

Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 16 August 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Laidlow (Mayor)  
Councillor S Barnes  
Councillor H Beanland  
Councillor M Bowman  
Councillor C Bell  
Councillor C Bridgman  
Councillor D Malloy  
Councillor G Telford  
Councillor H Tucker  
Councillor R Watson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Burns and Samson.

Sergeant McKinnell, Cumberland Councillor Andy Semple, Jackie Hayhow, Community Development Officer & two members of the public were present.

**71 Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 July 2023 be signed as a correct record.

**72 Minutes**

Agreed – That the minutes of the Town Clerk Recruitment Sub Committee held on 3 August 2023 be noted.

**73 Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the last Special Planning meeting held on 3 August 2023 be signed as a correct record.

**74 Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Tucker declared that she was a substitute member of the Planning Committee of Cumberland Council. She also declared a connection to Kirkgate Arts and Heritage.

Councillor Bowman declared that she was a friend of Kirkgate Arts and Heritage.

Councillor Malloy declared that he was a governor at All Saints School.

Councillor Bridgman declared that his partner was involved in the Youth Theatre at

Kirkgate Arts and Heritage.

Councillor Telford declared that she was a friend of Kirkgate Arts and Heritage.

## **75 Mayors Announcements**

The Mayor had attended the following events since the last meeting:-

Flimby Carnival  
Civic Service

## **76 Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

## **77 Planning Applications**

Reference: **FUL/2023/0165**

Proposal: Additional workshop / store

Location: P And R Benn, Lakeland Agricultural Centre

Recommended – approval

Reference: **HOU/2023/0131**

Proposal: Erection of single storey front and single storey rear extension for additional living accommodation

Location: 9, Lingfell Avenue

Recommended – approval

Reference: **HOU/2023/0133**

Proposal: Construction of front entrance porch and pitched roof to existing side extension replacing flat roof

Location: 17 Slatefell Drive

Recommended - approval

Reference: **FUL/2023/0173**

Proposal: Demolition of existing building and erection of 3 detached dormer bungalows with associated infrastructure and landscaping

Location: The Orchard, Strawberry How Road

Councillor Beanland expressed concern regarding the small size of each garden, water run off/waste water and the lack of a flood risk assessment. He queried the description of the site, the application stated that the site was 0.17 ha he argued that the site was more likely to be 0.5 ha in size. He felt that tree C1 had been misrepresented and should stay. He also worried whether or not the tree at the back of the site would survive the substantial reduction proposed. He felt the site was being overdeveloped.

Recommended – Refusal due to overdevelopment of the site & unnecessary removal of trees. Those present also recommended that surface water details be submitted pre decision and not post decision.

#### **78 Tree Works**

**WTPO/2023/0025**

Multiple tree works

South Lodge, Simonscales Lane

Recommended – approval

#### **79 Finance**

Resolved – (a) That payments in the amount of £14,174.55 be authorised.

#### **80 Grant Request**

Those present considered a request for grant funding from All Saints School towards their sensory garden.

Resolved – a) That a grant of £150 be given.

b) That the Group be signposted towards the Metalcraft Community Fund and Cockermonth & Papcastle Recreational Trust for further funding.

#### **81 Grant Request**

Those present considered a request for £500 from Kirkgate Arts and Heritage towards an 18 month project entitled 'in my shoes' which aims to give the people of West Cumbria the opportunity to share and celebrate their own cultural heritage.

Resolved – a) That a grant of £200 be given.

b) That the Group be signposted towards Cockermouth & Papcastle Recreational Trust for further funding.

## **82 New Bank Mandate**

Resolved – a) That Alan Kennon, Alan Smith, Alan Tyson, Christine M Jackson, Eric William Nicholson, Kenneth Scales, Leonard Davies, Samuel Standage & Simon William Nicholson be removed as signatories associated with Cockermouth Town Council.

b) That Richard Watson be added as a signatory associated with Cockermouth Town Council.

c) That Sheila Brown ceases to be a signatory associated with Cockermouth Town Council upon her retirement on 31 October 2023.

d) That as of 1/11/2023, should there be no new Town Clerk in situ that any three of the four councillors i.e. David M Malloy, Julie Mary Laidlow, Isabel Burns & Richard Watson be authorised as signatories until a new clerk is appointed.

## **83 Calc News**

Agreed – That the content of the May & June Calc News be noted.

## **84 LGR Newsletters**

Councillor Malloy expressed his dismay that Cockermouth was not mentioned in any of the LGR newsletters. He asked Councillor Tucker if she was aware of any ongoing/future projects. Councillor Tucker promised to bring up the matter with the Community Development Officers.

Councillor Malloy enquired if Cumberland Officers had lobbied any other organisations regarding the potential closure of Wilkinsons.

Councillor Bell stated that there was a little bit of time to find a new buyer. She hoped that the new buyer would be someone big who would draw people to the town or the rest of the shops would suffer as a result.

Councillor Bowman stated that even if a buyer was found, the Cockermouth Store may still be at risk.

Councillor Tucker agreed to speak to the relevant officer.

Agreed – That the content of the 23 July, 30 July & 6 August LGR Newsletters be noted.

## **85 Clerks Report**

Those present considered the content of the Clerk's report.

The Town Clerk informed those present that there was only room for one more Mayor's name to be engraved on the chain and that she had contacted Fattorini to explore our options.

Fattorini had advised that the chain could not be lengthened and that the best course of action was to remove 6 existing links either side of the central link on the outer row and produce 12 sterling silver gilt P69 links and replace the old removed links. They would repair any broken jump rings on the existing chain and re-finish in hard gold plate. Costs were estimated at £2531.76.

Framing the old link was estimated to cost £250.00.

The Town Clerk asked whether those present wanted the work to be done and that if they did she would place the cost in next year's budget.

Councillor Laidlow stated that there was a lot of history in the chain.

Those present agreed that the framing of the old links could be carried out more cheaply locally.

Resolved – a) That the content of the report be noted.

b) That £2,600.00 be put in the 2024/25 budget to extend the life of the Mayors Chain.

c) That the links that will be removed be framed locally.

## **86 Policing in Cockermouth**

Sargeant McKinnell attended the meeting to discuss policing in Cockermouth.

He was pleased to inform those present that Cockermouth had been allocated a

new local community officer, Shona Pattinson. Although based in Workington, Shona would spend the majority of her shift in Cockermouth and provide increased Police presence in the Town. The new local community officer in Maryport had reduced anti-social behaviour in Maryport by 47%.

Sargeant McKinnell stated that he was aware of the anti-social behaviour in Cockermouth. He promised to send the data to the Town Clerk.

Councillor Watson stated that he hoped that Shona's presence would start making a big difference.

Councillor Malloy expressed concern that not all crime was reported and asked if social media sites were monitored.

Sargeant McKinnell stated that this was not feasible. He informed those present that the waiting times for calling 101 had improved dramatically. He encouraged the reporting of each incident.

Councillor Telford requested that Shona spend time in Fitz Ward. She asked if the youth filmed damaging the lights along Joe's Walk had been dealt with. Sargeant McKinnell stated that a youth had been sanctioned and that advice had been given by the Crime Prevention Officer to prevent further occurrences.

Councillor Bowman asked about their strategic approach, what techniques were used to get to know young people and if there was any correlation between anti social behaviour and lack of facilities?

Sargeant McKinnell replied that forums were held to ascertain issues in Town, that PCSO Claire Parker knew the Town well and would spend time with Shona. Officers regularly attended schools and local groups e.g. scouts and engaged with groups of youths whilst out on patrol. He explained that all anti-social behaviour could not be attributed to the youth, boy racers and pub goers also caused problems. He further stated that he was not aware of any correlation between anti social behaviour and lack of facilities.

Councillor Malloy mentioned speeding in Town and if hotspots were still discussed by CRASH.

Sergeant McKinnell stated that the CRASH system was evolving and that safety vans, hand guns or Community Speedwatch Groups were being used to tackle speeding. He stated that CRASH would utilise data from our own speed indicator device.

Councillor Bell expressed concern at backfiring noisy cars and parking on the zig

zags near pedestrian crossings. Sergeant McKinnel promised to look at the dangerous parking issue.

Councillors Barnes & Watson complained about speeding between Oakhurst roundabout and Fitz Roundabout late at night. Sergeant McKinnel made a note of the issue and requested intelligence, registrations if possible. The perpetrators appeared to be using Mitchells Auction Mart as a base.

Councillor Telford raised the issue to burglaries on The Parklands. Sergeant McKinnel stated that the offender had been disrupted and arrests had been made.

Councillor Bowman asked about county lines activity in Town. Sergeant McKinnel stated that there was no county lines activity in Allerdale as far as he was aware.

The Mayor stated that she hope to meet Shona soon and thank Sergeant McKinnel for his presence.

#### **87 Mirror at bottom of Gote Brow**

Councillor Laidlow requested that the Town Clerk contact the Highways Department regarding the installation of a mirror on street light 381 adjacent to Walkers Factory to aid cars exiting from Papcastle.

Resolved – That the Town Clerk contacts the Highways Department to request the installation of a mirror on street light 381 near Walkers Factory to aid cars exiting from Papcastle.

#### **88 Non operation of lights in Lowther Went**

Following a request from a Fitz resident, Councillor Telford looked into the non operation of the lights in Lowther Went. Following communication by letter, she was pleased to report that the lights were now working. Sadly, however that the lights in the car park were not now working.

Councillor Malloy stated that there was a general decline in the area and asked the Town Clerk to write to the owners to ask if a facelift was intended.

Resolved – That the Town Clerk writes to the owners of Lowther Went regarding the general decline of the area and to report the non-working car park lights.

#### **89 Climate Change Action**

No actions were discussed.

## **90 Meeting dates for 2024**

Resolved a) That the town council meeting dates for 2024 be agreed.

b) That the Town Clerk be given delegated powers to agree the date of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting.

## **91 Lakes and Sea Community Panel**

Community Panels are a new way of putting people at the heart of local decision making. Cumberland Council has eight community panels, each made up of local ward councillors.

The Lakes to Sea Community Panel covers the wards of Bothel & Wharrels, Cockermouth North, Cockermouth South, Dearham & Broughton, Keswick, Maryport North and Maryport South.

The Lakes and Sea Panel were currently consulting on their four draft priorities which would run alongside the central aim of Cumberland Council's plan of "improving the health and wellbeing of residents".

The four draft priorities are:

1. Transport
2. Health and Wellbeing
3. Community Involvement
4. Community Resilience

Councillor Semple was the chair of the Lakes to Sea Community Panel. Town Councils were eligible to apply for the 60k available until end March 2024.

The next Panel meeting was to be held in December 2023. The closing date for applications was November 2023.

Resolved – That Councillor Semple & Jackie Hayhow be thanked for their presence.

## **92 Allocation of Sellafield Social Impact Investment Fund 2023/24**

Since 2014 the Board of Sellafield Ltd has agreed annually to allocate funding up to £1million to the former Allerdale and Copeland Borough Councils (500k each) to support projects, initiatives and programmes of work that deliver social conditions for growth.



It was proposed that the former Allerdale area funding be allocated as follows:-

Community & Voluntary Sector Support	£100,000
Sporting & Cultural Development	£ 75,000
Regeneration & Economic Development	£325,000
Sporting Leisure Activity	£378,000
Regeneration & Economic Development	£ 25,000
Social Inclusion Activity	£ 97,000

Councillor Beanland requested clarification of paragraph 2.6 of the Executive report which stated that 'The SIIF funding remains integral to the ongoing delivery of various established commitments made by the former district councils, therefore the proposal for the utilisation of funding in the current financial year seeks to continue and build on this activity'.

Cumberland Councillor Andy Semple promised to find out if the funding had already been allocated and report back.

Resolved – That Councillor Semple investigates if the SIIF funding is already allocated and reports back.

### **93 Fire Headquarters**

Councillor Malloy requested that the Town Clerk write to the Police & Crime Commissioner expressing concern regarding rumours circulating in Town that our Fire Service was to be relocated/amalgamated.

Resolved – That the Town Clerk writes to the Police and Crime Commissioner expressing concern and an explanation.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm