

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermonth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermonth on Wednesday 19th November 2008 at 7 pm

Members

I Burns (Mayor)

C M Jackson
L G Lytollis
A Smith
S Standage
M Wood

A Kennon
E W Nicholson
C Smith
A Tyson

Apologies: Councillors S Coates, D Newton

Also Present: 1 press

13524 Mayors Announcements

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

These included:-

The official opening of the play area in the Memorial Gardens and daffodil planting

The unveiling of a twinning panel, an Ecumenical Church Service and a commemorative brew event in the Bitter End in memory of Jean Pierre Nogaret.

25th Twinning Anniversary Dinner at the Greenhills

Visit to Durham

Evening at the Hundith Hill

Civic Reception/Bufferet at Mitchell's Sale Room

Departure of French guests

Remembrance Day

13525 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Cockermonth Town Council held on 15 October 2008.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of Cockermonth Town Council held on 15th October 2008 be signed as a correct record.

13526 Attendance by Police

There was no Police representative at the meeting and no report had been received. Clerk to ascertain why there had been no police presence at the last three meetings.

13527 Planning Applications

Resolved - That the Council's observations on the following planning

applications to date be forwarded to the Chief Planning Officer.

2/2008/0841

Mr B. Trengove, per Mr C. Williams, Day Cummins Ltd., 4a Lakeland Business Park, Lamplugh Road, Cockermouth.

Listed Building Consent for proposed new lighting to existing signage at 25-27 Main Street, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval.

2/2008/0844

Mr B. Lloyd, Lloyd Motors Ltd., Low Road, Cockermouth.

Proposed new BMW & MINI new corporate signage and relocating existing Volvo totem signage at Lloyd Motors Ltd, Low Road, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0843

Mr B. Trengove, per Mr C. Williams, Day Cummins Ltd., 4a Lakeland Business Park, Lamplugh Road, Cockermouth.

Advertisement Consent for new lighting to existing signage at 25-27 Main Street, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0850

Mr I. Watson, 1 Sunnyside, Challoner Street, Cockermouth.

Replace hardwood stained external doors to composite external doors – front and rear at 1 Sunnyside, Challoner Street, Cockermouth.

Recommend refusal, Council against composite doors within a conservation area

2/2008/0854

Azad Miah, per Duncan Stuart Architect, Low Yard, Lesson Hall, Wigton.

Change of use to food takeaway, including installation of external flue at 14 South Street, Cockermouth.

Recommend Refusal due to concerns regarding unneighbourly development and anti social behaviour.

2/2008/0856

Mr & Mrs P. Cusack, per Mr G. Beattie, Alpha Design, 7 Europe Way, Cockermouth.

Proposed single storey kitchen extension at 25 Henry Street, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0862

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

Single Storey extension to rear of property with balcony leading to garden area and two storey extension creating dining room at ground floor level with en-suite extension to the guest and master bedroom at Riverdale House, Riverdale Drive, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0869

Mr R. Eadie, Sterling Developments, The Paddock, Bothel, Wigton.

Fit 6 no. Sliding sash wooden double glazed windows in place of old single glazed windows at 31a & 31b Station Street, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0875

Ms A.M. Willmott, Impact Housing Association, Nook Street, Workington.

Alterations and re-roofing to existing two storey toilet block, including change of use of first floor WC's to boiler room for adjoining housing development and also the relocation of 2 no. existing street lights at Council Public Toilets, Market Street, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0886

Mr E. Rumney, per Mr G.J. Nagle, 15 Brigham Road, Cockermouth.

Single storey extension plus garage and garden room at 9 Cedar Lane, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0895

Travis Perkins, Ryehill House, Ryehill Close, Lodge Farm Industrial Estate, Northampton.

Variation of condition 2 of planning approval 2/2003/0637 to allow storage of materials in an area that is currently designated disabled parking bay at Travis Perkins, Station Road, Cockermouth.

Recommend approval subject to adequate disabled provision being provided.

2/2008/0896

Mr Desmond Jackson, 12, Blencathra Court, Cockermouth.

Replacement porch, retrospective, 12 Blencathra Court, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0904

Mr J Nagle, Per Mr G J Nagle, 15, Brigham Road, Cockermouth.

Two storey extension, to provide kitchen/diner at ground floor with ensuite bedroom above at Albion Cottage, Market Place, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0906

Mr J Nagle, per Mr G J Nagle, 15, Brigham Road, Cockermouth.

Listed building consent to provide kitchen/diner at ground floor with ensuite bedroom above at Albion Cottage, Market Place, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

2/2008/0908

Mr M. Donnelly, 8 Bridge Street, Cockermouth.

Replacement of existing two front sliding sash windows with timber double glazed sliding sash, replacement of the front door with a traditional timber panelled door and retrospective creation of a side window opening with a timber double glazed sliding sash window at 8 Bridge Street, Cockermouth.

Recommend Approval

13528 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.

13529 Applications for Tree Works

Agreed - That the re-pollarding of 8 lime trees at land at Kirkbank, Cockermouth be noted.

13530 Letter from Taylor and Hardy regarding the installation of an External Flue at 14, South Street, Cockermouth

Members considered the content of the objection letters from Taylor and Hardy 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.

13531 Removal of a tree, land at Bitterbeck Car Park

Agreed – That it be noted that the Borough Council had forwarded details the Clerks letter dated 23rd October 2008 to the proposed those involved with the proposed lease.

13532 Computer Shop Signage, Station Street

Agreed – That it be noted that the Director of Customer Services would be in touch again shortly regarding why permission had been granted for the sign whilst not complying with the Conservation Area Design Guide.

13533 Cockermouth Automated Telephone Exchange, South Street, Cockermouth

Agreed - That it be noted that the replacement of 3 no. Pole mounted rooftop telecommunication antennas at Cockermouth Automated Telephone Exchange, South Street, Cockermouth will commence shortly.

13534 All Saints Car Park

Those present discussed the contents of an email from the Parking Services Manager, Allerdale Borough Council dated 5 November 2008.

The Clerk had received further representations from the same local trader regarding the loss of car parking.

A meeting of local traders had been held and several suggestions raised at that meeting had been passed on to the Leader of Allerdale Borough Council, Joe Milburn and the Parking Services Manager, Tony Smith.

The Director of Customer Services at Allerdale Borough Council had approached Impact Housing regarding delaying the works until 5 January 2009. Impact Housing had been agreeable to the request.

13535 Allerdale Local Development Framework

The Planning Policy Officer, Allerdale Borough Council had forwarded to the Council a DVD which introduced the concept of the LDF Core Strategy which explained how communities and councillors could get involved.

Agreed – That the receipt of the DVD be noted.

13536 Recent Flooding in Cockermouth

Members considered the content of Mr Carter's letter of 30 October 2008.

Askam Construction Limited had been appointed to carry out improvement works along Waterloo Street and work was expected to start on 1 December 2008 and be completed in the Spring of 2009. The work will involve raising the existing defences and will be a combination of earth embankments and flood defence walls.

Members noted that the culvert at Bitterbeck had been surveyed by the Environment Agency and work was due to commence next week.

Councillor Nicholson had arranged to meet the Environment Agency next Monday regarding The Gote. The Environment Agency were planning to investigate the feasibility of reducing risk in this area with work scheduled for the summer 2009.

13537 Environmental Agency Newsletter

Members considered the content of the Environment Agency's Newsletter entitled 'Flood Defence Review – November 2008.

Agreed - That the content of the Flood Defence Review Newsletter dated November 2008 be noted.

13538 Mountain Marathon Emergency

Members considered the content of an email from Mr R Johnson regarding emergency planning arrangements in Cockermouth.

Members agreed that the Borough Council's emergency planning procedures for the town were well practiced.

13539 Calc Circular

The Clerk outlined the main issues arising from the Calc circular dated November 2008.

The new limit for council expenditure under section 137 was due to rise to £6.15 per elector from 1st April 2008.

Agreed - That the contents of the circular be noted.

13540 Consultation paper regarding Codes of Conduct for Local Authority members and employees

Resolved - That a briefing paper be prepared by the Clerk for discussion at the next meeting.

13541 All Saints Church Walk

Regretfully Cockermouth Museum Group were not able to find a photograph showing a bollard sited at Church Walk.

13542 Cumbria in Bloom

There were no nominations made at the meeting regarding attendance at the Cumbria in Bloom AGM and Seminar on 25 November 2008 in Windermere.

13543 Consultations with Parish Councils on Planning Applications

Calc had requested that parish councils in the Allerdale area aim to persuade their local planning authority to adopt all five aspects of best practice following a recent survey.

Resolved – That councillors lobby the local planning authority regarding the following issues:-

- Increasing the 21 days to respond to a consultation to 28 days
- Allowing a parish council to address the Development Panel
- Automatically placing a planning application before the Development Panel if the planning officer view differs from the view of the parish council
- The local planning authority providing a full explanation if the decision is contrary to the parish council view

13544 Donation to Cockermouth Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

Those present considered whether or not to give a donation to CADS in respect of their traditional pantomime 'Aladdin' due to an estimated shortfall of £500.

Resolved – That a grant of £300 be given to CADS.

13545 The Greenway/Cycleway

Members considered the content of a letter sent by Mrs S Elliot, 14, Sunscapes Avenue regarding the lack of maintenance of the Greenway/Cycleway.

All those present agreed with Mrs Elliot's comments.

Councillor S Standage informed those present that he had already arranged a meeting with Allerdale Borough Council officers and would attempt to resolve the issue.

13546 2008/09 National Interim Salary Award for Local Council Clerks

Agreed – That the interim salary scales be noted and backdated to 1 April 2008.

13547 Chestnut Tree in Kirkgate

Resolved – That the Clerk once again requests a meeting with Cumbria Highways to discuss the removal/replacement of the ailing tree.

13548 Bitterbeck Culvert

A culvert inspection team had carried out an inspection of the culvert and would report back within one week with an estimate of the amount of gravel to be removed and the method to be employed.

13549 Revenue Expenditure – Year ended 31 March 2010 and Precept for 09/10

Matter to be considered at the next meeting.

13550 Quality Audit of Fairfield Junior School

Resolved - That the clerk provides all councillors with a copy of the Audit prior to the matter being considered at the next meeting.

13551 CALC AGM

Those present considered the content of councillor A Smith's report regarding his attendance at the CALC AGM and the minutes of a joint meeting held at the Wave, Maryport on 16 October 2008 and

Agreed – That these be noted.

13552 Road Closure, High Sands Lane, Cockermouth

The Clerk informed those present that unfortunately works had been extended due to unforeseen circumstances.

13553 Cumbria Highways

Members noted that Cumbria Highways had relocated to Joseph Noble Road, Lillyhall Industrial Estate, Workington, Cumbria. CA14 4JH.

13554 Service 58 – Maryport

A revised timetable due to be introduced on 1 December 2008 had been devised to allow the service to operate punctually.

Agreed – That the revised timetable be noted.

13555 Victoria Hall

Members considered the content of the clerk's report.

Agreed – That the clerks report be noted.

13556 Tourism and Publicity

Members considered the content of the clerk's report.

Resolved – (a) That a letter of thanks be sent to Rachel Habgood.

(b) That the offices close on 24 December 2008 and re-open on 5 January 2009.

13557 Town Twinning/Europe Matters

The 25th anniversary week had been an overwhelming success.

Agreed – That the clerks report be noted.

13558 Memorial Gardens

Recent flooding had damaged paths in the Memorial Gardens.

The planting areas adjacent to Derwentside had been inspected by an arboriculturist and if the Council decided to act upon his recommendations the cost to carry out the works was estimated to be in the region of £2912 plus VAT.

The one or two matters highlighted in the post installation playground inspection as requiring attention were to be rectified on 27 November 2008.

Resolved – (a) That the paths be made safe by reinstating the worst affected areas at a cost of £887 plus VAT.

(b) The Clerk contact the contractor regarding grassing over the rest of the riverside pathway opposite the Castle.

(c) That a site inspection of the planting at Derwentside be undertaken.

13559 Tarn Close

Tyres had been dumped on the entrance to Tarn Close Sports Ground.

Resolved - That the clerk requests the removal of the tyres as soon as practicable.

13560 Town Hall

Members considered the content of the Clerk's report.

They were also informed that Cumbria County Council had awarded the gas supply contract for the period 1/12/08 – 30/09/11 to E.on Energy at a price of 3.856p/kWh (this equated to a 29% increase since prices were fixed over 2 years ago).

Resolved – That Councillor Standage investigates the cost of replacing the main window in the Council Chamber which is currently in a poor state of repair and painting the stairway and downstairs toilet areas.

13561 Christmas Illuminations

A successful dummy run had been carried out the previous weekend.

Free parking had been extended and would commence at 12 noon.

Agreed – That the Clerk's report be noted.

13562 Review of Fees and Charges and annual staff salaries/conditions review

A report regarding the appointment of a secretary/administrative assistant to be considered at the December meeting.

The Clerk's contract of employment was agreed and signed.

Resolved – (a) That the proposed fees and charges be agreed.

(b) That the annual staff salaries/conditions be noted.

13563 Castle Estates Junior Pond

Councillor Kennon informed those present that the costs for the scheme were prohibitive.

13564 Flooding Matter

This item was discussed earlier in the agenda.

13565 Cockermouth Partnership

Agreed – That the minutes of the Steering Group Meeting held on 14 October 2008 be noted.

13566 Accounts for Payment

Resolved – That accounts for payment amounting to £31,410.74 as set out in the expenditure journal be formally approved for payment.

The new bank mandate was signed and endorsed.

The Clerk had activated the internet banking access.

13567 Local Council Review (LCR)

Agreed – That the November 2008 copy of the LCR be received.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm