

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 21 June 2017 at 7.00pm

Members

A Tyson (Mayor)

I Burns
R Hanson
D Malloy
S Nicholson
A Smith

L Davies
A Kennon
E Nicholson
K Scales
S Standage

Apologies: J Laidlow

Also Present: A member of the Press, a police representative & approximately 12 members of the public

11 To authorise the Mayor to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last Meeting held on 18 May 2017

Resolved – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 18 May 2017 be signed as a correct record.

12 Declaration of Interest

Councillor A Smith declared a personal interest in any item on the agenda relating to Allerdale Borough Council due to being Council Leader.

Councillor A Tyson declared a prejudicial interest in item number 9k due to being a friend of Mr Wilson for over 30 years. He left the room whilst the item was considered.

13 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor announced that he had attended the following engagements since the last meeting:-

- Unveiling of the Lakeland Shepherd statue
- Workington Mayor Making
- Civic Reception for the Chernobyl Children
- Cockermouth Carnival
- Armed Forces Flag Raising

14 Police Report

A police representative attend the meeting.

Concern was expressed that it was deemed not in the public interest to prosecute a thief who had stolen a socket set worth £50 from a local store due to

the small value and the fact that the item had been recovered.

Councillor Kennon reiterated the importance of CCTV footage in prosecutions and stated that it was time that the Police Commissioner funded it.

The police representative was asked to pass on our comments to her Inspector.

15 Public Participation

There was none.

16 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were circulated prior to the meeting due to the Town Clerk being away on holiday.

HOU/2017/0096

Replacement front door with flood door

Recommended - Approval

2/2017/0229

Application for advertisement consent to erect 1 no. 6m pylon sign

WCF Country Centre, Station Road, Cockermouth

Recommended – Refusal, out of character, un-neighbourly & overdevelopment.

The following planning applications were considered at the meeting:-

HOU/2017/0105

Replace existing rear door with flood composite door and install flood protect gates with fittings.

2 Croft Terrace

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2017/0106

Replace existing rear door with flood composite door and install flood protect gates with fittings.

3 Croft Terrace

Recommended – Approval

2/2017/0194

Install of new white aluminium slim framed windows to replace existing (retrospective)

Christ Church Rooms, South Street

Recommended – Approval

2/2017/0274

Display of 2 no. Lidl internally illuminated fascia signs, 1 no. Lidl internally illuminated poster display, 2 no. WCF internally illuminated fascia signs and a WCF externally illuminated fascia sign.

Recommended – Defer – Town Clerk to invite Lidl back for further discussions.

2/2017/0287

Erection of enclosure to provide cold storage (retrospective)

Oakhurst Service Station, Lamplugh Road

Recommended - Approval

17 Finance

17a Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £7,791.12 be formally approved for payment.

17b Internal Audit Report

Agreed – That the content of the year end report by our Internal Auditor be noted.

17c Accounts for the Year ending March 2017

Resolved – That the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 be agreed and accepted subject to audit.

17d Audit Commission Return for the Year ended 2017

Resolved – (a) That Section 1 of the annual return relating to the Annual Governance Statement 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 Accounting Statements 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 by our internal auditor.

(d) That it be noted that the required notice concerning the appointment of date for the exercise of electors rights has been displayed.

(e) That it be noted that the Clerk will send the documentation required by the external auditor as soon as practicable.

18 Correspondence

18a New Electoral Arrangements for Allerdale Borough Council

Allerdale currently has high levels of electoral inequality where some councillors represent many more – or many fewer voters than others.

Allerdale Borough Council currently has 56 councillors.

Based on the evidence received during previous phases of the review, the Commission recommends that 49 councillors should serve the Borough in the future.

Councillor Smith expressed his disappointment at the lack of consultation regarding the boundaries of wards.

Agreed – That the Local Government Boundary Commission's final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Allerdale Borough Council be noted.

18b Legal Briefing

Agreed – That the legal briefing note from NALC regarding the reform of data protection legislation and introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations next May be noted.

18c CALC Circular

Agreed – That the contents of the June 2017 edition of the Calc Circular be noted.

18d CALC Satisfaction Survey 2017

Resolved – That councillor Tyson be authorised to complete the CALC Satisfaction Survey 2017 on behalf of the Town Council.

18e New Postal Address

Recommended – That the new development of six flats, adjacent to 102 Main Street be named 1-6 Queen Street.

18f Main Street Planters

Those present considered a suggestion from Cockermouth Civic Trust that organisations and businesses be asked to sponsor the yearly Spring planters for the benefit of residents, visitors and shoppers.

Recommended – That this issue be reviewed once prices be obtained for various types of planting.

18g Cockermouth Library

Members considered a request from the Friends of Cockermouth Library to carry out a user survey when the library is open on Saturday to determine if children and young people are accessing the library.

Resolved – That a survey be not carried out.

18h X5 Bus Service

The Chair of the West Cumbria Bus Users Group had emailed the Town Council to inform us of the withdrawal of the hourly X5 bus from Monday 15 June 2017 due to a four month road closure at Bridgefoot by United Utilities. They claimed that no provision had been made for all those on the route affected.

The Mayor confirmed that provision had been made.

Resolved - That no further action be taken.

18i Hebron, New Hampshire USA

Hebron was originally part of a larger colonial town named Cockermouth by Lord Cockermouth. Cockermouth, New Hampshire was founded in 1766.

By 1792 Cockermouth had grown into two geographically distinct villages so the western portion became Groton and the eastern portion became Hebron.

Hebron is celebrating its 225th anniversary on August 12th this year and would like to announce that they have twinned with Cockermouth, Cumbria.

Resolved - (a) That Cockermouth becomes a 'sister city' to Hebron, New Hampshire, USA.

(b) That a small budget be set up to facilitate this new twinning.

(c) That we correspond only with Hebron, New Hampshire, USA

18j Cockermouth Heritage Group

Further to minute number 9f (2017/18), those present considered where in the Town Hall, Cockermouth, the 17th century linen chest could be housed.

Resolved – That consideration of this item be deferred pending a suitable location being identified.

Councillor Malloy chaired the meeting for the next item only.

18k Double Mills Youth Hostel

Those present considered a request from Frank Wilson to sell Double Mills with a restrictive covenant that only allows use as a private dwelling due to usage of the lane as a public footpath.

Resolved – That Double Mills be sold without any restrictive covenant.

19 Clerks Report

Resolved – (a) That the contents of the report be noted.

(b) That councillor Laidlow be not replaced on the Conservation Area Joint Working Group.

(c) That Councillor Tyson organises judging of the allotment and private gardens in Christchurch ward.

(d) That Councillor Malloy organises the judging of the allotment and private gardens in All Saints Ward.

(e) That Mr B Slacks generous £10k donation towards the running of the library be gratefully received.

(f) That Councillor Malloy contacts the Children's Society regarding his offer of providing a trophy for the 'favourite garden' on the Garden Trail.

20 Neighbourhood Plan for Cockermouth

Further to minute number 148 (2017/18) those present considered further evidence submitted by the Neighbourhood Plan Investigation Group supporting the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.

A detailed discussion ensued regarding the need for and estimated cost of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor E Nicholson moved that a Neighbourhood Plan be not produced. This was seconded by Councillor A Kennon.

Councillor L Davies moved that a Neighbourhood Plan be produced. This was seconded by Councillor A Smith.

Councillor A Smith requested that a recorded vote be taken with regard to whether or not a Neighbourhood Plan for Cockermouth should be produced.

The result was as follows:-

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Councillor Standage | Against |
| Councillor S Nicholson | Against |
| Councillor Scales | Against |
| Councillor Hanson | Against |
| Councillor Smith | For |
| Councillor Malloy | Against |
| Councillor Davies | For |
| Councillor E Nicholson | Against |
| Councillor A Kennon | Against |
| Councillor A Tyson | Against |

Resolved – That a Neighbourhood Plan for Cockermouth be not produced due to Cockermouth Town Council being satisfied with the Borough Council's local plan, there being 'no burning issues' of land use outside the Borough Council's Local Plan and the prohibitive cost of producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

21 Graphic Panels, Memorial Gardens

Two graphic panels placed in the Memorial Gardens after the 2011 restoration were lost in the 2015 floods.

Members considered whether or not to replace them.

Resolved – (a) That the two graphic panels be re-placed and paid for from 2016/17 Town Centre funds.

(b) That the exact location of the panels be discussed at a future meeting.

22 Speed Limit on Windmill Lane

Councillor Davies expressed his concern that Windmill Lane was being used as a race track.

Those present discussed whether the introduction of either a 20 mph speed limit, speed bumps or chicanes would help slow down traffic.

Resolved – That Councillor Hanson explore possible solutions with County Highways.

23 Town Centre Funding

Our Town Centre Manager had pulled together some design ideas and costs for heritage signs/artworks at two identified sites in the town centre to help promote Market Place as a visitor destination, encouraging pedestrians to continue their journeys along Main Street over Cocker Bridge.

Members were asked to either proceed with discussions with the artist, building owners, planning officers and others with a view to finalising designs for the 2 sites

and submitting a corresponding planning application or not to proceed with this project, in which case other options were required to spend the remaining 2016/17 town centre funding.

Recommended – (a) That the Town Centre Manager proceed with detailed discussions with the artist, building owners, councillors, planning officers and others with a view to finalising designs for the 2 sites and submitting the corresponding planning application. Fixed wooden signs preferred.

(b) That the Town Centre Manager be asked if 2016/17 town centre funding could be spent on employing someone to open up the Harris Park toilets during school holidays and school trips.

The meeting closed at 9.16pm