

**Silloth-on-Solway Town Council**  
**Minutes of a meeting held on 21 October 2013**

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

**568** **Apologies:-** None.

**569** **Declaration of Interest**

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

Cllr. C. Graham – STAG and Fake Festivals

Cllr. A. Emmerson – STAG

Cllr. M. Orchard – Silloth RUFC

Cllr. I. Baty – re: Item 5

**570** **Exclusion of Press and Public**

It was agreed that the public be excluded for item 11 on the Agenda.

**571** **Sports Clubs**

**Football Club** – Stephen Hart gave a report on the Football Club. Club is still surviving. The last summer and winter was wetter than normal and the pitch was cutting up badly. ISS came down and verti-drained the pitch, aerated and rolled it. Also advised that the pitch should be aerated, seeded, fertilised and weed killer applied at the end of the season. It has cost the club quite a lot of money. Railings and posts have been painted and also bought mobile goal posts. The club is hoping to have two junior teams in the league next year. Coaching is in place but need support from parents. Pitch maybe needs to be cut less short. Grassy bank opposite Police Station needs tidied up. Existing lease has now expired but if there was a lease in place it would help the club access funding. To erect a fence to protect the play area would cost approx £20k.

**Rugby Club** – Jimmy Lettice gave a report. The Club is struggling along. They provide free junior training weekly. There is a considerable squad of players with a lot of success.

**Tennis** – David Wise gave a report. Memberships are down. Club was club marked this last year which will enable the club to access funding. Courts are still in good condition despite it being 3 years since the work was done. Need to look at a sinking fund to look at where money will come from for fencing and resurfacing in the future. Club has no club house. Silloth Open event was very popular with 110 entrants from all over the country. It was a busy week and brought trade into the town. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest tournament in the County but need more helpers. Three players are playing for the County. Fitness tennis sessions are taking place at the Sports hall.

**Gym** – Colin Baty reported that this has been one of the best years ever, with memberships up. Now doing three classes a week when there was only one.

There are 40 regular players at the rugby at the moment but they don't have the facilities to keep up with the capabilities of the players. The sports clubs are interested in what each club is doing. There needs to be a combined effort between the clubs and the Town Council, with an amalgamation of all the clubs working together.

**572** **Leases**

If leases were in place then clubs could access funding as an affiliated association.

The clubs need to keep their own individual identity but work together as a joint sports association. A lot of clubs get funding through sponsorship. Football club lease needs looked at and brought back to a future meeting. Lease also needed for the Gym. Tennis club are willing to work with a joint association but LTA are only keen on funding tennis. It was agreed that there needs to be a consolidated sports association and that the clubs get together and come back to the Town Council with their proposals. Tennis club don't have any facilities which could be incorporated into the plans. It would also help the

Town Council if there was one association into which they could channel funding. There are various pots of money available that an associated club may be able to access. Rugby club lease needs to reflect the name change and registered with Land Registry.

**573 Football Coaching**

Colin Baty has been asked to do some coaching and would like to use the grassy area over where the old hard courts were, from 6.30pm on a Thursday evening. It was questioned whether the ground would be suitable as it is uneven. All the clubs have their own public liability insurance. Football club have equipment stored in the changing rooms which needs to be kept secure. It can be seen there are some tension between the clubs which needs to be ironed out before the Council can be further involved. Colin is happy with the land to be used and would not require use of the football changing rooms. He is a qualified coach and will seek clarification with regard to insurance should an injury occur and Health and Safety. There needs to be a common plan to get facilities up to standard. If Colin was able to work under the football club the insurance would be covered.

**574 Requests for Financial Assistance**

Three applications have been received from the Rugby club and one from the Tennis Club. The applications will assist the Council to assessing what the funding requirements are for the coming year when the budget is agreed for 2014/15.

More signs are needed at the children's play area stating that 'No Dogs allowed' and also at the entrances to the sports area – Dogs to be kept on leads and no dog fouling. Matter needs to be reported to the dog warden at Allerdale. A couple of bins near the bridge are required. The community needs to Police it and report any incidents. Ken to be asked if there are any spare bins which can be located at the sports area.

**575 Complaints, problems and issues**

Roots are starting to lift the tarmac next to the children's play area near the Bowling club. Weeds behind the football changing rooms need tidied up. Trees/bushes need cut back and maintained next to the bridge to clear the view of the bridge and prevent potential accidents. Dog fouling is an ongoing problem and additional bins are required in the central area. Also need speed signage to slow motorists down or sleeping policeman. Sports association to bring back their views in relation to speed hump and Council to have signage installed.

**576 Rent**

Rents have remained the same for the last 7 years. Payment has not yet been received from the Football Club for last year although the cheque has been signed. Future bills to be sent to Carol Carr. It was agreed not to increase the rents again this year. Football Club £339, Rugby Club £411, Tennis Club £200 and Gym £1030.

**577 Application for an event**

An application has been received to hold Ragnarock motorbike rally which will take place on the ground behind the fitness centre. There have no problems in previous years and sports clubs are happy with it and therefore permission granted.

*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.*

**578 Fake Festivals**

A presentation was given at the last Council meeting on a Fake Festival event being staged on the Green but a decision was not made at the time. STAG and Friends of the Green are in support of it. It had been suggested that the marquee could be left up an additional day which could be used at the Silloth Green Day. There have been complaints from residents on Lawn Terrace about the potential noise. A similar event was held at Maryport a couple of years ago and it caused a lot of problems as it attracted a

younger audience. Fake Festivals is a family event. The licence holder would take the event forward and would be taking on any financial risk. This would be a new event by a new organisation although very like the Silloth Beer and Music Festival. Cllr. Jefferson will be speaking with Cumbria Tourism this week and will find out if there have been any similar events held elsewhere and what reports there have been. A vote was taken on the Council agreeing in principle to a Fake Festival event taking place subject to the following:- Agreement from STAG and Friends of The Green, rent to be charged for the use of the Green, marquee to be left up for the extra day, no responsibility on the Town Council and no detrimental report from Cumbria Tourism. Vote – 3 against, 5 for and 2 abstentions.

**579 MRWS Consultation**

A meeting has taken place with representatives from Cumbria Trust and the Town Council. A motion will be brought to the next Town Council meeting in response to the MRWS consultation. It was suggested that a public meeting be held to let the public know the Town Council’s decision has been. The consultation is about the mechanism that is being put in place. The County Council and town/parish councils are being cut out and only including the Borough/District Council. Cllr. Jefferson is willing to work with Cllr. Markley to formulate a response to the consultation. It needs to be democratic and include all tiers of local government and no exclude the County Council and Towns/Parishes. The Town Council’s response can be included in the Solway Buzz. Silloth Town Council does not want a Geological Disposal Facility at Silloth.

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