

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting of the Business Plan Committee
Held on Monday 15 June 2015 at 7.00pm at Silloth Community Hall

Present

Councillors

G. Wilkinson (GW), D. Graham (DG) & A. Emmerson (AE).
 Cllrs. J. Cook and A.J. Markley also joined the meeting later on.

Also present: Wendy Jameson – Town Clerk (WEJ).

248	Apologies: Cllrs. J. Cook & A.J. Markley	
249	Declarations of Interest None	
250	Exclusion of Press & Public There was no need to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting.	
251	<p>2015 Questionnaire & Business Plan</p> <p>The lack of responses to the questionnaire was a concern, despite it having been included in the Solway Buzz, available from the Post Office and online over an extended period of time. The 2015 questionnaire was produced with a view to formulating a Business Plan which was to set out the aims and objectives of the Town Council for a five year period. The Business Plan was a requirement of the Community Asset Transfer which has since gone through County Council. The Clerk had produced a report which summarised all the responses received which was considered by the committee in detail.</p> <p>Below are some of the key points/themes raised:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication – no real issues. • Town Council activities – mostly positive responses. • Green – There are two common themes – parking and the environment i.e. dog fouling and bins. Flowerbeds stand empty but could be planted with winter pansies. There are a few people who abuse the facilities and park overnight but who polices it? More bins are needed at the Community Garden, particularly near the picnic benches at the Rotary Oak. Access to West Beach is poor and not promoted but it is not a public right of way past the Docks and the land belongs to the Dock authority. • Allotments – Water supply already provided. Allotments holders should do their own composting. There was talk of additional allotments to be provided by the Housing Association. Allotments committee does its best in terms of keeping the plots let. • Town Events - Additional events suggested but would need volunteers to organise them. Moving the market on to the Green was suggested. • Community Hall - Facilities at the Community Hall have been improved which is an important facility for the community but needs promoted and a sign above the door. • Library – Need to promote the opening hours • Christmas Lights – Not allowed to secure Christmas lights to lamp posts and wide streets pose a problem with regards to stringing lights across the streets. Box outside Mrs Wilsons was never fixed. There is a limit to what the Town Council can do in terms of finance. • Litter & Refuse – mostly positive responses. • Town Centre – Granite setts are being repaired and the area opposite the Golf Hotel is to be completely re-laid when the town is quieter. Bike Race will be 	

	<p>coming through the town is September and it may be good to get it repaired before then. Some sort of kerb is needed along the edge of the flowerbeds on the Green. Town Council grounds team to pressure wash the Rotary area and do some weeding, with a contribution to the Town Council by the Rotary Club to cover the work. Flooding at Stanwix corner is still an issue despite all the work that has been done. A review of markets is taking place at the moment and it may be an option to have it re-located.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promenade – request for gym/fitness equipment and additional bins. • Roads and Pavements – are not the responsibility of the Town Council but any problems are reported to Cumbria Highways • Winter Gritting – Council get a supply of grit from the County Council each year. • Public transport – only bus service we lost was the midnight service. • Car Parking – Charging for parking on the street would be prohibitive and detrimental to the town. Caravans parked on the streets are an issue. • Public toilets – Consider charging to use the facilities, with an attendant at the main toilets on Criffel Street and coin operated at other toilets. Could also obtain revenue from advertisements. • Housing – Allerdale Borough Council issue. • Markets – Airfield market now charges an admission fee. It would be a good idea to have the market moved off Criffel Street and sited elsewhere. • Recreation & Leisure – Request for adult fitness equipment. Lack of information on what is going on in the town. • Play Areas – Council does its best to keep areas clean. <p>The document produced by the Clerk was excellent but due to the poor level of responses, the Council are unable to create a Business Plan from the information obtained. Our assumption is that due to the relative small number of responses that the majority of townspeople are happy with what the Council are doing. It was suggested that an abbreviated report be produced to summarise the responses to the questionnaire.</p>	
252	<p>Minutes RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2014 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	

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