

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 21 January 2009 at 7pm

Members

I Burns (Mayor)

S Coates	C M Jackson
A Kennon	D Newton
E W Nicholson	A Smith
C Smith	S Standage
A Tyson	

Apologies: M Wood

Also Present: 1 police representative, 1 press representative, Miss J Elliot & Mrs H Brownlee

13606 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Cockermouth Town Council held on 17 December 2008.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held on 17 December 2008 be signed as a correct record.

Arising from:-

Minute 13575b – The Planning Department felt that the trees along the B5292 were not within the same parcel of land and are not considered under threat and so therefore it was not considered reasonable to place a tree preservation order on them at the present time.

Minute 13678 – Cellar openings and statutory undertaker's apparatus prevented the placing of a crossing point on Crown Street. A crossing point at the roundabout was not viable due to turning movements coming out of the adjacent junction. The crossing on the Low Road side of the roundabout will be constructed during the February half term.

Minute 13589 – After further discussion it was -

Resolved – That Town Councillors would do what they could in terms of lobbying support from the County Council in terms of adoption of such a structure and in the Allerdale Borough Council and North West Development Agency Boards.

Minute 13601 – Members noted that there was no funding to screen off the recycling facilities in Sullart Street at the present time.

13607 Declaration of Interest

Councillor E Nicholson declared a personal interest in relation to the Tree

Preservation Order on Lorton Road due to living in close proximity to the property.

13608 Mayors Announcements

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

These included:-

- December Rotary Lunch
- Town Mayor's Coffee Morning
- Cockermouth Band Concert at Hundith Hill
- Kirkland's Residential Home and Homewood Residential Home
- Carols around the tree on Christmas Eve
- Hames Hall and Cockermouth Hospital
- Aladdin at the Kirkgate Centre
- Town Twinning Meeting

13609 Attendance by Police

There had been several incidents of criminal damage to motor vehicles and reports of youths gathering in Lorton Road Cemetery. There had been 11 arrests since the last meeting for various offences. The Dispersal Order ended on 10 January 2009 however there were no plans to renew the Order in the foreseeable future. There had been 9 motor accidents but no serious injuries. PC Steve Jackson was retiring shortly and would be replaced by PC Gavin Mathews from Keswick.

PC Wheelhouse promised to ensure that an eye was kept on vehicles causing an obstruction in Market Place.

13610 Planning Applications

Cockermouth was the largest conservation area in Allerdale and also contained a high proportion of listed buildings. Conservation areas were formed in the 1960's in order to protect and where possible enhance street patterns and none listed buildings. The legislation however did not allow planning officers to insist on making a property better than it was before.

The Cockermouth Conservation Area Design Guide was adopted as supplementary planning guidance only, it was not policy.

Policy could be changed in future when the new Development Control Policies are determined as part of the new Local Development Framework.

Councillor Smith suggested that the design guide should be proactively advertised. Miss J Elliot agreed that there was a need to engage people before the receipt of a planning application and promised to take the matter on board.

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

2/2008/0970

Extension/alteration to 2 no. existing dwellings at 20/22 Station Street

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0983

Removal of existing garage and erection of two storey extension of garage, toilet, and bedroom with ensuite shower and single storey extension of kitchen to rear elevation, 13, Limetree Crescent.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0984

Two storey side extension to provide additional living space including integral garage, 3, Albemarle Street

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0987

Extension and alteration to provide family living room and further bedroom and bathroom, 7, Harrot Road

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0996

Demolition of existing club house and construction of new club house with new changing facilities, equipment store and community room, Croft Bowling Club, Croftside, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2009/0004

Proposed domestic extensions and alterations, Wyndham Lodge, St Helens Street

Recommend Approval

2/2009/0005

Replacement of existing defective stained timber front door with new painted hardwood period door, 10 Low Sand Lane

Recommend Approval

2/2009/0006

Conservation area consent for demolition of existing club house and construction of a new club house with new changing facilities, equipment store and community room

Croft Bowling Club, Croftside.

Recommend Approval

2/2008.0755 & 0756 (amended plans)

Conversion and reformation of 3 cottages, 4 Main Street

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0854 (amended plans)

Change of use to food takeaway including the installation of external flue, 14, South Street

Recommend refusal due to unneighbourly development and anti-social behaviour.

2/2009/0013

Advertisement Consent for new fascia sign to shop front, The Cutting Room, 4D Station Street

Recommend Approval

13611 Notification of decisions 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.

13612 Applications for Tree Works

Members raised no objections to the revised application for tree works at land at Bridge House, Gote Road.

Members recommended that the tree works to 2 limes at Friends Meeting House be refused due to the tree being a healthy tree.

13613 Notification of decisions regarding tree works and tree preservation orders

Members noted TPO 1 – 2009 on land opposite Hillcrest, Lorton Road. TPO 1 – 2009 replaced TPO 7/2008 which had been revoked.

13614 Annual Report Cumbria Local Government Pension Scheme

During a year of volatility in investment markets, the Cumbria Fund benefitted from a diversified approach and saw the fund value increase to £1,195 million at 31 March 2008. The investment return achieved by the fund for the year was 0.7% giving Cumbria a ranking of 7th out of 100.

Agreed – That the annual report be noted.

13615 Cumbria Highways – Working Together (Issue 12)

Agreed – That the contents of Issue 12 be noted.

13616 Issue 11, Recycle for Cumbria

The main discussion topic was the approval of a multi-million pound waste disposal partnership with Shanks Waste Solutions which would mean that much of our waste would be sent to mechanical biological state of the art treatment plants in Carlisle and Barrow. Here the waste would be transformed into environmentally friendly fuel.

Agreed – That the contents of Issue 11 be noted.

13617 Licences for Pavement Cafes

Due to the increasing presence of pavement cafes on the streets of our towns, Cumbria Highways are intending to bring in a licensing system from 1 April 2009. In future, the town council will also be formally consulted as part of the assessment process.

Agreed – That the introduction of the new licensing procedures for pavement cafes be noted.

13618 Closing Order for Rally

Members noted that during 7.00 am and 7.00 pm on Saturday 7th March 2009, the west bound carriageway of Main Street, Cockermouth will be closed to all classes of vehicular traffic except for access and emergency vehicles.

Agreed – That the contents of the closing order be noted.

13619 Donation

CADS sent a letter of appreciation with regard to the £300 donation given by the Town Council before Christmas.

Agreed – That the letter of appreciation be noted.

13620 Cockermouth Georgian Fair

Agreed – That the contents of the minutes of the Cockermouth Georgian Fair held on the 4 November 2008 be noted.

13621 CALC

The next general meeting of CALC was to be held in Bothel Village Hall on 26 February 2009.

13622 Cockermouth Swimming Club

Resolved – That Cockermouth Swimming Club be awarded a grant of £200.

13623 2008 Progress Report – 2nd Transport Plan

The progress report outlined where expenditure on transport had been allocated, how Cumbria County Council were progressing against transport targets and gave examples of the innovative and best practise measures which had been implemented.

Agreed – That the progress report be noted.

13624 Cockermouth & District Neighbourhood Forum

The next meeting was to be held on 27 January 2009 in the United Reformed Church at 7 pm. Topics for discussion included Cockermouth Hospital and Gritting of Car Parks.

13625 Mencap

Resolved – That a donation be not given to Mencap.

13626 Letter regarding the Illuminations

Mrs Ruth Jackson thanked the Town Council for their traditional Christmas lights.

13627 Victoria Hall

Members considered the content of the Clerk's report.

Painting works in the toilets had been suspended due to damp.

Resolved – That the availability of Victoria Hall for hire be publicised as widely as possible and in particular to Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria County

Council.

13628 Tourism and Publicity

Members considered the content of the Clerk's report.

The 89.8% scored in the mystery shopper inspection was of particular note.

Agreed – That the content of the Clerk's report be noted.

13629 Town Twinning/Europe Matters

Members considered the content of the Clerk's report

43 of the 49 seats on the coach to Marvejols had been taken up.

Members were pleased that Cockermouth School was investigating the possibility of sending two youth delegates to Szeged.

Agreed – That the content of the Clerk's report be noted.

13630 Memorial Gardens

The pock holes which had appeared in the wet pour were due to high heeled shoes. Members authorised signage amounting to £172.32 excluding vat for two signs to be erected on each gate prohibiting spiked shoes, football boots and high heeled shoes in the play area.

Members also endorsed the payment of the remaining £5000 to Proludic.

Jim Crowe was investigating the payment of the remaining £2,500 from the Lottery Fund.

The Clerk had sent a copy of A1 Arborists report to Allerdale Borough Council for information. Members agreed to await a response from Allerdale prior to awarding any tender.

Councillor Kennon informed those present that the Environment Agency had removed gravel from the riverbed and would make good the Memorial Gardens when the ground was drier.

Resolved – (a) That the purchase and erection of signage prohibiting spiked shoes, football boots and high heeled shoes in the play area be endorsed to aid the prevention of further damage.

(b) That the remaining £5,000 be paid to Prolodic Ltd.

13631 Tarn Close/Tarn Close Depot

Members noted that the contractor had left the depot in a tidy state as

requested.

13632 Allotments

Allotments 6b and 20 had been re-let on The Gote site.

Clerk to investigate the broken lock on the St. Helens site and leaking tap on The Gote.

Resolved – That the dangerous concrete gate stoop at the St Helens Allotments be replaced at a cost of £156 plus vat

13633 Town Hall

Members considered the content of the Clerk's report.

Members discussed at some length the introduction of a permit scheme and/or enforcement by Allerdale Borough Council.

Councillor Smith moved that a permit scheme be introduced and that Allerdale Borough Council enforced the Town Hall Car Park, this was seconded by Councillor Nicholson. The vote was lost 3 votes to 6.

Resolved – (a) That the replacement window in the Council Chamber be purchased at a cost of £1448.00 and that Councillor Standage apply for Listed Building Consent.

(b) That the £150 for emergency plastering on the stairs in the Town Hall and £20 repair to the leaking ceiling in the staff toilets be endorsed.

(c) That the introduction of a permit scheme and signage in the sum of £84.13 be agreed.

13634 Christmas Illuminations

Members considered the content of the Clerk's report.

Resolved – (a) That our contractor be paid his final contract instalment.

(b) That an electrician be contacted with regard to conducting an electrical check of the festoon and consulted upon how to modernise the various connections.

(c) That uplighters be inserted into a couple of large trees to gauge their effectiveness.

13635 Cockermouth Festival

An initial meeting had taken place to discuss the arrangements for the next festival. A draft programme and costs were to be presented to the next meeting.

13636 Cockermouth Partnership

Resolved – That a special town council meeting be held on 4th February 2009 in the Town Hall at 7 pm to progress locality working.

13637 Financial Budget Comparison

Resolved – That the financial budget comparison be noted.

13638 Budget and approved precept

Resolved – That the budget and approved precept be endorsed.

13639 Internal auditors reports for December 2008 and January 2009.

Agreed – That the auditors reports be noted.

13640 Investments

Resolved – That this issue be discussed further at the next meeting.

13641 Accounts for Payment

Resolved – That accounts for payment amounting to £15,558.50 as set out in the expenditure journal be formally approved for payment.

13642 Gritting

Councillor Smith stated that he had received numerous complaints regarding the lack of salt on roads and pavements during the recent cold snap and that salt bins were not being refilled.

Councillor Nicholson informed those present that gritting was and had to be prioritised and that grit bins were replenished within 24 hours if residents rang the highways hotline.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm