

Minutes of a meeting of Silloth Town Council
Held on 20 December 2011

Present:- Cllrs. I. Baty, A.J. Markley, G. Wilkinson, C. Graham, S. Graham, E. Wannop & R.W. Allison. Also Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk).

941 Apologies Cllrs. C. Baty, D. Wallace & A. Weightman. Also Ian Payne.

942 Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Wannop - re: Ken.

Cllr. Markley - County Council, Allerdale Borough Council & Markley transport.

943 Exclusion of Press & Public

None.

944 Grounds Maintenance & Lease - The Green

Allerdale are trying to make savings. The Town Council were offered £6754 to take over the maintenance of the public toilets but this was not enough. Currently receive approx. £45k for maintenance of the Green. Income from Raynors rent and ice cream concessions of approx £6000 would come to the Town Council. It was questioned whether the Town Council would have to tender again for the grounds maintenance of the Green. Need to know what our costs are for running our maintenance crew. The possibility of redundancy was questioned. Questioned whether the Council needs to look at the school contract as a service to the community. Running at a loss but it is not worth losing the £6k p.a. More time is spent doing the work than we are paid for. There is a meeting in January with the school.

The responsibilities of the Parks Warden were questioned, as to whether this would include cleaning of the toilets. Salary will be paid for by the lottery. In August 2010, Ian Payne put forward a draft management arrangement for the running of the toilets. Town Council were to receive all the income, with Allerdale Borough Council responsible for the maintenance and consumables etc. The agreement was to be reviewed after 3 years. Need as much funds coming in to ensure the Council can cover its overheads. Bills have already come in for Council tax of over £2000 and water rates of over £600. Need income coming in to cover the cost of taking over the toilets. Need a meeting with Ian Payne. Allerdale have not contributed to the Green project financially in any way and now expect the Town Council to cut costs. It was questioned what money has been put into Silloth over the last 50 years. The cemetery situation was never properly sorted out. Damage to memorial seats - problem arose because the plan states that the seats be removed. All the seats were to be removed and replaced with new ones. Memorial seats should have been stored and any in a poor condition, the plaques should have been retained and put on to a new seat. Clerk to deal with the letter from the Rotary Club because technically the Council cannot discuss the matter again. A plan is now in existence of the location of all seats with plaques on.

A copy of the lease is needed for all Councillors. Questioned what the NNDR expense is in relation to the public toilets. Special meeting to be held on 9

January.

945 Budget 2012/13

At last Town Council meeting it was stated that there was to be no increase to the Precept. However by including £10k for play equipment, £5k for The Space and a potential reduction of £6k grounds maintenance from the school contract and other inflationary increases etc, this results in an increase of £30k in the precept.

It was also questionable whether the Town Council would be able to get any Concurrent grant now, as the criteria appears to have changed. Only expenditure on land owned by Allerdale Borough Council is now allowable. Clerk to obtain clarification on the matter. Water rates on the Changing Rooms needs to be challenged and look to saving some money.

Also need to be careful where the Council is giving money out to.

Work done to Skinburness Road has improved the area but it was questioned whether the gorse can be topped, to cut it down. Find out whether this is possible and speak to Mr Holliday to obtain a price.

It is no longer necessary to get a sewer put in to the front street to discharge water, as permission has been granted to discharge it into the sea. It would have cost in the region of £55k to run a sewer from the kids water play area to the main sewer.

The location of a new skate/bike park was discussed. Need an area the size of a tennis court. The North View car park may be a possibility. Needs to be addressed before the contractors leave the site. The Green project is under budget and it may be possible to incorporate it into the HLF bid. Another suggestion was opposite Good Companions near the grounds maintenance depot. Could be included in the remedial works carried out to the area before the contractors leave.

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