

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 18 March 2009 at 7pm

Members

I Burns (Mayor)

S Coates	A Kennon
D Newton	L G Lytollis
E W Nicholson	A Smith
C Smith	S Standage
A Tyson	

Apologies: Councillors C M Jackson & M Wood

Also Present:

13672 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Cockermouth Town Council held on 18 February 2009.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held on 18 February 2009 be signed as a correct record subject to the deletion of ‘Cockermouth School’ in the third paragraph of minute number 13665 and the insertion of the words ‘Round Table using Cockermouth School’.

13673 Declaration of Interest

Councillors A Smith and A Tyson declared a personal interest in agenda item 9a due to being members of the Allerdale Borough Council Development Panel.

13674 Mayors Announcements

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

These included:-

- An informal meeting with the Police to discuss the policing pledge
- The Malcolm Wilson Rally
- Annual Assembly of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Szeged.

13675 Deputy Mayor

Councillor Newton informed those present that he wished to stand down as Deputy Mayor due to personal circumstances.

Councillor Standage moved that Councillor Coates be nominated as Deputy Mayor in the interim. This was unanimously agreed.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Newton for his help in recent months.

Resolved – That Councillor S Coates be nominated as Deputy Mayor in the interim.

13676 Attendance by Police

The Malcolm Wilson Rally had run smoothly again this year however the rally car stolen from Castlegate Drive has not be recovered to date. An incident of arson had occurred at the communal bins outside Derwent Mills which also caused fencing adjoining the car park to ignite. Over the last month there have been several serious assaults in the pubs and clubs on Main Street, local officers will now ensure that licensed premises are visited on a more regular basis. Road safety still remains an issue in particular the speed of vehicles on Castlegate Drive and Windmill Lane, the speed gun has been used at various locations over the last month this action will continue.

13677 To answer questions from Members of the public in accordance with the Summary of Public Rights

None received.

13678 To receive a petition from Members of the public in accordance with the Summary of Public Rights

Mrs Whitfield, Secretary and Spokesperson for St Leonards Close, Wakefield Road and Manor Court Residents Association presented a petition to the Mayor in respect of objections to planning application 2/2009/0141. Residents concerns were centered around the following:-

- Lack of an alternative site access route for works traffic
- Lack of a site office and compound area during development works
- Impact the prolonged development will have on residents health and wellbeing
- The demolition of 1-7 St Leonards Close
- The three storey replacement not being in keeping with the conservation area
- No written guarantee that residents could return

13679 Planning Applications

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

2/2009/0097

Listed building consent to replace existing metal window with a single glazed wooden window making good reveals/sill

Town Hall, Market Street, Cockermouth

This is our own application and the plans are to be amended.

2/2009/0105

Proposed conservatory.

39 Slatefell Drive, Cockermouth

Recommended – That no objection be raised.

2/2009/0141

Demolition of existing Manor Court and residential development on Gote Road and St Leonards Close. Replacement with new Manor Court to include 38 flats and 21 houses, Gote Road, Cockermouth.

Recommended - That the application be refused. Members were unhappy with the design of the 3 storey Manor Court, particularly the roof, they felt the design was not in keeping with the conservation area.

2/2009/0142

Conservation area consent for the demolition of existing Manor Court and residential accommodation on Gote Road, Wakefield Road and St Leonards Close, Cockermouth.

Comments

Recommended - That the application be refused. Members were unhappy with the design of the 3 storey Manor Court, particularly the roof, they felt the design was not in keeping with the conservation area.

2/2009/0161 – Installation of wooden window in the rear elevation of the property, 6 Market Street

Recommended – That no objection be raised.

13680 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.

13681 Applications for Tree Works

None received.

13682 Notification of decisions regarding tree works and tree preservation orders

None received.

13683 Other Planning Matters

Nothing to report.

13684 Area Highway Team

Councillor Nicholson informed those present that the Area Highway Team would not operate as per the slides outlined on the agenda as those ideas had been withdrawn.

Councillor Standage complained about pot holes and stated that repairs to potholes should be fit for purpose. Councillor Nicholson stated that pothole repairs would now go directly to a small team based at Lillyhall and that there would be a big improvement in the quality of this service.

13685 Digital Switchover in Cockermouth

Unless Border viewers have converted their television to digital operation by 22 July 2009, they will not be able to receive any TV signals. Members were concerned that residents living in a conservation area were not allowed to erect a satellite dish.

Resolved – That the situation be clarified with the Planning Department.

13686 Fairtrade Road Signs

The Chairperson of Cockermouth Fairtrade Group was requesting assistance in securing the support of Cockermouth Town Council for Fairtrade Road Signs at the entrance to the Town. The erection of Fairtrade Road Signs has a significant effect in terms of promoting Fairtrade to both local people and visitors.

Resolved – That the Fairtrade Group be informed that the Town Council would support the erection of fairtrade road signage on the brown tourist signs rather than the white Cockermouth Signage.

13687 Adoption of a Footbridge over the Derwent

Members considered the content of an email from Gill Greenhalgh which was enquiring what movement there had been with regard to lobbying.

Resolved – That Mrs Greenhalgh be informed that Councillor Nicholson had lobbied the Highways Engineer but that Cumbria County Council would not adopt the proposed footbridge.

13688 Cumbria Landscape Character Toolkit and Guidance

Cumbria County Council in partnership with the Cumbria Local Planning Authorities were in the process of developing policy to manage the county's distinctive character, they were requesting that people within our organisation take part in an on-line survey being undertaken between 23 February and 20 March.

Agreed – That the contents of the letter be noted.

13689 Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework

Cumbria County Council is recommencing work on the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework's Site Allocations Policy and Proposals Map which will set out the County Council's policy for minerals and waste management developments for the period up to 2020. The Town Council has been invited to provide representations about what the Site Allocations Policies and Proposals Map should contain.

Agreed - That the recommenced work on the site allocations policies and proposals map be noted.

13690 Cumbria in Bloom

The deadline for entries for this year's Cumbria in Bloom Competition is Thursday 30th April 2009. Judging will take place between 6 – 17 July 2009.

Resolved – That Cockermouth be entered into the Cumbria in Bloom Competition at a cost of £15.00.

13691 Georgian Fair

The Georgian Fair Organising Group have managed to secure sufficient tricorne hats for the 2010 event and costume making is underway. The inaugural lunchtime event for the 2010 fair will be held at Wordsworth House and the Trout Hotel on 3 May 2009.

Agreed – That progress be noted.

13692 Planning Application 2/2009/0056, Car Wash, Low Road

Members considered the content of a letter of objection to planning application 2/2009/0056 submitted to Allerdale Borough Council by the Derwent Owners' Association.

Agreed – That the contents of the letter be noted.

13693 Issue 4, Town & Parish Standard

This edition examined in detail the revised standards framework. Standards Committees must now notify parish councils of certain information at various stages of the case handling process. The Standards Board for England is

recommending that the Town Council adopt procedures for notifications as this will make it clear from the onset how notifications will be dealt with.

Resolved – That:-

- (a) The Clerk should inform all town councillors of such notifications when they are received
- (b) That such notifications should be included on a meeting agenda
- (c) That the Clerk acts as a contact point for the provision of further evidence or information needed by the Standards Committee in respect of a complaint

13694 Footpath from Riverdale to the Greenway Cycle Path

Members considered the content of a letter from Mr and Mrs Smale regarding the non-lighting of the steep steps and bottom footpath from Riverdale onto the Greenway cycle path.

Councillor Smith informed those present that he had tried for the last 5 years to get funding for this scheme. He was currently liaising with the interim Chief Executive of Allerdale Borough Council with regard to LABGI funding.

Resolved – That Mr and Mrs Smale be informed of current discussions.

13695 Calc Circular March 2009

The main issues in this edition centered around:-

- The local government salary award with effect from 1 April 2008 has at last been agreed following arbitration. The % rise will be 2.75% compared with the interim salary award of 2.45% awarded last autumn
- There is no indication yet of the salary scales with effect from April 2009, these are expected later in the summer
- Clerk to attend Newton Rigg on 23 March for training on her portfolio to date
- ACRE have commissioned a survey regarding the condition of all village and community halls
- Guidance notes on the Audit
- Exercising the new Well being Power

13696 Highway Matters

Resolved – (a) That the list of contacts for highway related issues be noted.

(b) That the Highway Steward be contacted regarding the cleaning of road signs within the town and the gully at Church Walk.

(c) That an item entitled Highway Steward be placed on each agenda.

(d) That any old signage within the town be identified and removal requested.

- 13697 Summer Activities 2009
Resolved – That two additional sessions be purchased at a cost of £180.00.
- 13698 Village SOS
Resolved – That the Town Hall be put forward as a suggested restoration project.
- 13699 Spring Edition of The Gazette
Funding of up to £500 was available for producing a Community Led Plan.
Resolved – That the Clerk contacts Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) to discuss the matter further.
- 13700 Cockermouth Club Recruitment Fest – Saturday 30 May 2009
Resolved – That the Town Council purchases a stall on the day at a cost of £15 to showcase our twinning and community copy service.
- 13701 Clerks report
Members considered the content of the Clerk's report.
Councillor Nicholson kindly agreed to remove the gate stoop from St. Helens.
Members did not wish to provide skips on a yearly basis.
Resolved – (a) That the content be noted.
(b) That the Clerk investigates ways of reducing broadband and fax costs.
- 13702 Cockermouth Partnership
Agreed – That the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th February 2009 be noted.
- 13698 Grant Giving Policy
Members considered the content of the draft grant giving policy.
Resolved – That the draft grant giving policy be adopted.
- 13699 Cockermouth Community Copies
Cockermouth Area Partnership have enquired as to whether or not the Town Council would be interested in taking over responsibility for this valuable community service.

Resolved – That the Town Council takes over responsibility for Cockermouth Community Copies, that the fees and charges outlined in the report be adopted and that the security of the equipment be addressed.

13700 Horse Chestnut

Members considered costings in relation to the removal and replanting of a tree in this area.

Agreed – That the advice and costings be noted.

13701 Accounts for Payment

Resolved – (a) That accounts for payment in the sum of £13,665.99 as set out in the expenditure journal be formally approved for payment.

(b) That the cleaning arrangements at the Town Hall be discussed at the next meeting.

13702 Review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit

Members considered a report regarding the effectiveness of Internal Audit as prepared by the Town Clerk.

Resolved – (a) That Mrs Airey continue as our Internal Auditor.

(b) That the new clerk receives training on risk management

(c) That the annual audit plan be amended to include changes on the National agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm