

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on 13 January 2014

Present:- Cllrs. A.J. Markley, G. Wilkinson, I. Baty, S. Graham, C. Baty, M. Orchard, W. Jefferson, D. Wallace, A. Emmerson & C. Graham. Also Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk), Anna Malina & Ken Wannop.

649 **Apologies:-** Cllr. A. Weightman.

650 **Co-option**

There were three candidates who had put their names forward for the vacancy on the Council, all of whom were proposed and seconded. A vote was taken – James Baxter (5 votes), John Cook (2 votes) & Paul Watson (2 votes). James Baxter was duly co-opted on to the Council.

651 **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. Markley – re: Markley Transport, Carrs coaches, County Council etc
Cllr. C. Graham – STAG, SPAND & Fake Festivals
Cllr. A. Emmerson – STAG & schools
Cllr. M. Orchard – re: Silloth RUFC

652 **Exclusion of Press & Public**

It was agreed that the public be excluded for items 24 onwards on the Agenda.

653 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman attended various events:-

- Open door Christmas party which was excellent.
- Met with a lady from the Heart Foundation who wants to promote Silloth as a Heart town to coincide with events on the Green.
- Rotary appeal for teddy bears utilising the schools etc. Now have 12,000 teddy bears to be sent to the Phillipines.
- Attended the Primary school carol service.
- Neighbourhood forum meeting at Aspatria on 10 December.
- CALC meeting at Bothel re: footway lights etc.
- Attended the opening of the BMX track along with the Mayor of Allerdale and Cllr. Stuart Graham. The Chairman thanked everyone involved with the project.
- Rotary Santa Claus.
- Also attended various meetings on the Green.
- Invited by High Sheriff to lunch at Windermere on Saturday and the Charter night on Friday.

A letter has been received from Lt. Smith from HMS Biter who is keen to keep the link with Silloth. Letter to be sent inviting them to the town and give them dates of forthcoming events.

654 **Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on the 2 December 2013 were approved by the Town Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record. It was noted that the trench across the car park at the Rugby club has still not been re-instated. Cllr. Jefferson will be attending the meeting at Allerdale re: Seafield House but can't support the Town Council decision to approve the application.

655 **Police Report**

No report.

656 **Adjournment of Meeting**

Mr Searle requested to speak at the meeting and wished to appeal against the Notice to Quit. His allotment was in a poor state when he took it over and he has invested in paving and a shed etc. The 2nd year it was un-useable due to flooding but he intends to make a concerted effort this coming year and run it in a better way if he is allowed to keep it.

The decision to issue a Notice to Quit was made by the allotment committee at their meeting on 9 December, however the Council felt it was a reasonable request and accepted Mr Searle's comments. The Council recommended withdrawal of the Notice to Quit.

657 **Silloth Green**

Training – Volunteers have been asked what they want with regard to training. Anna has obtained prices for training in Emergency First Aid and Risk Assessments. Total Train Cumbria appear to be the best value for money and it was agreed that they be asked to do the required training.

Silloth Green Day – Friends of the Green have applied to the Neighbourhood Forum for funding for the event. They want to do as well as last year and have enough funds to do what they intended. There is another Forum meeting in April and they will be able to apply for funding again.

Green Flag – Last year was the first year and the Green achieved a good pass, with some good comments from the judge. This year judging will be done by a mystery shopper and therefore standards will need to be high all the time.

Parks for People – Jason used to fill in the forms but not now. Monitoring information needs to be gone through and be in by 28 February.

Airfield Project – STAG have taken on the project and Anna is helping with the application to the lottery. The project will include an event on the Green. It will include an exhibition about the war, possibly in the toy museum. A video and DVD will be put together and a drama event, with assistance from Tim Barker. There will also hopefully be a railways exhibition this year, as it is 50 years since the railway was closed. People in Silloth who have stories to tell about the war will be interviewed for the airfield project. This will involve the training of volunteers on how to interview people and create videos etc.

658 **Correspondence**

- a) Cumbria County Playing Fields Association – Annual Report 2012/13.
- b) ACT Gazette – Issue 16: Winter 2013.
- c) The Watchtree News – Winter 2013 Edition.
- d) Tidelines – Autumn/Winter 2013.
- e) CALC Circular – December – January 2014.
- f) Allerdale Borough Council – PARCS 2013. Letter thanking the Council for their support of the PARCS scheme. Allerdale will no longer be co-ordinating the PARCS scheme which will now be arranged by the Cumbrian SPAA Foundation.
- g) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Vacancy on Town Council. There has been no request to hold an election and therefore the Council can fill the vacancy by co-option as soon as practicable.
- h) Hadrian's Wall Trust – Information about the forthcoming launch of Hadrian's Wall Trust fundraising programme.
- i) Cumbria County Council – re: Former Fisons Factory. Email from David Rawle asking how the development of the site is progressing and if the footpath has been constructed.
- j) Email from John Cook expressing an interest in joining the Town Council.
- k) NALC – Council Tax Benefit Support Grant – Update following meetings with Brandon Lewis MP and Andy Sawford MP.
- l) CALC – Copy of CALC's response to the Government Consultation Paper "Review of the Siting Process for a Geological Disposal Facility".
- m) Email from Debbie McGrath following the Council's decision not to go ahead with a business plan at the present time. Lottery funding is available to cover the costs but this depends on doing an adequate amount of community engagement as part of the planning process. Alternatively a business plan could be drawn up without the community engagement but this would not attract the funding.
- n) CALC – MRWS consultation deadline extended to 19 December due to technical issues.
- o) Rugby Club – re: Lease and registering of land etc. There would not have been a problem if the land had been registered when the lease was first drawn up. Jimmy Lettice will be back in touch asap. Land registration is needed to help them get a new deal with Thwaites brewery.
- p) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Disposal of asbestos. Allerdale do not carry out the testing of material to identify asbestos and will not dismantle the sheds. Unable to provide a cost as this will

depend on the quantity of the material once the sheds have been demolished. Cllr. Wilkinson gave the Clerk the contact details for West Coast Surveys Ltd.

- q) Email from Mr Paul Watson registering his interest in being co-opted on to the Town Council.
- r) Solway Coast AONB Partnership – Joint Advisory Committee – Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2013.
- s) Solway Coast AONB Partnership – Joint Advisory Committee – Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2012.
- t) West Cumbria Bus Users Group – Copy of a leaflet asking passengers to contact the County Council with their views about the proposed withdrawal of all subsidised services.
- u) Cumbria County Council – Better Highways “Meet and Greet” event arranged at Lillyhall Depot, Workington at 9.30am on 19 December 2013.
- v) CALC – re: Precepts. Full statement by Local Government Minister in his annual statement to Parliament about local government finance settlement for next year <http://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/provisional-local-government-finance-settlement-2014-to-2015>. There is £3.3 billion for Council Tax support schemes this year. They expect billing authorities to carry on passing on support to town and parish councils to help mitigate any reduction in their taxbase. The second part relating to town and parish councils is whether they will be caught by the principles relating to increases in council tax. They will be announcing the Council Tax referendum threshold principles in the New Year but this doesn't answer whether town council's expenditure could effectively be capped.
- w) Cumbria County Council – Details of roads closed due to the tidal surge.
- x) Rugby Club – Email from Jimmy Lettice to inform the Council of the club's intention to put more solar panels on the roof of the club to reduce running costs and to apply to Allerdale for permission.
- y) Email from S. Hart regarding the need for a lease and upgrading the facilities etc, in response to the Council's email stating that there needs to be full agreement between the clubs, with a Sports Association formed and to come back to the Council with a firm plan. Cllr. Orchard informed the Council that a meeting will be taking place on 4 February at the Rugby Club..
- z) Allerdale Borough Council – re: The Green. Outline of the Council's contribution to the costs of the Green. Allerdale will continue to provide cleaning service for the toilets (valued at £13,000 pa) and asset management service up to £2,000 pa. Due to financial constraints Allerdale is not in a position to provide any direct financial contribution but can agree to above arrangements for 2014/15 and 2015/16 subject to agreement. Cllr. Jefferson met with a guy from Allerdale regarding the planned repairs to the public conveniences. Cllr. Jefferson has contacted Paul Shackley. There are concerns that the building be handed over in the best condition possible. The decoration needs to be done. According to the contractor working on the building the roof would benefit from being re-done. The ceramic ware is being replaced with stainless steel. Baby changing facilities are to be provided in both ladies and gents by knocking two cubicles into one. Drainage is the main problem but is included in the scheduled repairs, together with replacing the external door on the gents.
- aa) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Parish Funding 2014/15. Information to assist in calculating the funding requirements for the 2014/15 financial year.
- bb) Letter from Mr Charles Searle formally appealing against the notice to quit sent on 10 December 2013. Dealt with earlier in the meeting. See minute 656.
- cc) Email from David Bryden regarding the refurbishment to the toilets and the planned work to be undertaken. A joint site visit in the New Year has been suggested to look at the proposals. See z) above.
- dd) Allerdale Borough Council - Council Commitment to Local Communities 2012-15. Comments requested by 31 January 2014. Noted.

659 Planning Applications

The **Town Council** have approved the following:-

Ref No: 2/2013/0856 **Proposal:** Erection of detached house **Location:** 182 Skinburness Road, Silloth
Applicant: Mr Hans Koelle

Allerdale Borough Council have approved the following:-

Ref No: 2/2013/0703 **Proposal:** Demolition of garage and erection of single storey extension
Location: 1 Burnswark Terrace, Solway Street, Silloth **Applicant:** Mr Warick, Cavalcade Developments

Ref No: 2/2013/0746 **Proposal:** Outline application for residential development **Location:** Land to rear of 158 Skinburness Road, Silloth **Applicant:** Messrs Bennet/Hinde/Gill

Ref No: 2/2013/0765 **Proposal:** Proposed detached garage with storage and home office at first floor
Location: 294 Skinburness Road, Silloth **Applicant:** Mr Mike Taylor

Ref No: 2/2013/0742 **Proposal:** The installation of new aluminium shop fronts, the redecoration of the existing door frames and roller shutters, the infilling of an existing delivery access and the installation of a new delivery door **Location:** Co-operative Retail Services Ltd, Caldew Street, Silloth **Applicant:** The Co-operative Group

Allerdale Borough Council have confirmed the following:-

Tree Preservation Order No. 1 2013 – Land at St Andrews United Reformed Church, Solway Street, Silloth.

660 Committee Reports

Minutes of the Allotments Committee held on 9 December 2013 were circulated to the Council. Another meeting is to be held in February.

661 Licences

None

662 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Primary School: School has just gone back after Christmas. There have been some good plays and a carol service.

Joint Advisory Body: Cllr Markley has rejoined the Solway Coast AONB and there have been changes in the line management.

Silloth Tourism Action Group: There is a meeting tonight. STAG are looking to improve the website and will be working with Alan Quayle. There will be a new leaflet for 2014. New Balance will be working with STAG on the beach marathon. Licensee for the Fake Festival in May has had to withdraw and Fake Festivals are now looking for a new licensee and the event may not go ahead. Permission was granted by the Council and will wait to hear from Fake Festivals direct. STAG are looking at holding an extreme sports day similar to It's a Knockout. Firework display will be held in October. The Town Council needs a list of dates from STAG for forthcoming events for 2014.

Sea Dyke Charity: No meeting.

Longcake Education Trust: No meeting.

Solway Community Technology College: Back to school after holidays and progressing with mock exams.

Sports Hall: No meeting.

663 Allerdale & County Council Reports

Allerdale: Cllr. Jefferson contacted Alan Smith regarding the response to the nuclear repository consultation. LEP has agreed that deprived areas that usually get most of the funding are now to be replaced by "assisted" areas. They will be judged on their ability to develop and growth potential. Silloth will be within the assisted area and therefore will be able to obtain funding.

County Council: Jan 1st saw the inaugural swim at the RNLI slipway, with Colin Baty and Colin Smithson going into the sea. The budget is the major concern at the County Council at the moment. During the serious weather some roads were closed but the clean up operation went well. £50k is to be spent on the cobbles, if agreed by the committee. The main areas to get attention will be at junctions where wagons are turning. The Town Council welcome the spend but the Town Council would need to know what is planned. They would not be in favour of replacing the setts with tarmac. Cllr. Markley is now Chairman of IFCA. Secondary schools are all going through OFSTED inspections and are under pressure.

664 Park Manager's Report

Ken gave a detailed report on what grounds maintenance work has been done since the last meeting. General maintenance has been carried out. Various dangerous dead trees have had to be taken out of the Pines and Ashley Sharp has agreed to remove them. Worked on the BMX track and trimming bushes. Container has been obtained to provide welfare facilities for the grounds maintenance staff. Prices have been obtained to move the container ranging from £200 to £350. It was agreed that AW Blakes be asked to move the container. Rhododendrons have not been pruned in front of the Amusement Arcade as the weather has not been suitable and the ground has been too soft. Youngsters have been doing spins on the car park and driving on to the Promenade. Letter to be sent to the Police.

665 Town Clerk's Report

The Clerk provided a detailed report of work done since the last meeting.

666 Toshiba copier

The current rental agreement is coming to an end. The Town Council agreed to purchase the existing machine for a one off payment of £315 and continue with the service agreement at £12.58 per month. This would enable savings to be made over the coming years.

667 Payment of Accounts

The Clerk produced a register report to 13 January 2014 which provided details of cheque payments and other transactions through the Town Council's current account. The list of cheque payments were approved by the Town Council for payment.

668 Budget 2013/14

The Clerk provided an update on the budget for 2013/14 compared with actual spending for the current financial year to date.

669 Budget 2014/15

Draft budget figures had been prepared for consideration by the Council in setting the Precept for 2014/15.

- Renovation of Victorian Shelter at Skinburness – There could be some money left in the HLF pot to cover this. A price to be obtained from a local joiner.
- Repair to roadway in to car park adjacent to Recycling Centre – Price to be obtained from Tolsons.
- Concrete to ground maintenance yard – It was agreed that tarmac would be a cheaper option and would tidy the area up. A soak away would be needed. Price to be obtained from Tolsons. An additional container would replace the existing tin shed. Prices for a container to be obtained from AW Blake. The Chairman, Deputy, Ken and the Clerk to liaise on the matter.
- Supply and fit another security gate to Eden Street play area – This could come out of the existing provision within the budget.

There have been various applications received for funding which need taken into consideration when setting the budget.

- Silloth RUFC – Shelters £3721.60
- Silloth RUFC – Gates & repairs £5874.75
- Silloth RUFC – Rugby equipment, balls etc £3413.30
- Silloth Tennis Club – Balls, trophies & medals £661.93

Consideration also needs to be given to staffing requirements for the coming year, as one member of staff will be retiring in April. The Council could take on a youngster to train up.

It was agreed that a separate meeting is required to consider the Budget which will be held on 27 January. Clerk to check with Allerdale as the Precept form had to be returned to Allerdale by 27 January.

Cllr. Jefferson left the meeting.

670 Applications for events

Silloth Tourism Action Group – The Town Council having previously verbally agreed to STAG organising craft events on the Green, agreed to the following dates – 19-21 April 2014, 3-5 May 2014 and 24-26 May 2014.

Solway Crafters – An application was received for the following dates 18-21 April, 24-26 May and 23-25 August. First two dates are already booked for another craft event. The Solway Crafters would need to contact the Carnival Committee regarding the August dates. The Crafters are welcome to come back with some alternative dates.

671 ROSPA – Post-installation Inspection Report of Silloth Green BMX Track

Inspection of the BMX track went well. Toby Knight from ROSPA was impressed with the track and said it was one of the best he'd seen. Padding is needed for the corner of the shed which is on order. Some trees are quite close to the track but would wait and see what happened. The inspector was impressed with the signage.

RESOLVED THAT in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and that were instructed to withdraw.

672 Parks Supervisor

12 applications have been received for the position of Parks Supervisor. The following Cllrs. were appointed as the interview panel (Cllrs. Markley, Jefferson, I. Baty & Orchard) to consider the applications received, carry out interviews and make a decision on who to appoint to fill the vacancy. The Clerk and Ken to also attend. Interviews to take place on Tuesday 21 January from 5.30pm onwards.

673 Ice Cream Concessions and Putting Green etc

Tenders for Ice Cream Concessions and Putting Green etc to be sent out. Three sites to be offered for the sale of Ice cream i.e. Lifeboat Station, BMX Track (Pines) car park and Skinburness Road car park.

674 Community Hall refurbishment

Various tenders have been received for work to the interior of the building. After some consideration it was agreed that the Clerk contact Mr Hefford and ask if he could supply a further quote to cover all of the work required and bring it back to the Council for further consideration.

675 Signage – Silloth Green

The Town Council considered the tenders received from Fitzpatrick Woolmer, Nature Signs and Border Signs & Design for the provision of signage on the Green which ranged from £12,317 to £18,989.50 + VAT. After some consideration, it was agreed to accept the estimate received from Border Signs and Designs for £13,355 + VAT for the Multiguard Eco.

676 Amounts owing to the Town Council

Awaiting payment from the Sports Clubs (excl Tennis Club) and from Fletchers Amusements.

Signed..... Date.....