

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COCKERMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, COCKERMOUTH ON
WEDNESDAY, 14TH MAY 2008 (7.00 P.M. TO 8.55 P.M.)

Present: Cllrs. Mrs I. Burns, S.T. Coates, Mrs C.M. Jackson,
A. Kennon, L.G. Lytollis W.D. Newton, A. Smith,
Mrs C. Smith, S. Standage, A. Tyson, Mrs M.B. Wood.

Sgt Gary Armstrong – Cockermouth Police
3 Members of the Public + 1 more at 7.30 p.m.
1 Member of the Press

Apologies: Cllr. E.W. Nicholson

Outgoing Town Mayor's Announcements

The outgoing Town Mayor commenced by thanking the Clerk for representing the Council at the funeral of Jean-Pierre Nogaret which had taken place in Marvejols on 24th April which had been much appreciated. He thanked everyone who had supported his Civic Dinner and then referred to the Georgian Fair event which he had attended and enjoyed very much and finally an event at Carlisle Castle. The Mayor then thanked Cllr. Mrs Burns for her support as Deputy Mayor and wished her well for the ensuing year. He also thanked the Clerk and Secretary for all their help and support during his term of office and finally thanked his Mayoress and wife, Hilary.

Before closing the Mayor referred to a meeting himself and the Clerk had attended with the Area Manager of Jobcentre Plus when it had been confirmed that they were relocating to the Allerdale offices on Fairfield Car Park in due course and that the service would be available on certain days per week. The point had been made that no-one would be disadvantaged by the move and there would be no staff job losses. A date for the move had not yet been fixed.

Election of Town Mayor/Chairman

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Town Mayor/Chairman for 2008/2009. Only one nomination was received and seconded and on being put to the vote it was unanimously

13325 RESOLVED

“that Cllr. Mrs I. Burns be elected Town Mayor/Chairman in 2008/2009”.

Cllr. Standage then handed over the Chain of Office to Cllr. Mrs Burns.

The new Mayor then read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took over the Chair. She then announced her Mayoress would be Julie Laidlow, a long standing friend and colleague on the Carnival Committee. The outgoing Mayoress then duly handed over the Mayoress's chain and the Mayor thanked Cllr. Standage for all his work during the past year.

Election of Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chairman

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairman. Only one nomination was received and seconded and on being put to the vote it was unanimously

13326 RESOLVED

“that Cllr. W.D. Newton be elected as the Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chairman of the Council for 2008/2009”.

The Town Mayor then presented the Deputy Mayor’s badge to the Vice Chairman.

All three members of the public left the meeting at this point.

Election of Committees/Sub Groups etc.

13327 RESOLVED

“that all 12 Councillors serve on the various committees, sub groups and panels for 2008/2009 as follows -

the Town Twinning & Town Twinning Advisory Committee, the Christmas Illuminations Panel, the Special Events Sub Group and finally the Cockermouth in Bloom Sub Group”.

Minutes

Ref:M3

13328 RESOLVED

“that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Thursday, 17th April 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman”.

Attendance of Police

Sgt. Gary Armstrong was in attendance who commenced by indicating he was the Sergeant for Keswick but also covered Cockermouth when necessary. He had served 20 years in the Police force and had been a Sergeant for 6/7 years. Sgt Armstrong indicated he had previously worked at Millers Shoe factory in town and that his parents lived in town.

Sgt Armstrong thanked the organisers of the Georgian Fair indicating it had been a well organised event and there had been no problems.

He then referred to a spate of damage to vehicles in the Cockermouth area, particularly the Rubbybanks Road area, and indicated 3 covert cameras were in use in that area which would hopefully help the Police to trace and arrest offenders.

He then referred to an incident of dangerous driving following an accident on the A66 near Brigham for which enquiries were ongoing.

The Sergeant then gave details of crime statistics for the April period which when compared to the same period last year showed reductions of 42% in criminal damage, 33% in drug offences, 46% in offences against persons, and 4% in thefts, giving an

overall reduction of 11%. He also gave details of arrests and crime incidents over the same period.

As far as road safety was concerned the Sergeant indicated a speed indication device was in operation in the town – a device which flashes your driving speed as you approach it. He indicated the device was for advice only and was not used for prosecutions. The device did record speeds enabling letters to be sent to drivers and he indicated 21 warning letters had been sent out, all to locals. A member then referred to Inspector Connolly's previous comments concerning the speed indication device and was surprised no indication had been given that a device was now available for use in Cockermouth. A question was asked as to how long would the device be available for when the Sergeant indicated it is used on a needs basis and would therefore be available as long as necessary. In response to a further question as to the cost of such a device if one was purchased for town it was indicated the cost was £2,100.

The Sergeant then indicated preparations were underway for forthcoming events in town i.e. the Cockermouth Carnival and the Cockermouth Rock Festival and further indicated that during the last month 3 persons had been reported missing, all of whom had been located safe and well, the Police had dealt with two sudden deaths neither of which were suspicious and there had been 2 mountain rescue calls as well as 6 incidents of accident/illness resulting in the Police attending to offer assistance.

Sgt Armstrong then referred to the recently introduced Dispersal Order for Cockermouth which commenced on May 8th, one of the main purposes of which is to make the Main Street and surrounding area free from groups of youths who are often seen as intimidating even if their behaviour is not anti social. He indicated that whilst a number of complaints had been received anti social behaviour logs had dramatically reduced over the first weekend and they had already received thanks from local people.

Another member of the public arrived at this point at 7.30 p.m.

A question was raised by a member as to whether or not it was legal to have cameras in private homes when the answer was given that it was. Another member then referred to the Dispersal Order and the fact the Council had not been informed of an implementation date and said he was unhappy with the consultation. The Sergeant indicated he did not know why the Council had not been informed but indicated the school had been informed a week before its implementation. He also admitted mistakes had been made as far as officer briefing was concerned in the run up to the Order being put in place but these had now been rectified. The Past Mayor and Clerk reminded the Council they had attended a briefing meeting at the Police Station about the matter which they had reported to the Council although no implementation date was given at the time.

Sgt. Armstrong left the meeting at 7.40 p.m.

Georgian Fair

Ref:I2

13329 RESOLVED

“that a letter of thanks be sent on behalf of the Council to the organisers of the Georgian Fair event”.

Planning Matters

Ref:P3

13330 RESOLVED

a) “that the Councils observations on the following planning applications received to date be forwarded to the Chief Planning Officer

2/2008/0309

Mr J. Wilson, Lifestyle Fitness Ltd., per Coniston Consultants Ltd., 2 Coniston Close, Workington.

AMENDED PLAN re Single storey extension to provide additional fitness centre space and extend reception area and associated storage at rear of 64 Main Street, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2/2008/0315

Mr A. Ling, per Green Design Group Ltd., 64 Main Street, Cockermouth.

AMENDED PLAN re Listed Building Consent for new fascia sign at 16 Market Place, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2/2008/0316

Mr A. Ling, per Green Design Group Ltd., 64 Main Street, Cockermouth.

AMENDED PLAN re Proposed new fascia sign at 16 Market Place, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2/2008/0350

Mrs R. Dooley, North View, Ireby, Wigton.

Conversion from single dwelling into two dwellings at 40 South Street, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2/2008/0361

Mr W. Malaney, per Green Design Architects Ltd., 64 Main Street, Cockermouth.

Listed Building Consent to create a single storey extension and conversion of redundant double garage to provide additional accommodation ancillary to house at The Stables, Castlegate, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2/2008/0391

Mr P. Kitchin, Green Design Group Ltd., 69 Main Street, Cockermouth.

Erection of extension to rear of property, opening through to the extension by removal of external walls at 11 Fern Bank, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2/2008/0405

G. & J. Seddon, per Condy Lofthouse Architects, 3 Manchester Road, Southport.

New build 60 bed residential care home and new access road to adjacent development on land at Europe Way, Cockermouth.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b) that the various notifications of decisions concerning planning applications received from Allerdale Borough Council be noted
- c) that no objection be raised to the application by Mrs G. Harris to fell a Cyprus tree and remove a Cyprus hedge at 3 Challoner Street, Cockermouth and it be noted the planting of two Rowan trees would be undertaken in the work plan
- d) that no objection be raised to the application by Mr J. Clark of 8 The Parklands to reduce branches of an Oak tree overhanging 6 The Parklands and thinning of the crown by 20% to let light in.
- e) that the various notifications of decisions received from the Borough Council concerning applications for tree works be noted
- f) it be noted Mr & Mrs W. Malaney had appealed against the refusal to grant Listed Building Consent for the insertion of two additional roof lights at The Stables, Castlegate, Cockermouth under planning reference 2/2007/1076 and the Clerk inform the Inspector that when this matter was considered as part of the normal consultation procedure with the Borough Council this Council recommended approval of the application

- g) it be noted Mr J. Storey had appealed against an Enforcement Notice relating to a breach of planning control in respect of a change of use of land for the storage of containers at Grassmoor Sports Centre, Lorton Road, Cockermouth
- h) it be noted the Inspector had allowed the appeal against refusal of planning permission for a two storey domestic extension at Tom Rudd House, Tweedmill Lane, Cockermouth”.

CALC Circular

Ref:A2

13331 RESOLVED

“that CALC Circular dated May 2008 be received and the Clerk’s comments noted concerning Penrith electors having recently narrowly voted against having a Town Council for Penrith”

CALC Conference – 29th March 2008

Ref:A2

13332 RESOLVED

“that the notes as received from CALC on the Conference held on 29th March 2008 be received and it be noted it is understood the CALC Executive meeting on 12th April considered the conclusions of the Conference and Council views on the Draft Paper and agreed changes to be made to the paper and for it to be sent to all Principal Authorities and further that the paper is to be discussed at the next meeting of the Cumbria Local Authorities Strategic Board on 6th June and after that meeting the CALC Executive Committee will take stock about how to proceed including with respect to the themes discussed at the Conference”.

Highway Stewards

Ref:R4

13333 RESOLVED

- a) “that the letter received from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Wellbeing of the County Council indicating an additional £1 million is being invested in creating a Highway Stewards Scheme designed to provide a local service to the needs of parishes and enquiry be made as to whether a Highway Steward will be appointed to cover Cockermouth Town
- b) that in response to a matter raised at the Annual Town Meeting concerning an extra £1 million being put into the Highways budget for this year to tackle the ever growing number of potholes in our roads, enquiry be made of the Cabinet member as to how much of this money is allocated to be spent in Cockermouth and how much has been spent to date”.

Temporary Closure of Kirkgate, Market Place & St. Helen’s Street

Ref:R4

13334 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated 18th April 2008 from Cumbria Highways giving details of a Temporary Road Closure Order in respect of Kirkgate, Market Place and St. Helen’s Street near Kirkgate junction to enable surface dressing works to be carried out in the area be received and it be noted the works would be carried out on Sunday 1st June”.

Surplus Road Signs

Ref:R4

13335 RESOLVED

“that the County Council be requested to remove surplus signs strewn about all over town following the opening of Market Place”.

Applications for Funding

Ref:G1

13336 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated 17th April 2008 from Joe Roper of The Long House, Simonscales Lane in connection with his selection for a summer course with the National Youth Theatre and the letter dated 2nd May 2008 from Stephanie Conway of High Brigham in connection with her selection for a place at Drama School in Los Angeles, be received and the contents noted but they be informed that unfortunately the Council is unable to help as it has no powers to help individuals and they be advised of other suggested contacts for possible funding sources”.

Public Rights of Way Annual Programme

Ref:R4

13337 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated 22nd April 2008 from Capita Symonds indicating that Cockermouth is to be covered under their Annual Public Rights of Way Improvement Programme during 2008/09 and necessary work has been identified following a recent survey of the Parish be received and noted”.

WRVS – Thanks for Donation

Ref:G1

13338 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated 23rd April 2008 from the Womens Royal Voluntary Service thanking the Council for its recent donation which would be restricted for the use of Cumbria Emergency Services be received and noted”.

Derwent Owners Association

Ref:M4

13339 RESOLVED

- a) “that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Derwent Owners Association held in the Globe Hotel on 11th April 2008 be formally received and noted
- b) that the Council renew its subscription for 2008/09 at a cost of £25”.

Canoe Access to Rivers

Ref:M1

13340 RESOLVED

“that the Press Release dated 24th April 2008 from Martin Salter MP who has urged the Government to reject the campaign by the British Canoe Union for statutory river access for none powered craft which calls for the right to paddle along every river and stream in England and Wales, a move which would destroy angling on smaller rivers, streams and brooks and disturb wildlife, nesting birds and spawning grounds be received and noted and support given to Martin Salter”.

Code of Conduct Meeting – 18th June 2008

Ref:A2

13341 RESOLVED

“it be noted the Borough Council would be running a briefing on the Code of Conduct on Wednesday 18th June 2008 at Wigton when interested members were invited to attend”.

Closing Order – Cockermouth Carnival

Ref:R4

13342 RESOLVED

“that no objection be raised to the application for a Closing Order in respect of Cockermouth Carnival on Saturday 21st June 2008 and the copy of the Order subsequently received be noted”.

Workington Police Area Community Liaison Forum

Ref.:M4

13343 RESOLVED

“it be noted a meeting of the Workington Police Area Community Liaison Forum would be held on Tuesday 3rd June 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Waverley Hotel, Maryport when the subject under discussion would be safety cameras”.

CALC – Guide to Planning

Ref:A2

13344 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated 8th May 2008 from CALC enclosing their Guide to Planning for Town and Parish Councils and Parish Meetings be received and noted and sufficient copies of the guide requested for circulation to all members”.

Parking – Wakefield Road Area

Ref:C8

13345 RESOLVED

“that the letter dated 12th May 2008 from the Parking Services Manager of the Borough Council indicating the ‘on street’ bays provided by Cumbria County Council in the Wakefield Road area would be added to the patrol routes of the Civic Enforcement Officers operating in Cockermouth be received and noted”.

Victoria Hall

Ref:V2

13346 RESOLVED

“that the Clerk’s report giving details of advance bookings in the Hall for the month of June 2008 be received and noted together with the Clerk’s indication that numbers of booking as shown in the report are subject to change due to additional bookings being made after the report has been prepared”.

Tourism and Publicity

Ref:T2

13347 RESOLVED

“that the Clerk’s report giving details of statistics in the Tourist Information Centre for the month of April 2008, details of exhibitions in the Centre and indicating the Annual

Open Meeting of the Western Lake District Tourism Partnership was being held on Monday 19th May 2008 at the Sellafield Visitor Centre at 10 am when he would be in attendance be received and noted”.

Town Twinning

Ref:T8

13348 RESOLVED

- a) “that the Clerk’s report indicating that following the visit between 13th and 16th April by a small group of representatives for the 25th anniversary of the first visit to Marvejols, the group had no sooner returned than news was received of the death of Jean-Pierre Nogaret and, after discussion with the Mayor, the Clerk had officially represented the Town Council at his funeral on 24th April when another seven Cockermothians were present on what was a very moving occasion be received and noted
- b) it be further noted that as well as formally representing the Council at the funeral the Clerk had arranged for appropriate flowers to be sent on behalf of the Town Council as well as the joint provision of a Memorial plaque from the two twinning committees and the Clerk be reimbursed for all expenses he had incurred in connection therewith
- c) it be noted the Clerk had contacted the organisers of the Footballers visit between 4th and 7th September concerning a date for a Civic reception for the group at the Town Hall
- d) that the Clerk’s report he had contacted Marvejols on behalf of West House concerning the proposed visit to Cockermouth by a similar establishment taking place between 30th July and 10th August and indicating that in view of the fact this visit was much longer than the usual exchanges between the two establishments West House would be faced with increased costs in connection with accommodation and food but that the Marvejolais had agreed to recompense West House accordingly be received and noted
- e) that a grant of £400 be agreed for West House to help with costs of the visit and it be noted the grant could be met from the amount included in the twinning budget for grants to organisations and this be agreed
- f) it be noted a meeting of the sub group set up to make arrangements for the 25th twinning anniversary visit to Cockermouth in October would be held on Tuesday 10th June 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall”.

Memorial Gardens

Ref:M1

13349 RESOLVED

- a) “that the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2008 in connection with the upgrading of the Memorial Gardens Play Area be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman and it be noted a meeting had been arranged with the Borough Council on Tuesday 3rd June to progress matters
- b) it be noted the Memorial tree to the memory of Bert Norrington had now been planted and an account had been sent to Mrs Norrington

- c) that the Clerk's report two replacement litter bins are scheduled to be re-sited shortly in the Memorial gardens by the Council's contractors together with a 'dog bin' being replaced by the Borough Council be received and noted".

Tarn Close

Ref:P6 (TC)

13350 RESOLVED

"it be noted the Rugby League Club had been informed of the Council's decision at the last meeting that they would continue to manage the area as at present".

Allotments

Ref:A4

13351 RESOLVED

"that prior to the next meeting members arrange to inspect the additional allotment created by an allotment holder without Council permission to enable the matter to be further considered and Cllr. Tyson's comments about the dumping of rubble noted".

Town Hall

Ref:T5

13352 RESOLVED

- a) "that the Clerk's report the new lease with the County Council in respect of the Town Hall basement was in hand but not yet completed be received and noted
- b) that it be noted an inspection of the guttering at the rear corner of the Town Hall had been carried out by Simon Cain and found to be safe and the Clerk had informed the County Council accordingly".

The member of the public left the meeting at this point at 8.45 p.m.

Cockermouth Festival

Ref:F2

13353 RESOLVED

- a) "that the Clerk's report giving details of events notified to date for inclusion in the flyer leaflet and thanking Chris George for his help in the preparation of the publication and Alan Tyson, Bob Pritchard and Nigel Sidaway for their help be received and noted
- b) it be noted it was proposed to purchase 8,000 flyer leaflets this year with printing as usual via Firpress and the necessary authority be given to the Clerk to put matters in hand subject to the cost being acceptable".

Town Mayor's Civic Service

Ref:C4

13354 RESOLVED

"it be noted the Town Mayor's Civic Service would be held on Sunday 15th June 2008 at 9.30 a.m. in All Saints Church".

Hanging Baskets

Ref:C6

13355 RESOLVED

"that the Clerk inform the Council's contractors that volunteers would not be available

this year to help with the erection of hanging baskets in town and requesting they make the necessary arrangements in connection with the hanging and watering of the baskets”.

Minutes of Annual Town Meeting

Ref:T3

13356 RESOLVED

“that the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in Victoria Hall on Monday 28th April 2008 be received and noted”.

Cockermouth Partnership

Ref:P10

13357 RESOLVED

“that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cockermouth Partnership held on 29th April 2008 be received and noted”.

Accounts for Payment

Ref:A3

13358 RESOLVED

“that accounts for payment amounting to £14,787.85 as set out in the Expenditure Journal be approved for payment and it be noted the large amounts related to the Council’s insurances, the new Chairman’s Allowance and the first instalment of the 2008/09 rent for the Tarn Close Depot”

Local Council Review – May 2008

Ref:A2

13359 RESOLVED

“that the May 2008 edition of Local Council Review be received”.

Chairman