

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 13 May 2009 at 7 pm

Present: Councillor I Burns (Mayor)

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

Apologies:- Councillor L G Lytollis

Also Present:- 2 members of the Press, 1 Police Representative & 3 members of the public.

**1 Election of Town Mayor/Chairman**

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Town Mayor/Chairman for 2009/2010. Only one nomination was received and seconded and on being put to the vote it was unanimously

Resolved – That Councillor S Coates be elected Town Mayor/Chairman in 2009/2010.

Councillor Burns then handed over the Chain of Office to Councillor Mr Coates.

The new Mayor then read out and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took over the Chair. He then announced that his partner Claire Craig would be Mayoress. The outgoing Mayoress then duly handed over the Mayoress's chain. The Mayor thanked Councillor Burns for all her hard work during the past year.

**2 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

Resolved – That Councillor A Tyson be elected as the Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chairman of the Council for 2009/10.

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

### **3 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor C M Jackson declared a personal interest with regard to item 11h due to being a member of the Cumbria Playing Fields Association.

Councillor S Standage declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 11j due to his wife being the Deputy Manager of the Cockermouth After School Scheme.

Councillor A Tyson declared a personal interest in item 11a due to being a member of the Development Panel.

Councillor A Smith declared a personal interest in item 11a due to being a member of the Development Panel.

Councillor E Nicholson declared a personal interest in planning application 2/2009/0242 due to owning property opposite the site.

### **4 Minutes**

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 15 April 2009.

### **5 Election of Committees/Sub Groups**

Resolved – That all 12 councillors be appointed to serve on the various committees, sub groups and panels for 2009/10 as follows:-

- Town Twinning and Town Advisory Committee
- The Christmas Illuminations Panel
- The Special Events Sub Group
- Cockermouth in Bloom Sub Group

### **6 Police Report**

The Community Police Officer informed those present that there had been no further incidents of a male exposing himself in the Derwent Mill area following increased police patrols. There had been six anti-social behavior calls between 15 April and 13 May 2009 resulting in 2 arrests, one for drunk and disorderly and one for a racially aggravated public order offence.

Total crime decreased by 38% (7 offences in April) in All Saints Ward and in Christchurch Ward total crime increased by 30% (21 offences in April).

Cockermouth Police are taking over responsibility for the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes from previously being run by civilian co-ordinators. PCSO Fletcher will be the point of contact. Two damage only road traffic collisions had occurred during the last period.

The Community Police Officer promised to monitor parking on the footpath near the chestnut tree on Kirkgate particularly in the evening, Mayo Street was to also be monitored.

## **7 Public Participation**

No members of the public wished to speak in accordance with the public participation scheme.

## **8 Planning Matters**

8a Resolved – That the Council's observations on the following planning applications to date be forwarded to the Head of Planning Services:-

### **2/2009/0228**

Full application for a mixed use residential development of a continuing care retirement community (comprising 114 use class C2 residential apartments with care for persons aged 55 and over), 51 townhouses and apartments and outline consent for up to 34 affordable units.

Former Highway & Gas Holder Site Sullart Street Cockermouth

Recommend Refusal – on the following grounds:-

- Unneighbourly massing, 4/5 storey heights overpowering
- Overdevelopment of the site
- Traffic Impact
- Lack of parking provision
- Rented affordable housing required in Cockermouth, houses not flats

### **2/2009/0236**

Two storey extension to the front and single storey extension to the rear

10 Briar Bank, Cockermouth

Recommend Approval

**2/2009/0242**

Outline application for residential development on vacant parkland

Land Adjoining Cockermouth RUFC Lorton Road Cockermouth

We understand that this application has been withdrawn; however the Town Council is very concerned about the removal of 20 yards of wall taken away from this site over the bank holiday weekend, please could this be investigated.

**2/2009/0243**

Listed building consent for proposed internal renovation and alterations, external repair works and modification of existing means of emergency escape.

43 Main Street Cockermouth

Recommend Approval

**2/2009/0244**

Listed building consent for replacement of rotten windows with new wooden sliding sash double glazed windows.

4 The Croft, South Street, Cockermouth

Recommend Approval

**2/2009/0246**

Proposed internal renovation and alterations, external repair works and modifications of existing means of emergency escape.

43 Main Street Cockermouth

Recommend Approval

**2/2009/0267**

The replacement of 3 wooden-framed windows with PVCu-framed double glazed windows.

Crummock Waste Lane Cockermouth

Recommend Approval

**2/2009/0287**

Proposed extension to provide additional living accommodation (resubmission 2/2008/0485)

9 Riverside Terrace Cockermouth

Recommend Approval

**2/2009/0291**

Proposed extension

37 Isel Road Cockermouth

Recommend Approval

**2/2009/0309**

Proposed garage/bedroom/kitchen extension to side/rear of property & proposed front porch.

4 Riverdale Drive, Cockermouth

Recommend Approval

**8b Planning Decision Notices**

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

**8c Application for Tree Works at 22 Fell View**

Recommended – That the felling of one spruce tree at 22 Fell View be agreed.

**9 Highway Matters**

**9a Urban Area Highway Response Team**

Resolved – That the filling in of potholes on Low Road, near Parklands and Parkside Avenue be requested.

**9b Cockermouth Rural Safety Group**

Approximately £2,800 has been raised towards the purchase of a speed indication device; this was £500 short of the overall total. Councillor Smith requested that the shortfall be discussed at the next meeting of the Town Council.

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of the Cockermouth Rural Safety Group held on 19 March 2009 be noted and that the shortfall in funding for the purchase of a speed indication device be discussed at the next meeting.

### **9c Cumbria Highways**

Agreed – That the contents of issue 13 of Cumbria Highways be noted.

### **10 Financial Matters**

#### **10a Payments**

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £14,539.19 as set out in the expenditure transactions approval list be formally approved for payment.

#### **10b Accounts for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009**

Resolved – That the copy of the Council's completed final accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 as prepared and circulated by the Clerk/RFO be formally received, noted and approved.

#### **10c Annual Audit Return**

Resolved – (a) That Section 1 of the Annual Return relating to the Statement of Accounts be formally certified and the accounts approved and duly signed by the Clerk/RFO and the Chairman.

(b) That Section 2 of the Annual Return relating to the Annual Governance Statement be also formally approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

(c) That it be noted that Section 4 of the Annual Return has been duly completed and signed by the Council's internal auditor.

(d) That the Clerk formally arranges for the required notice concerning the appointment of date for the exercise of electors rights to be displayed from 25 May to the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

(e) That it be noted that the Clerk would send off all required documents to the Council's external auditors before the required date of 10 July 2009.

**10d Auditor Report from our Internal Auditor**

Resolved – That the Annual Report from the Council’s Internal Auditor for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 be formally received and noted.

**10e Precept Payment**

Agreed – That the receipt of £88,230.00 (half yearly precept) be noted.

**10f Grounds Maintenance Contract**

Agreed – That the adjustment to the proposed contract price be noted.

**10g Cockermouth Harmonic Society**

Resolved – That a £50 grant be given to Cockermouth Harmonic Society towards the cost of a choral concert planned at the beginning of July.

**10h Cumbria Playing Fields Association**

Resolved – That Cockermouth Town Council does not subscribe to the Cumbria Playing Fields Association.

**10i The Pride of Cumbria**

Resolved – That a £100 donation be given to the Pride of Cumbria towards maintaining this much needed service.

**10j Cockermouth After School Scheme (CASS)**

Resolved – That £100 be given to CASS to enable them to create a garden for children with appropriate equipment to enable them to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables.

**10k Cockermouth Lions Club**

Resolved – That instead of giving a retrospective grant towards the Golf Tournament, the Town Council seeks approval for and pays for the replacement of the seat adjacent to Strawberry How and Lorton Road which is in very poor condition with Heathers seat.

**10l Broughton Primary School**

Resolved – That £50.00 be given to Broughton Primary School who are hosting the Cockermouth Small Schools Football Tournament on Wednesday 10 June 2009.

## **11 Schedule of correspondence, notices and publications**

### **11a Training Courses**

Agreed – That the details of the various training courses be noted.

### **11b Seat Replacement**

Resolved – That the Town Council seeks approval for and pays for the replacement of the seat adjacent to Strawberry How and Lorton Road which is in very poor condition with Heathers seat.

### **11c Closing Order**

Agreed – That the proforma in respect of a closing order for Cockermouth Children's Carnival on Saturday 20 June 2009 be noted.

### **11d Allerdale Play Partnership**

Agreed – That the date of the next meeting of the Allerdale Play Partnership scheduled for 18 May 2009 be noted.

### **11e Loading Bay, Market Place**

Members considered the content of Mr Carlin's letter dated 24 April 2009. Mr Carlin and all other 29 traders were unhappy with the present arrangements and required a review of the loading bay and the available parking in Market Place.

Councillor Smith requested that parking on the pavement, congestion at school times and parking after 5pm required further action.

Councillor Nicholson stated that the situation had improved significantly during the day thanks to the wardens and that a Neighbourhood Forum meeting would be held locally on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009 for a final discussion on the matter.

Agreed – That the copy letter from Mr Carlin to the Senior Traffic Engineer, Cumbria Highways regarding a review of the loading bay and available parking in Market Place be noted.

### **11f CALC Circular**

Agreed – That the May 2009 edition of the circular be noted.

### **11g Recruitment of Members to the Lions Club of Cockermouth**

Membership of this organisation has dwindled and the Lions Club were seeking suggestions as to how awareness of the value of such voluntary work could be raised in the local community.

Resolved – That the local press be requested to advertise their plight.

### **11h Parish Council Representative on Allerdale Borough Council's Standards Committee**

Councillor Burns has now served two full terms on the committee and therefore her term of office has expired. A ballot of nominees will be held at a future joint meeting with Allerdale.

Resolved – That councilor C Smith's name be put forward.

### **12 Clerks Report**

Members considered the content of the Clerk's report.

Resolved – (a) That it be noted that Allerdale Borough Council's preferred option in respect of the tree preservation order in Memorial Gardens is Option 2.

(b) That a site visit be held on Sunday 31 May 2009 at 10.30 am in the Memorial Gardens to discuss the future maintenance of the trees.

(c) That whilst on the site visit Members find a suitable location for the Oak tree.

(d) That it be noted that for health and safety reasons a piece of play equipment has been removed from the play area in the Memorial Gardens and that discussions will be undertaken with Proludic as how to best to rectify the situation.

### **13 Community Planning**

Further to minute number 13699, Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) had suggested that the clerk and Chair of Bridekirk, Embleton Setmurthy and Wythop, Dean, Bringham, Papcastle, Broughton and Greysouthen be invited to a informal meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 to discuss the production of a community plan via clustering. It was anticipated that the Neighbourhood Forum would fund the buffet costs and the cost of the travelling expenses of the external speakers.

Resolved – (a) That an initial meeting be held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth at 6 pm.

- (b) That the Mayor of Cockermouth and the Clerk attends the initial meeting.
- (c) That an application be made to the Neighbourhood Forum in the sum of £192.00 to cover the cost of the buffet and the travel costs of the external speakers.
- (d) That Councillor Standage obtains a quote for the re-decoration of the chamber and that works to be beading on the outside of the two chamber windows be authorized.
- (e) That a quote is obtained to replace/repair the ceiling in the chamber.
- (f) That the receipt of £2973.75 in respect of bed night fees from Cockermouth Youth Hostel be noted.
- (g) That it be noted that the Civic Dinner will be held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at the Hundith Hill Hotel, Cockermouth.
- (h) That it be noted that the Civic Service will be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at 10.45 am in the Methodist Church and that the December Council Meeting be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December instead of Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **14 Cockermouth Town Water**

Concern had been expressed regarding Town Waters being abused by people who either did not by a permit or who were not entitled to a permit and anglers straying onto Town Water. It was suggested that the appointment of a small number of honorary (unpaid) wardens authorised to check Town permits would alleviate matters. Mr Abernethy also offered to assist the Town Council in re-drafting the conditions and regulations and suggested that the fees should be reviewed.

Resolved – That the clerk contacts Mr Abernethy and prepares a report for the next meeting.

#### **15 Leasing of a franking Machine**

Members considered the benefits of leasing a franking machine at a cost of £17.95 per month for a 12 month period.

Resolved – (a) That the franking machine be leased at a cost of £17.95 per month for a 12 month period.

- (b) That a £300 postage top up be purchased.

## **16 Review of Insurance Cover**

Members considered the content of the renewal summary and cost of renewal. The premium for 2009/10 was £5164.50 a 4.3% increase from last year.

Resolved – (a) That the Clerk investigates a reduction in the premium.

(b) That the Clerk also investigates increasing the upper age limit for personal accident cover from 75 years to 85 years.

## **17 Date of next Meeting**

Agreed – That the date of the next meeting scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009 be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm