

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on 1 July 2013

Present:- Cllrs. A.J. Markley, G. Wilkinson, I. Baty, E. Wannop, S. Graham, C. Graham, C. Baty & W. Jefferson. Also Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk), Ken Wannop, Anna Malina & John Cook.

Cllr. Markley announced the sad death of Cllr. Bill Allison and there was a minutes silence held at the start of the meeting.

484 **Apologies:-** Cllrs. D. Wallace & A. Weightman.

485 **Co-option**

It was agreed to defer consideration of Mr Dunne's application to join the Council, as it was not known how long he had lived in Silloth and therefore whether he qualified. There were two candidates for the vacancy, both of whom were proposed and seconded. A vote was taken – Angus Emmerson (5 votes) and Mark Orchard (3 votes). Angus Emmerson was duly co-opted on to the Council.

486 **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. Markley – re: Markley Transport, Carrs coaches, County Council etc
Cllr. Wannop – re: Ken.
Cllr. C. Graham – STAG, SPAND and Fake Festivals

487 **Exclusion of Press & Public**

It was agreed that the public be excluded for items 28, 29 & 30 on the Agenda.

488 **Chairman's Announcements**

Cllr. Bill Allison died on 5 June. He was a stalwart and did a lot for the Council. A lot of people attended his funeral. Need to consider a suitable memorial which will be discussed at the September meeting. Cllr. Markley attended the Pagoda for photos following the vandalism. He attended the Vintage Rally and presented awards. Also attended the CALC meeting at Embleton where Richard Rhodes was speaking. Cllr Markley helped some naval officers from the sister ship of the HMS Biter to get to Workington and got them breakfast. Jimmy Lettice has been awarded the British Empire medal and Brian Irving awarded an MBE which is good for Silloth. Letters to be sent from the Council to congratulate them both.

489 **Minutes**

After a minor amendment the minutes of the meeting held on the 3 June 2013 were approved by the Town Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

490 **Police Report**

The Police have no evidence with which to prosecute anyone in relation to the damage at the Pagoda. Police report received. Richard Rhodes would be happy to attend a Council meeting.

491 **Heritage lottery funding**

John Cook of STAG attended the meeting regarding funding available from Heritage lottery and Tullie House for a project that brings together the community in an

exhibition that will be held in Tullie House and then brought back to Silloth. It would be up to the community how the project should be put forward which could through digital media. There is £10-11k available for this kind of project. It would go through STAG to involve the community. A lot of information was gathered together as part of the regeneration and is retained in digital format which Chris Graham has. Ideas need put together before being taken back to Tullie house. Involving schools, AONB etc to cover the whole history of Silloth and incorporating the airfield. There was talk of a fisheries display in the hall. This would be a longer term project which will probably take a couple of years to come to fruition. It was advised that contact be made with the Solway Wetlands project as they will be able to provide some good information and would be a good place to start. Holme St Cuthbert history group have a lot of information. John to get back in touch with Tullie House and have a STAG meeting and invite some Cllrs to come along.

492 Adjournment of Meeting

There had been no requests to adjourn the meeting from members of the public.

493 Silloth Green

a) Rhododendrons were in bloom when Tony had his picture taken by the Cumberland News. The report from Muncaster Castle says the bushes can be pruned right back and will grow back again. It was suggested that one side be pruned and the other be left. The preferred option is for the tops to be taken off the holly bushes to take them down to the same height as the rhododendrons. The work could not be done until the end of the year and using a flail and a cherry picker. A chipper would help to utilise the waste and could come out of the HLF budget. It will need to be clarified that the proposed work is agreeable with HLF. Letter to be sent to Muncaster Castle to thank them for their report and ask them if there is any charge and let them know in due course when a decision has been reached as to what to do. HLF also to be contacted.

b) BMX Track – Topographical survey has been done which was far from accurate. Stuart, Ely and Mark Allison have had a look at the site and a plan drawn up. Working within the parameters of the track there should only be one tree to be removed and work should hopefully be done by the end of August. New trees will be planted, with bat boxes and nest boxes put up. There will be an entrance leading off Criffel Street with a couple of picnic benches. The track will be approx 140m long and fits in well with the ROSPA guidance. Southern Green will provide more detailed plans and get costings. Tony and Stuart delegated to move things on

c) Vandalism – Mosquito device could be a possibility but there have been reports of possible damage to hearing. It was agreed to wait until the lock gets fixed which should be a deterrent in itself.

d) Green Flag – Application has been submitted and judges will be coming on 11 July to inspect the Green. Management and maintenance plan is being revised. Various problems/faults have been identified which are being rectified. Major problem is the roses in the rose garden which need to be replaced. To replant them would cost £5k. Jason Dixey is aware of this and the contractors are coming back to them. There needs to be a new guarantee with the roses planted. There has been an issue with a member of FOG giving instructions to grounds maintenance staff and making comments about what staff are doing. FOG are part of the system and the Council appreciate what they have done. Anna to speak to them. There are other problems with graffiti and damage to some seats up the avenue. Ken will attend to

these. Kids from the school will be doing a litter pick and BMX lads are going out to pick weeds. Judges will be meeting with representatives from the Town Council, FOG, volunteers opposite the Golf Hotel at 10.30am on 11 July. Bill, Graham, Anna, Wendy, Ken and representatives of FOG to attend.

494 **Correspondence**

- a) Solway Community Technology College Newsletter No 18 – May 2013.
- b) ACT Gazette – Issue 14: Summer 2013
- c) BDO – Audit Briefing 2013.
- d) Solway Coast AONB - Solway Coaster – Issue 13: Summer 2013.
- e) CALC – re: update from the office for Nuclear Development. Copy of CALC’s response to Government based on their previously agreed position statements.
- f) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Vacancy on the Town Council. There has been no request to hold an election and therefore the Council must co-opt to fill the vacancy.
- g) Cumbria Highways – re: Flooding opposite Beaconsfield Terrace. Team have been made aware of the flooding and are to carry out a repair. The road is to be resurfaced in the late summer.
- h) Cumbria Highways – re: Dropped kerb on Esk Street. Kerbs do require lowering on the junction of Solway Street and hopefully this work could be carried out this financial year. Kerbs at Esk Street and opposite Prospect Place have been marked out to be done.
- i) Cumbria Highways – re: Barracks Bridge. Footpath will be sided out as it is on the list to do on an annual basis. Weed spraying usually takes place towards the end of June .
- j) Cumbria County Council – re: Creation and enforcement of byelaws. Email from Kim Baxter. As this is a District/Borough Council function, rather than a County Council one she will do some research and get back in touch.
- k) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Vacancy on the Town Council. Acknowledgement of notice dated 17 June advising of a vacancy. Will write again after 5 July to confirm whether an election has been called.
- l) CALC – Allerdale District – Meeting will be held on 25 June 2013 at Embleton Village Hall at 7.00pm. Copy of the agenda, together with minutes of the last meeting held in 26 March 2013.
- m) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Caltech Ltd. Email to acknowledge receipt of the letter sent and to confirm that they will be in touch shortly to discuss the matter further.
- n) Solway Community Technology College – re: Pupil reporters. Email from Judith Schafer with regard to pupils coming along to Town Council meetings to report on proceedings. Thanks were given for the opportunity which will be a positive experience for the pupils as well as a useful link between the school and town.
- o) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Allerdale Local Plan (Part 1) – Pre-submission Draft Consultation. Consultation period has been extended to Friday 12 July. Topic papers, which provide background detail and explanation on a number of policy areas have been added to the council website at www.allerdale.gov.uk/localplan. No comments to make.
- p) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Byelaws and enforcement. Letter outlining how the problem of caravans being parked can be dealt with without the need to make byelaws which are costly, time consuming and have to be approved by the Secretary of State. Police are unable to do anything to enforce the byelaws. Letter has been

received back from Kim Baxter and it would appear to be a lot of hassle to put byelaws into place.

q) United Utilities – re: Wastewater treatment works. There is very little that can be done to stop odours as this problem can be intermittent and varies dependant on wind direct. They will continue to investigate and carry out any remedial work if necessary. Town Council are offered a visit to the treatment works and can inspect the site. Any further issues are to be reported as they occur.

r) Cumbria Highways – re: Parking issues in The Crofts. Cumbria County Council do not provide off road parking facilities and advise that discussions continue with Home Housing. Still awaiting confirmation on who owns the land in the middle of the Crofts.

s) Cumbria Highways – re: Speed restriction on Criffel Street. Letter from David Bell. Series of traffic counts are to be undertaken on Criffel Street. One of main concerns in relation to 20mph limit being introduced is the proliferation of signage and it may be more appropriate for discussions to be held with HGV businesses with the intention of introducing an advisory code of practice in relation to driving behaviour. Copies of all surveys will be provided once completed.

t) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Proposed electronic consultation on planning applications. Councils are to be sent electronic disc copies of applications, together with the consultation letter. If response not received within 21 days, Allerdale will assume that the Council are happy to receive electronic copies. Copies of plans will be printed out by the Clerk and circulated to the planning committee along with the disc.

u) Cumbria Highways – re: Speed restriction in Criffel Street. Email from Philip Groom providing reasons why they are unable to implement a 20 mph limit. Letter to be sent to Mr Halpin providing him with copies of replies. Letters also to be sent to Carrs and Harrisons asking them to instruct their drivers to drive with less speed and more care.

v) Email from Eric Telford regarding recent work carried out to the Football pitch which has been damaged due to the grass being cut extremely short. Town Council groundsmen to be notified of the continued need to carry out no cutting or other work on the pitch until further notice. Comments have been noted and no further maintenance will be carried out until informed otherwise.

w) Email from Peter Dowdell regarding the caravans parking on Skinburness, signage and also the problems of speeding on Skinburness Road with the suggestion for a 20mph zone and 30mph signs. 20mph speed limit is not an option. No parking signs are to go up.

x) CALC – re: Footway Lighting. Information required about any lights that have been physically removed from poles following recent ENW refurbishment works which are likely to have taken place between March 2012 and June 2013. Information should relate to lighting which is the Town Council's responsibility. Not relevant to Silloth as there are no lights which are the Council's responsibility.

y) Email from Kevin Penhale of Eden Street strongly objecting to the proposal to re-install seating in the Eden Street bus shelter, after years of suffering from the noise, violence, damage to vehicles caused by youths gathering at the bus shelter. Only one objection received to the proposal of putting a seat back in. The seat is needed by the elderly who are having to stand and wait for buses. A vote was taken on whether to replace the seat. 2 for and 6 against.

z) Letter from Melissa Collins expressing dismay at the obnoxious smell her family

encountered when they visited Silloth on June 5th which was attributed to a factory by the Docks. A copy of the letter has been sent to Environmental Health Department at Allerdale Borough Council.

495 Planning Applications

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

Ref No: 2/2013/0347 **Proposal:** Change of use from commercial to residential for the ground floor **Location:** 4 Esk Street Silloth **Applicant:** Mrs Lorna Jackson

Ref No: 2/2013/0398 **Proposal:** Change of use from veterinary surgery (1 room) of property to domestic dwelling like the rest of property. Block up front door to corner of property so only main entrance on Waver Street **Location:** 25 Waver Street, Silloth **Applicant:** Mr Martin Lord

Allerdale Borough Council have approved the following:-

Ref No: 2/2013/0233 **Proposal:** Erection of proposed 2 No garages **Location:** Rear of Beaconsfield, West Silloth, Cumbria **Applicant:** Mr M Orchard

Ref No: 2/2013/0253 **Proposal:** Replacement of 5 fixed pane windows to ground floor with upvc – resubmission and retrospective **Location:** The Criffel Inn, Criffel Street, Silloth **Applicant:** Mr D. Halpin

496 Committee Reports

Parks Committee – 11 June 2013 – Minutes of the meeting were provided to members of the Council.

497 Licences

None

498 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Primary School: School will finish on 19 July for summer. No report.

Joint Advisory Body: No report. AGM at Beaumont was well attended.

Silloth Tourism Action Group: Pushing things forward. Half marathon is taking place on 18 August. Meeting with lady re: heritage project. Stage on the Green is popular. 5 year plan is being put together.

Sea Dyke Charity: No meeting.

Longcake Education Trust: £700 given to each school.

Solway Community Technology College: Chairman of the Youth Council will be attending Council meetings.

Sports Hall: No meeting.

The Space: Report later.

499 Allerdale & County Council Reports

Allerdale: Nothing to report.

County Council: Broadband is moving forward. Letter of objection needed to County Council.

500 Handyman's Report

Ken has done a detailed report giving details of what gets done, hrs, jobs, holidays etc and will pass it to the Clerk.

501 Town Clerk's Report

Nothing to report.

502 Requests for Financial Assistance

None

503 Payment of Accounts

The Clerk produced a register report to 2 July 2013 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.

504 Application for an event

Fake Festivals contacted Chris Graham about doing a joint event with STAG. Fake Festivals would organise the whole event which would be family driven. Costs in excess of £12k to put an event on. There were concerns about an outside enterprise coming in and putting a festival on the Green. It would be good for the town to have an event but there would be very little financial benefit to the community. They would have to pay to use the Green. Events are being franchised out. Local bands would be encouraged to participate. It will help the Beer Festival to see how an event like this can be organised. Silloth Green Day would be taking place the next day. Fake Festivals are willing to come to a meeting to speak to the Council. The Council would need a lot more information before they can consider it and would need to be very careful. The Council want to see detailed proposals and costings etc and invite them to a meeting if it so wishes.

505 Pruning of gorse/bushes on Skinburness Road

No response has been received from the Skinburness Residents association. It was agreed that something be put in the Solway Buzz asking for comments from residents on Skinburness Road.

506 Eden Street bus shelter

Dealt with earlier in the meeting.

507 Proposed change of Job Description

It was suggested that there was need for a title change from "Town Handy man" to Maintenance supervisor to reflect the work that Ken undertakes on behalf of the Town Council. Ken's actual job title is Parks Manager and therefore no change required.

508 Grounds Maintenance Reports

It was proposed that a monthly report be provided to give a more detailed outline of works undertaken that normally would not be known which would allow the council to view performance of the work force and make improvements where needed. Detailed monthly reports to be provided.

509 Content of Town Clerk reports

It was proposed that the Town Clerk's report to the monthly meeting should include broad areas covered, meetings, admin and any time lost due to leave etc. This would provide a transparent view of the Councils working practices that we as Councillors can explain to members of the public, auditors and any other interested parties. Detailed monthly reports to be provided.

510 Derelict Buildings – Fisons

Concerns have been raised about the potential risk from asbestos in the derelict buildings at the former Fisons site and the Council considered what action to take. Matthew Stafford has been emailed to ask what plans there are for the site and currently waiting to hear from the developer. Allerdale Borough Council is to be contacted about the matter. Also suggested that Andy Hutton at Cumbria Fire Service be contacted as he keeps the vacant properties list.

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.

511 The Space

Funding of £10k from CCC and £5k from the Town Council is currently available for the refurbishment works. There is a further £10k available until September from the Community Fund. They need to form a new committee of the Space to move things forward and apply for funding. Tony and Clive are to be advisors, plus a couple of Cllrs. together with Howard and Angela. Need a charge sheet. Various groups use the building – Woodcarvers, Town Council, Youth club, Anna etc. Bowness have done it. Plans are to refurbish the toilets, entrance and kitchen. Work needs to be done in phases with the Town Council to act as the accountable body. Need to change the membership of the board. Cllrs. S. Graham, I. Baty and D. Wallace to represent the Council.

512 Self Closing gate – Eden Street Play Area

Various prices have been obtained for a self closing gate for the Eden Street play area all of which are around £700. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements and order a gate.

513 Amounts owing to the Town Council

Only amount outstanding is by the Solway Crafters.

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