

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on 2 September 2013

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

514 Apologies:- Cllr. C. Baty & Police.

515 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr. Angus Emmerson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

516 Co-option

There were two candidates for the vacancy, both of whom were proposed and seconded. A vote was taken – Mark Orchard (7 votes) and Geoff Betsworth (2 votes). Mark Orchard was duly co-opted on to the Council.

517 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

Cllr. A.Emmerson – STAG & Schools

518 Exclusion of Press & Public

It was agreed that the public be excluded for items 26, 27 & 28 on the Agenda.

519 Chairman's Announcements

Cllr. Markley gave a report on the various events he had attended over the last 2 months and mentioned the Silloth Civic Service which is to take place on 13 October.

520 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1 July 2013 were approved by the Town Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

521 Police Report

Andy Robertson was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report by email. It was questioned whether the Police ever attend Council meetings but it depends on whether shifts permit.

522 Adjournment of Meeting

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

523 Silloth Green

a) Green policies, roles and responsibilities – It was agreed that it would be useful to include the Town Council's policies, roles and responsibilities etc on the Council website which can then be linked to from the Silloth Green website.

b) Parking/camping on the Green and the provision of signage – The Town Council do not mind parking on the right hand side of the Green when it is done properly but there has been a problem with the parking of campers and vans. Bollards would change the nature of the Green. A letter was received from Irene Wilson of North

House asking for more signage & wooden posts etc. It was agreed that the broken 'No Parking' signs be replaced with an additional one to be sited on the corner, at the junction of the private road. No additional wooden posts to be provided.

c) Use of electricity on the Green – It had previously been agreed that events such as Vintage Rally, Carnival etc and those organised by STAG would not be charged for electricity but that usage needs to be monitored. Ken to keep keys to the electricity boxes, with meter readings taken at the start and end of an event. Policy to be written and brought back to the next meeting.

Cllr. Chris Graham joined the meeting.

d) Rhododendrons – Green Flag judge liked the Rhododendrons and understood the need for protection and supported the proposal of pruning back to the same height. Cllr. Markley has spoken to Jane Alexander at HLF. There is an allocation of funding for the BMX track, community garden & pruning of the rhododendrons. If spent there would be a surplus of £3,000. Needs confirmation from the meeting what the Council wants to do. Work can't be done until the end of the year. It was agreed that it needs to be sensible and sensitive pruning. It was questioned whether the work to the gorse bushes on Skinburness Road could be included in the planned work.

e) BMX Track – Budgets are in place.

f) Silloth Community Garden – A couple of workshops have taken place at the school with a good turn out and a lot of ideas. Moota have come back with a 1st draft of the design incorporating the ideas. Newspaper wants to do an article on it. Moota will do a 2nd design once the feedback comes back in. The design will need to go to Jane to be okayed and then prices obtained for planting and creative work. The school could be involved in the design elements and creation of mosaic etc. The design will incorporate a proper entrance way to the Green which was a suggestion that came from the Green Flag meeting. Anna to come back to the next meeting with bigger designs etc.

524 Green Flag Award 2013/14

Silloth was successful in achieving the Green Flag award and got 80+ out of 100. It is a privilege to have been awarded it. Thanks were given to everyone who attended when the judge came to inspect the Green.

525 Pagoda and Harvest Industrial Estate

David Thompson attended the meeting to discuss the possible options available in relation to security of the Pagoda etc and provide an update on progress in relation to the dilapidated Fisons buildings at Harvest Industrial estate. It was David's view, as Crime Prevention Officer that the Pagoda should be kept locked at night etc and he wouldn't recommend the use of a mosquito device which would need its own power supply. The Council were aware of the potential problems regarding the pagoda and the issues need to be addressed through education. There are concerns about youngsters being at the Harvest Industrial estate and putting themselves at risk David has written to the owners and pointed out their responsibilities in relation to the Occupiers Liability Acts and the need to make the site safe to prevent potential risk but he has not had a reply. David was thanked for his assistance.

526 Correspondence

a) Solway Coast AONB – Solway Coaster - Issue 13 Summer 2013.

- b) CALC – Circular July/August 2013.
- c) Clerks & Councils Direct – July 2013.
- d) Cumbria Police Commissioner Newsletter – July 2013.
- e) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Annual Report.
- f) Rural Services Network – Rural Opportunities Bulletin July 2013.
- g) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Lease- Silloth Green. The Borough Council is required to observe the covenants some of which refer to the sea wall which is not part of the lease. Remainder of the covenants are covered by clauses in the Lease and as long as the Town Council observe the terms of the lease there should be no liability for the Town Council.
- h) Allerdale Borough Council – Environmental Health – re: Derelict buildings at former Fisons, Silloth. Complaints relating to asbestos in factories are passed to Health & Safety Executive and therefore recommend contacting them.
- i) Allerdale Borough Council – Building Control – re: Derelict buildings at former Fisons, Silloth. Dangerous structures legislation deals with the structural stability of the building rather than the material it is constructed of. Because the building is dilapidated the matter has been passed to the Planning Department to see if the site can be tidied up.
- j) Allerdale Borough Council – Planning Department – re: Derelict building at former Fisons. Matter will be investigated and will be kept informed as this progresses.
- k) Allerdale Borough Council – PARCS 2013 – Dates of free sports activities for young people.
- l) Cumbria County Council – Details of urgent road closure on C2015 Blackdyke, Silloth from Wednesday 17 July for a period of up to 5 days.
- m) CALC – re: County Council Scrutiny reviews. Email asking for suggestions from the Council as to what areas of policy or service delivery it should focus on.
- n) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Concurrent Grant Allocation. On 6 March the Council approved a 50% reduction in concurrent grant for 2013/14 with the remaining grant removed in 2014/15.
- o) Allerdale Borough Council – 10p Swim scheme for children 16 and under - 20 July to 4 September.
- p) CALC – re: Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust – Information about the grants scheme.
- q) Allerdale Borough Council – planning department – re: Former Fisons. Land owner has been contacted to ask that improvements be carried out to the external appearance of the building and seeking his intentions regarding this. They have the option to pursue enforcement action under section 215 of the Town & Country Planning Act.
- r) Allerdale Borough Council – Copy of pro forma for the road closure in respect of Silloth carnival to be held on 26 August 2013.
- s) Email from Victor Barnes regarding the problem of stones getting onto the road at the market entrance and potentially causing an accident. Cumbria Highways have been contacted.
- t) Email from Joanne O'Donnell asking if the Council have agreed to allowing vehicles to park on the Green when there are ample car parks.
- u) Caritas Care Ltd – Information about 'Bridging the Gap' project which provides free support to people with hearing loss.
- v) Email from David Thompson re: Derelict buildings at former Fisons. Mr Harker is in the process of removing his assets from the site and has every good intention

to have scrap metal removed from the site. David will contact the present owners of the site.

- w) Department for Communities and Local Government - re: Post Office Community Enterprise Fund – Information about the fund.
- x) Cumbria Trading Standards Electric Blanket Safety Tests – Various dates from 16 September including Wigton Methodist Church Hall on Thursday 3 October.
- y) Rural Services Network – Information about the Rural Fair Share Petition which can be seen at www.rsnonline.org.uk/parliamentary/rural-fair-share-petition
- z) Allerdale Team – Information regarding neighbourhood forums and dates of future meetings
 - aa) Allerdale Team – North West Allerdale Neighbourhood Forum – next meeting is on Thursday 5 September 7-9.00pm at The Lindow Hall, Bowness-on-Solway.
 - bb) Cumbria County Council – re: Changes to bus services from 2 September in relation to service 60 between Workington & Silloth.
 - cc) Letter from Geoff Betsworth putting his name forward for the vacancy for a Town Councillor.
 - dd) Letters in relation to the clearing of shrubs/bushes on Skinburness Road
 - i) Skinburness Residents Association
 - ii) Kath Ostell, 44 Skinburness Road
 - iii) David Austin, 74 Skinburness Road
 - iv) Barbara Donald, 90 Skinburness Road
 - v) Malcolm Copley, 34 Skinburness Road
 - vi) John Haywood, Skinburness Road
 - vii) Lesley Wannop & Paul Gilfillan, 100 Skinburness Road
 - viii) Mrs Margaret Hobson, Longhouse, Skinburness
 - ix) Mr & Mrs Brooks, 3 Grune Point Close

There have been mixed responses to the article in the Buzz. The gorse bushes etc were going to be pruned a couple of years ago but some residents were against anything being done. The view is that the gorse needs to be maintained and cut back to a degree. It will need a contractor to come in and cut them back to a lower level with a flailing machine and done every three years to maintain them..

- ee) Cumbria County Council – re: Chairman’s Appeal – 100 Defibrilators in 100 days. Information about the appeal and asking for support. Silloth has 12 defibrilators in the town already as we have the First Responders. Silloth is also a Heart Town and is leading the way in Cumbria. The Town Council are not able to help financially but can advice on how it came about here. Defibrilators are also located in the school and Golf Club.
- ff) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Mr Harrow complaint – It is recommended that the Town Council undertake training to all members on the matter of registering and declaring interests. Noted.
- gg) Email from Sindy Phillips asking to speak at a Council meeting about the Carwath Wind Turbines at Rosley which will be visible from Silloth. Cumbria is getting an unfair ration of turbines and there are a lot of applications coming through. Reply to say the Council support their opposition to the application and are aware of the issues and therefore no need to attend a Council meeting. Letter of opposition also to be sent.
- hh) Email from Philip Jones regarding the sharing of information between Councils in relation to planning applications for wind turbines. See gg) above.
- ii) CALC – re: Connecting Cumbria coverage information and community build schemes. Including a registration of interest form. Silloth should have 75%

superfast and 25% basic coverage. Cllr. Markley is on the Connecting Cumbria committee. Cllr. Jefferson is also on the committee. Scheme is currently being rolled out.

- jj) Community Payback – Information about the scheme and how it operates. Ken has done this voluntarily for years but there have been problems in the past with people not turning up. Cllr. C. Graham to get in touch and explain previous problems.
- kk) Email from Jimmy Lettice asking for permission to transfer the lease of the rugby club premises to Silloth Rugby Football Club Limited or a new lease. Need to look at how it can be done. The club building is on Town Council land but the pitch is on County Council land. Clerk to report back to a future meeting and identify what is required.
- ll) Email from Clerk to Boltons Parish Council re: High Pow Wind Farm giving details of their objection to the application and offering someone from their Parish to attend a meeting. See gg) above.

527 Planning Applications

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

Ref No: 2/2013/0416 **Proposal:** Single storey front bathroom extension **Location:** 134 Skinburness Road, Silloth **Applicant:** Ms Tracy Patterson

The **Town Council** refused the following:-

Ref No: 2/2013/0522 **Proposal:** Erection of two gaia 133 11kW turbines on 18m hub and 25m tip height **Location:** Balladoyle Farm, Silloth **Applicant:** Mr RG Whitfield

Allerdale Borough Council have approved the following:-

Ref No: 2/2013/0347 **Proposal:** Change of use from commercial to residential for 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 to form one single dwelling **Location:** 25 Waver Street, Silloth **Applicant:** Mr Martin

Ref No: 2/2013/0416 **Proposal:** Single storey front bathroom extension **Location:** 134 Skinburness Road, Silloth **Applicant:** Ms Tracy Patterson

528 Committee Reports

None

529 Licences

None

530 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Primary School: Schools are back on Thursday.

Joint Advisory Body: Tony was welcomed on to the AONB. Allerdale continue to question their status as accountable body.

Silloth Tourism Action Group: There has been a lot of activity this year and great inroads into getting other groups to work with STAG. The question has arisen as to whether STAG should be a limited company to protect the committee. All events are insured so there shouldn't be any need. The first ½ marathon took place this year but the proper paperwork was not filled in. There were 80 runners this year and looking to have 300-500 next year. There was good feedback following the event. Coastal

Community Funding is a potential source of funding. STAG are trying to push forward and make the town vibrant. John Cook spoke to the Mayor of Allerdale following the public conveniences being closed on Carnival Day as there were problems with the sewerage system. Allerdale were to consult to Council when drawing up the specification of work to be done. A structural survey was carried out as part of the Green project and needs to be taken into consideration. Parks Committee to consider it. STAG are trying to extend what is being done on the Green and involving local businesses and get them on board. Tullie House project is continuing and being pushed forward. Looking at a 1940's weekend next year as part of the theme. The good weather has helped.

Sea Dyke Charity: No meeting.

Longcake Education Trust: No meeting.

Solway Community Technology College: Back on Thursday.

Sports Hall: No meeting.

The Space: New Chairman and committee in place. Agenda item later.

531 Allerdale & County Council Reports

Allerdale: Nothing to report.

County Council: Broadband covered earlier. Neighbourhood Forum meeting is on Thursday at Bowness on Solway at 7.00pm. 0-19 funding is issued by Cllrs. DEFRA are wanting fishermen to stop shrimping in areas where there is rock, to preserve the habitat. A meeting took place with Silloth fisherman and they have negotiated and agreed on where the fisherman will not go. It was questioned who is responsible for the construction of the new cycle route between Allonby & Maryport and why Silloth has not been included. County Council are constructing the route with external funding. An application was put in for funding to do the stretch to Silloth which was unsuccessful but they will be pushing to get Silloth included.

532 Park Manager's Report

Ken gave a detailed report on what grounds maintenance work is regularly done and what has been done since the last meeting.

533 Town Clerk's Report

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

534 Requests for Financial Assistance

None

535 Payment of Accounts

The Clerk produced a register report to 2 September 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.

536 Application for an event

Lee from Fake Festivals has been in touch with the Clerk but phone. Information he sent by post had not arrived and he was to send it by email, however this has not yet been received. It was agreed that he be invited to the October meeting but that the necessary information had to be provided prior to the meeting so that Councillors can consider it beforehand.

537 Pruning of gorse/bushes on Skinburness Road

Various letters have been received from residents on Skinburness Road and it has been agreed that the gorse/bushes be pruned although the letters also raise other issues i.e. dogs and use of bushes as toilets etc.

538 Path from the Crofts to Silloth

A request has been received to improve the path between the Crofts and Silloth which runs through the sports area, by reducing the gradient and the introduction of a concrete ramp to make it easier to negotiate. This is not an official footpath and should not have been allowed and therefore no improvement work will be undertaken. There is a proper footpath which runs behind the Links Close and past the industrial units. Cllr. Weightman raised a concern about cyclists using this path and the potential for an accident. Ken to look into putting posts back in which had previously been removed.

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.

539 Lease between Silloth Town Council and Silloth Community Space Ltd

There is a new committee in place to move things forward and apply for funding to enable work to be done to improve the building. A cost of £2000 had been quoted by a solicitor to draw up a lease which it was felt to be too expensive. The Clerk had obtained a model lease which has been amended to suit what has already been agreed. The Town Council agreed to the signing of a lease between the Town Council and the Silloth Community Space Ltd for the Community Hall building, to enable progress to be made in the refurbishment of the building.

540 Review of Wages/Salaries

Following receipt of the 2013/14 Pay scales which are applicable from 1 April 2013, it was agreed that an increase of 1% be given to Town Council staff.

541 Amounts owing to the Town Council

Only amount outstanding is by the Solway Crafters.

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