

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 21 November 2018 at 7.00pm

Members

D Malloy (Mayor)

I Burns
J Laidlow
E Nicholson
K Scales
A Tyson

L Davies
A Kennon
S Nicholson
A Smith

Apologies: S Standage & R Hanson

The meeting was preceded by a question and answer session with Simon Sharp, Planning Manager, Allerdale Borough Council regarding the stopping up of footpath 223003, land off Strawberry How Road.

Also Present: Approximately 12 members of the public, a police representative and a press representative were also present.

117 To authorise the Mayor to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last Meeting held on 17 October 2018

Resolved – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 October 2018 be signed as a correct record.

118 To authorise the Mayor to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last Special Planning Meeting held on 1 November 2018

Resolved – That the minutes of the last Special Planning meeting held on 1 November 2018 be signed as a correct record.

119 Declaration of Interest

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

Councillors E & S Nicholson declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 8bc due to being the agent/contractor for the proposed tree works.

120 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor had attended the following engagements since his last report: -

- Greeting Marvejolais upon arrival
- Twinning Civic Reception
- Twinning Anniversary Dinner

- Twinning Daffodil Planting
- Twinning Brewery Tour
- Twinning Castle Tour
- Twinning Concert
- Letters from the Trenches award ceremony at St Joseph's
- Allerdale 100 Commemorations at The Carnegie
- Rotary commemorative bench unveiling
- Letters from the Trenches award ceremony at All Saints
- Letters from the Trenches award ceremony at Fairfield
- Heritage WW1 display at The Kirkgate
- Judging of Remembrance Shop Windows
- Remembrance Sunday
- Rainbow's Tea Party at Methodist Church
- Meeting with Lord Egremont
- Christmas Lights Switch On

121 Police Report

The Police report was circulated prior to meeting.

There had been a total of 35 crimes and 9 incident logs during October 2018. Alcohol related anti-social behaviour and thefts were being treated as priorities.

Inspector Gale had met with local business owners and shop watch members on 2 November 2018, she was hopeful that the meeting would provide shop owners with the confidence to report all incidents to allow her to gain a more accurate picture of the problem.

PCSO's had been undertaking more foot patrols and additional plain clothed officers were promised to assist over the Christmas period.

Resolved – That a response be sought from the Police & Crime Commissioner.

122 Public Participation

There was none.

123 Planning Applications

2/2018/0496

Stopping up of a section of public right of way 223003, land off Strawberry How Road

Recommended – Refusal new adopted highway route detrimental to users enjoyment and the environment. Greenway required.

2/2018/0487

Listed building consent for installation of window, skylight and door in external elevations and minor internal alterations

3 Challoner Court

Recommended – Approval

2/2018/0474

Replacing original wooden framed sash windows for authentic replica UPVC sash Windows

Flat 3, Irene Court, Waterloo Street

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2018/0221

Two storey extension to provide day room, dining area and kitchen enlargement with bedroom over

21 Evening Hill Drive, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2018/0222

Extension to provide additional living space and integral double garage

87 St Helens Street

This application was cancelled.

2/2018/0371 (amended plans)

Amendment relates to proposed site layout, proposed house type A and email.

To demolish existing buildings and redevelop the site with 3 new dwellings with associated access, parking and amenity spaces

St Helens Tannery, St Helens Street

Recommended – Refusal access unsuitable for more than one car, will be detrimental to safe route to school and cycleway.

124 Tree Works

Recommended - That the following applications for tree works be approved:-

(a) 30% crown reduction of a tree, 18A & 18B Strawberry How

- (b) Full removal of evergreen tree in garden of 63 Kirkgate
- (c) 30% crown reduction of cherry tree, 8 Derwentside Gardens
- (d) Prune back four trees, The Auction House, Station Street

125 Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £13,184.40 be formally approved for payment.

126 Christmas Panto

Resolved – That a grant of £300 be given to CADS towards their Christmas Panto.

127 Interim Internal Audit Report

Agreed – That the contents of the interim internal audit report be noted.

128 Correspondence

128a Tarn Close

Those present considered a request from the Chairman of Cockermouth Junior Football Club to improve the entrance to the site.

County Highways required that a Section 184VA permit be submitted for the re-surfacing and to tie into the carriageway. This was free of charge.

Resolved – That approval be given to improve the entrance of the site subject to all necessary permissions being obtained.

128b Service 69

Those present considered the content of an email from David Andrews, the Secretary of the West Cumbria Bus Users' Group regarding the withdrawal of town service 69 from 28 October 2018.

Councillor Smith had been exploring other possibilities and promised to circulate his findings.

Agreed – That the email be received.

128c On Street Car Parking Charges

Those present discussed a recent article in the Times & Star which claimed that on street parking charges may be resurrected four years after they were killed off.

In a change to the 2014 plans, local committees rather than the County Council's ruling group would be responsible for deciding if machines would be introduced and on which streets. This move required a change to the County Councils constitution. Local Committees would be allowed to keep any revenue.

Agreed – That the situation be closely monitored.

128d Parking

Allerdale Borough Council Parking Services have requested our views on the following issues within the Town:-

The overhaul of the signage to car parks in Cockermouth
Increasing the space numbers at Memorial Gardens
Placing cross hatching in a existing space located near the play area gate
Reducing the number of coach spaces from the current down to one

Resolved – That:-

The overhaul of the signage to car parks in Cockermouth be welcomed.
The introduction of additional spaces in the Memorial Gardens Car Park be supported.
That the cross hatching of an existing space near the play area gate be welcomed.
The reduction of the number of coach spaces be supported.

128e Charity Golf Competition

Agreed – That the letter of thanks from The Rotary Club of Cockermouth for our donation be noted. The club raised £1100 for charities and local organisations.

128f Asset Transfer Opportunities

Allerdale Borough Council had identified a number of sites within Cockermouth that they wished to transfer under Community Asset Transfer. These included:-

Harris Park
Land alongside river Cocker between Cocker Lane and Victoria Bridge
Land to the east of the Kirkgate Centre

Resolved – That further enquiries be made with regard to the transfer.

128g Public Toilets

Members were pleased to note that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Phillip Hammond MP had announced that public toilets will receive new mandatory business rates relief following a prolonged campaign to end the toilet tax.

Agreed – That the new mandatory business rate relief on public toilets be Noted and welcomed. This would result in a saving of £2064 per annum.

128h The Flood Hub

The Flood Hub is a one stop shop to help householders, businesses, communities and landowners across the North West become more flood resilient.

Agreed – That the new website be welcomed and noted.

128i Making Tax Digital

Making Tax Digital will require parish councils to keep their records digitally and submit VAT return figures directly from software rather than entering the figures manually.

The HMRC announced in October that Making Tax Digital has been deferred for six months and will now commence on 1 October 2019.

Edge IT Systems, our finance package provider is working on an interface which will be ready for 1 October 2019.

Agreed - That the new deadline for Making Tax Digital be noted.

129 Clerks Report

The Mayor thanked all those who assisted in the organisation of the Fireworks, Remembrance Sunday and the switching on of the Christmas Lights. All the events had been run very successfully.

The Mayor also read out a letter from a Cumwhinton resident who wanted to congratulate the town on the lovely displays of poppies in the streets and various shop windows.

Agreed – That the content of the Clerk's report be noted.

130 Library Opening Hours

Resolved – (a) That library opening hours on a Wednesday be extended from 4pm to 5pm on a six month trial basis.

(b) That detailed usage statistics be kept.

131 Risk Assessment

Resolved – That the contents of the 2018/19 annual risk assessment report be agreed and noted.

132 Fees and Charges

Resolved – That the fees and charges for 2019/20 be agreed.

133 Effectiveness of Internal Audit

Resolved – That Mrs G D Airey continues to be appointed as our Internal

Auditor.

Resolved – That:-

‘Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be removed for the following item of business due to contractual issues being discussed’

134 Provision of free public open space wi-fi in Cockermouth

Resolved – That Cockermouth Library be used as a backhaul site on terms outlined within the report subject to the agreement of other Cockermouth partners.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm