

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on 27 January 2014

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

677 **Apologies:-** Cllrs. C. Graham, D. Wallace & A. Weightman.

678 **Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr. Baxter signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

679 **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. Markley – re: Markley Transport, Carrs coaches, County Council etc

Cllr. A. Emmerson – STAG & schools

Cllr. M. Orchard – re: Silloth RUFC

680 **Exclusion of Press & Public**

It was agreed that the public be excluded for the last item on the Agenda if necessary.

681 **Budget 2014/15**

The Clerk had gone through the initial draft budget figures and made various adjustments to try to reduce overheads as far as possible. The revised figures were considered by the Town Council in some detail. The provision of £5000 for refurbishment of the Community Hall was taken out of the budget as it is hoped the skills of the grounds maintenance team could be utilised in the remaining redecoration work over the winter months, once the kitchen and toilets have been refurbished. Savings can be made by altering the settings on the splash pad and restricting the amount of time the water switches on and off when the splash pad is not in use. Also by not switching on until 12.00 instead of 10.00 am. The Town Council considered the current staffing levels, as Joe will be retiring at the end of April. It was agreed to retain the current staffing level with 3 full-time and 1 part-time and look to getting additional work for the grounds maintenance team. It was questioned when the cemetery contract was up for tender. A price of £3900 had been obtained for the repair of the Victorian shelter. Funding may be available through the HLF project once the Signage and Community Graden have been completed. It was agreed that this be retained as a future project and enquiries be made via HLF but no provision be made within this years Town Council budget.

Cllr. Jefferson joined the meeting.

A quote of £3887 has been received for tarmac within the grounds maintenance yard. An additional £2000 to be provided within the budget to enable this to be carried out which would tidy the area up. The Town Council considered the various requests for funding received from the Rugby Club and Tennis Club. There needs to be a more visible presence of the dog warden as dog fouling in the sports areas continues to be a problem. The Town Council have not been able to give to other organisations. Things have been cut for the last few years and have been getting more difficult. It was agreed that the Town Council would not be able to provide any financial assistance.

The Town Council have achieved a lot in the last 12 months with the creation of the BMX track, continued improvements to the Green and refurbishment of the Community Hall. Allerdale have cut the funding received for grounds maintenance by a further £20,000. After some consideration it was agreed that the total funding requirement for 2014/15 would be £124,621 less CTRS Grant of £4728 resulting in a Precept of £119,893. Using the Council Tax base figure of 792.12 provided by Allerdale, this would result in a £151.36 charge on a Band D property for the Town Council's element of the Council Tax Bill. This is an increase of £22.77 p.a. on last years figure.

682 Solway Crafters

Following the Council's decision at the last meeting Cllr. Jefferson had received further emails from Mr Colin Harrow from the Solway Crafters, who were not happy to have not been allowed on the Green on the dates they had requested for 2014. There needs to be an amicable agreement. Cllr. Jefferson had taken the time to get to know the situation and an agreement had been reached to draw a line and the crafters be welcomed back. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Crafters be allowed to attend at Easter (along with STAG) and also the Bank Holiday weekend at the beginning of May. They would however not be able to attend the end of May Bank Holiday weekend, as this is when the Silloth Green event takes place and also the Fake Festival. It was agreed that no charge would be made for events this year. However, in light of the current budget cuts and rises costs etc, it was agreed that there needs to be a proper charging regime put in place for next year. It was also pointed out that there should be no more than 4 or 5 caravans parked around the craft tent, for security purposes.

Signed..... Time.....