That the additional free parking take place on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

#### 13587 Cockermouth to Frizington Bus Service

A focus group was being formed to discuss complaints raised in respect of the revised timetable.

The Community Involvement Worker, Maria Lenney had requested that the Town Council and interested individuals be informed about the Group.

Agreed – That the formation of the focus group be noted.

#### 13588 Calc Circular

Agreed – That the contents of the January circular be noted.

#### 13589 New Footbridge over the River Derwent

Gill Greenhalgh provided details of the recent public opinion survey undertaken in November 2008 to gauge public opinion about the new footbridge over the River Derwent and comments raised at the recent exhibition.

There was a strong indication that those people in the town or visiting who were made aware of the proposal and completed the cards, 90% of them are definitely in favour of this proposal.

Cockermouth Partnership were fully in support of this project.

Agreed – That the update be noted.

#### 13590 Use of Town Hall Car Park

Members considered a request from Mr Carlin, The Allerdale Court Hotel, Market Place, Cockermouth with regard to the possible use of the car parking spaces in front of the Town Hall from 5pm to 9am during the course of the development works from January 2009.

Agreed – That given current problems with the car park and the general lack of space the request be declined.

#### 13591 Victoria Hall

Members considered the content of the clerk's report.

Resolved – That the clerk's report be noted and Councillor Standage arrange decoration of both toilets in Victoria Hall.

#### 13592 Tourism and Publicity

Members considered the content of the clerk's report.

The clerk announced the winners of the Grand Window Dressing Competition  
They were as follows:-

Forget me Not Florist	Winner	Christmas Window
Number XVII	Highly Commended	Christmas Window
Beatfords	Highly Commended	Christmas Window
Printing House	Winner	Trade Window
Lakes Bakes	Highly Commended	Trade Window
Impact Photography	Highly Commended	Trade Window

The clerk also announced the winners of the Family Window Spotting Competition. They were as follows:-

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	Katherine Cooper
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	Rachel Gallagher
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	Rachel & William Sharp
4 <sup>th</sup> prize	The Irving Family

The Best Dressed House Competition was to be judged on Thursday 18 December at 6pm.

Resolved – That the report be noted and that the payment of the winning cheques in respect of the Best Dressed House competition be endorsed.

#### 13593 Town Twinning/Europe Matters

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the General Assembly will be held in Szeged between the 11 – 13 March 2009.

Resolved – That the report be noted and that the expenditure regarding the attendance of the Mayor and Clerk be authorised.

#### 13594 Memorial Gardens

The picnic bench had been removed.

Quotes were being obtained for various tree works in the Memorial Gardens following the marking up of the trees and a further site visit.

The outstanding works at the new play area had been completed and payment of £47,500 received from Allerdale Borough Council. The Clerk and Councillor Standage were to meet Prolodic to discuss a problem with the wet pour early in the New Year.

ISS Waterers had provided a quote of £459.00 plus vat to repair the privet hedge leading over the footbridge. Members accepted the quote.

Waugh and Musgrave had written to the occupant of 41, Derwentside Garden with regard to the unauthorised gate on 10 November 2008. Mr Quigley had written again on the 8<sup>th</sup> December as no response had been forthcoming.

Resolved – (a) That subject to the satisfactory resolution of the problems with the wet pour Prolodic be paid the sum of £58,748.83 inclusive of vat

(b) That the repair of the privet hedge be endorsed.

(c) That the Clerk contact Mr Quigley and suggest that should there still be no response from the occupant of 41, Derwentside Gardens would it be feasible for the access to be blocked and the occupant billed for the works.

#### 13595 Tarn Close/Tarn Close Depot

No report.

#### 13596 Allotments

Resolved – That the report be noted, the skips be ordered and the Allotment Association requested to oversee filling of the skips.

## 13597 Town Hall

Members considered the content of the Clerk's report.

A quote had been received with regard to the painting of the hall and stairs in the Town Hall. Decoration of the toilets and up stairs passageway £1200 and the stairs and entrance £1350.

Councillor Standage to chase up a quote for the replacement window. Councillor Kennon requested that self cleaning glass be inserted into the window. Councillor Standage to clarify planning situation with Allerdale Borough Council

Members noted that Derwent and Solway no longer wished to hire the room on the ground floor as of the 1 April 2009 and that the Council would lose £600 per annum in rental income.

Members expressed concern about unauthorised parking at the Town Hall.

Members suggested that a sign be erected at the entrance to the Town Hall stating 'Parking for Town Council and Tourist Information Business only' and a designated space for the Town Clerk may alleviate congestion. Clerk to also speak to Day Services regarding parking problems.

Resolved – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That Councillor Standage investigates the provision of the signage for the town hall car park and that the Clerk discusses current parking issues with the Manager of Day Services

## 13598 Christmas Illuminations

Resolved – (a) That the Clerk's report be noted.

(b) That Mr Howson be reminded to take down and store the lighting equipment in a careful manner.

## 13599 Cockermouth Partnership

Agreed – That the minutes of the Steering Group Meeting held on 11 November 2008 be noted.

## 13600 Accounts for Payment

Members were informed that the internal auditor had been in that day to do an audit up until end November 2008. Any recommendations would be considered at the next meeting.

Resolved – That accounts for payment amounting to £9181.54 as set out in the expenditure journal be formally approved for payment.

#### 13601 Screening of Recycling Site at Gallowbarrow Car Park

Resolved – That the Clerk writes to Ernie Davison about the lack of screening and untidy banking and that Councillor S Standage also take up this matter with the Borough Council.

#### 13602 Remembrance Sunday

Councillor Coates requested that Simon Hine be appointed deputy parade marshall and lead the procession if for any reason he was unable to do so.

Those present felt strongly that Remembrance Sunday should remain a Civic Service day.

Resolved – That Simon Hine be appointed deputy parade marshall.

#### 13603 Gritting

This item was deferred pending Councillor Smith's attendance

The following items were held in closed session.

#### 13604 Revenue Expenditure/Precept

Members considered the budget and precept submitted by the Clerk. After discussion Members unanimously agreed a precept of £176,460 (3.8% increase) as against £175,000 (2.94% increase) as recommended by the Clerk.

The projected overspend for 08/09 was noted however Members did not make any provision for the overspend in the 09/10 budget

Resolved – That a precept of £176,460 be agreed.

#### 13605 Appointment of an Administrative Assistant

The Clerk submitted a report which sought the appointment of an administrative assistant on scale 3 working 25 hours per week pro rata.

Councillor Nicholson moved that the scale of the administrative assistant be set at scale 2. This was seconded by Councillor Tyson.

Councillor Standage moved that the scale of the administrative assistant be set at scale 3. This was seconded by Councillor Jackson.

A vote was taken, 5 in favour of Scale 3, 2 in favour of Scale 2.

Resolved – That:-

- (a) The amended job title be approved

- (b) The job description be approved
- (c) The post be advertised at Scale 3
- (d) That a shortlisting and interviewing panel comprising of the Town Clerk, Mayor and Councillor Jackson be agreed
- (e) That a provision of £13,506 be included in the 09/10 budget.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm