

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on 4 February 2013

- Present:-** Cllrs. I. Baty, A.J. Markley, G. Wilkinson, C. Baty, E. Wannop, C. Graham, M. Snaith, A. Weightman, D. Wallace & W. Jefferson. Also Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk) & Ken Wannop.
- 288** **Apologies:-** Cllrs. S. Graham & R.W. Allison. Apologies also received from the Police.
- 289** **Declarations of Interest**
Cllrs. A.J. Markley, E. Wannop & C. Graham (re: STAG and SPAND).
- 290** **Exclusion of Press & Public**
It was agreed that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the last item on the Agenda.
- 291** **Chairman's Announcements**
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The nuclear dump issue has been sorted out despite the Council being misaligned. Congratulations were given to SPAND for their magnificent campaign. The Chairman asked that all mobile phones be switched off during the meeting. He also notified the Council of his intention to stand down as Mayor in May.
- 292** **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2013 were approved by the Town Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 293** **Police Report**
A Police report was sent by email and copies given to the Council.
- 294** **Adjournment of Meeting**
There had been no requests to adjourn the meeting from members of the public.
- 295** **Correspondence**
- a) Clerks & Councils Direct - January 2013.
 - b) Heritage Lottery Fund - Heritage focus - Issue 7 Winter 2012.
 - c) Allerdale Borough Council - Letter from C.H. Dyke. Local Government funding allocations were announced on 19 December and Allerdale have seen a reduction in formula grant from Government for 2013-14 of 3.4%. Allerdale's budget proposals for 2013/14 will be considered by full council on 6 March. Allerdale will write shortly after the 2013/14 budget has been approved to confirm the funding arrangements.
 - d) Connecting Cumbria - Contract has been signed between County Council and BT to deliver super fast broadband. Unable to confirm what level of service will be available in this area. Strategic Roll-out will be considered by CCC Cabinet in January and detailed roll-out plans will start to emerge. Delivery will commence in Spring and will take approx 2 years to complete.
 - e) Allerdale Borough Council - re: Proposed Northern Allerdale Nuclear Repository. Acknowledgement of correspondence expressing views about the

MRWS process and Allerdale's role and decision about future participation.

f) West Cumbria MRWS Partnership - Allerdale, Copeland and County Council are due to make their formal decision about whether to participate in the next stage of the process on 30 January. The decision that each council will be taking is whether the areas covered by Allerdale and/or Copeland will take part in the Government's search for somewhere to put a repository for the UK's higher activity radioactive waste. Information about the decisions that are taken will be made available via a number of channels.

g) Cumbria Highways - Request for one way system on Esk St has been stored on the Community Travel Plan which is basically a wish list of schemes. The one way system will require a TRO and the next time a TRO is carried out in the area it will be included for consideration although cannot provide a date when this will be carried out.

h) Allerdale Borough Council - re: The Green, Silloth. Letter from Paul Shackley to inform the Council of Allerdale's proposed contribution to the costs of maintaining the Green in line with the lease. Allerdale to continue to provide cleaning service of toilets, provide asset management service and a payment of £20,000. It was proposed that Cllrs. Jefferson and Snaith speak with Paul Shackley to see if there is any flexibility in this figure. There was also to be a condition survey carried out of the Criffel Street toilets. The Council are not happy with the proposed contribution. There needs to be more discussions to look at it as it will have implications with regard to staffing etc. It was questioned whether other Councils are facing the same cuts although Silloth does a lot more than other Councils.

i) Letter from Cllr. Wilkinson re: SPAND banners around Rotary Oak tree on the Green and at the Community Hall which should be removed. The Council have requested both Allerdale and County Council to withdraw from the talks. Council also refused a request for a banner on the Green. These were exceptional circumstances. There were concerns about the reference to Councillors on the banners and in future the Council do not want banners across the Green. Banners however go up for other things i.e. Beer & Music Festival etc. Shortly after the Council refused permission for the SPAND banner a sheet was put up for a birthday and nothing done to remove it.

j) Silloth Tourism Action Group - Letter from STAG giving the groups opinion, feelings and response to the proposed nuclear dump. Most people are aware of the history of Silloth. STAG were set up by the Council and were set up to access funding which the Council could not get. STAG were an arms length organisation set up and funded in the past by the Council. STAG try to work closely with the Council and are grateful for grants received. Last year STAG were successful in getting funds from other sources and did not require the grant from the Council for which they applied. There has been a lot of gossip around the town and as this is a small community it is essential that groups work in harmony. STAG are happy to take any comments from the Council.

k) Email from Mr Don Graham questioning a decision made by the Town Council on 1 September 2008 regarding the MRWS. Mr Graham read out the letter in the meeting. The Town Council supported the County Council's expression of interest. There was no mention at the time that the repository could possibly be sited on the Solway Plain. The expression was to find out what was going on and it was without commitment. Waste has to be dealt with

and the Council were not under the impression it would be in Allerdale but in Copeland. The consultation process started in 2007 and it is easy looking back from 2013 to 2008. All parishes and town councils etc were consulted. It was not a call for communities to take part in the location of a repository. Silloth and North Allerdale were never mentioned until last year. A motion was put forward in September by the Town Council to unanimously refuse the proposal and withdraw the expression of interest. Cllr. Markley has been in a difficult position of not being able to discuss the matter publicly, to preserve his vote. In 2008, these were simply White Papers seeking a way ahead. A letter has been sent by Copeland to go forward to stage 4. There is a clear mandate that they have support for their stance. CCC - to decide not to participate through to stage 4 and instead encourage the Government to make the necessary funding available for decommissioning. If CCC pull out it stops and MRWS stops. A solution needs to be found and deep disposal is not the right way. Cllr. C. Graham was concerned that when faced with something like this again, the Council needs to be vigilant and watch for any other developments in the future. CCC only agreed to go forward because Copeland had expressed an interest. The reasoning for Allerdale to go forward was because there was a view that low risk waste could be sited at Keekle Head. CCC opinion was that waste should not come off site. There are fears around. It was suggested that the National Park be taken out of the equation but 70% of Copeland is in the National Park. Even though the Council have voted against the dump, the Council needs to re-iterate the decision made in September. It was suggested that the Council write to Allerdale to reinforce the Council's previous decision. Storage is not the proposal. Council are happy that the letter is withdrawn and the discussion has taken place. The Council will not drop their guard and agree to work together and move forward.

296 Planning Applications

Notification that an appeal has been made against Allerdale's decision to refuse planning permission for the following development:-

Ref No: 2/2012/0707 **Proposal:** Erection of fence - retrospective **Location:** Seafield House, 7 Pine Terrace, Silloth **Applicant:** Mrs Tracey Galloway-Smith

297 Committee Reports

None.

298 Licences

None.

299 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Primary School There will be a governors meeting next week.

Joint Advisory Body Relations between AONB and Allerdale are good and Brian has got a pay rise.

Silloth Tourism Action Group AGM is on 18 February. Agenda item to be put forward for STAG to talk to the Town Council on future plans.

Sea Dyke Charity No meeting.

Longcake Education Trust Meeting next week.

Solway Community Technology College Half term next week. 20-30 kids are away on a Skiing trip.

Sports Hall No meeting.

The Space - Silloth Community Hall No report.

300 **Allerdale & County Council Reports**

Allerdale - There is confusion on how Allerdale can go ahead with Copeland in talks for a nuclear repository when there is no process in place. Allerdale executive have not consulted the Councillors and therefore not representing the views of the population. Cllr. Snaith would like to know what action can be taken to stop them making this decision. Allerdale are not representing the people on this matter. Talks can still be going on to see what can be done but the executive needs to consult with members. There is a rumour about Allerdale merging with Copeland and have one Chief Executive although this has not been verified and again would have to come to members before a decision can be made.

County Council - Highways are re-structuring and consultation paper is going through the Cabinet. 97% of the area will be on super fast broadband. Not issued post codes yet but things are moving forward. Putting budgets together and need to save £20-30m. Neighbourhood Forum meeting in February which is the last one of this financial year. Iggisund - biomass plant coming online soon. Surplus hot air could heat parts of Workington. Cllr. Markley will be in London next week on a Cumbria day on a tourism theme. He will have a half hour Q&A session with David Cameron. Maryport and Allonby footpath is moving forward with one last piece of land to be acquired. A bid was out in for funding for Allonby to Silloth but was not successful. Coast road at Beckfoot is open. There is a rumour about Allerdale and Copeland sharing a chief executive. It was questioned if need to go to a judicial review. Nirex report will take years to come about and will need support from Cllrs. Sharing a Chief executive is just a cost saving measure not a merging of authorities. Allerdale and Copeland don't have the money to go forward and be a unitary authority. CCC would need to be at the discussion if that were to happen.

301 **Handyman's Report**

Work has now been done to replace the fence across the bridge to West Silloth which has cost approx £650. Extra strainers had to be put in which has cost extra. There has been a complaint about the walkway up to the platform at the Dock entrance which is particularly slippery. To cover the walkway with netting would cost approx. £180 which would solve the problem. It was agreed that Ken attend to this. Ken hoped the Council manage to secure more funding from Allerdale for the grounds maintenance and thanked the Council and SPAND for putting a stop to the potential nuclear dump. His family have been in Silloth since the 1830's and plan to be here for a long time to come.

302 **Town Clerk's Report**

Nothing to report.

303 **Requests for Financial Assistance**

The Council considered requests from Citizens Advice Allerdale and Mencap It was agreed that a donation of £50 be given to each organisation.

304 **Payment of Accounts**

The Clerk produced a register report to 4 February 2013 which provided details of

cheque payments and other transactions through the Town Council's current account. The VAT refund of £145,051.30 has been received which has helped the bank balances. The list of cheque payments were approved by the Town Council for payment.

305 Budget 2013/14

The Clerk had drafted some budget figures for 2013/14 which were considered at the last Council meeting. These figures were amended to take into account Allerdale's proposed contribution towards the grounds maintenance of the Green of £20K and their agreement to continue maintaining the public conveniences. The Council do not want the people of Silloth paying for things twice. The allotment holders have not been able to work their allotments due to the flooding but bills have not been sent out for this years rent. The Town Council used £40k from reserves last year, to support its budget requirements which can't be done this year. It was agreed that the provision towards the outstanding bills for the Tourist Information Centre be reduced by £6k and a request be made to Allerdale for this to be paid over a period of 4 years. Cllr. Jefferson to contact Paul Shackley to request an increase in the contribution from Allerdale of another £10k towards maintaining the Green. There will be a possible retirement in 2014 from grounds maintenance staff which will reduce salaries.

306 Ice cream and/or food concessions on the Green

Tenders are due to be sent out for this years ice cream and/or food concessions and it was questioned whether the Council wished to provide any additional sites. It was agreed that pitches be located at the Lifeboat Station, North View car park and an additional one on the Skinburness Road car park, opposite the Lido entrance. Tenders to be sent out. In the past it has been left to the event organisers to sort out their own traders. Vintage Rally etc deal with their own but there has been conflict in the past. The Beer festival etc are costly and the income they receive from ice cream/food traders helps to finance the events.

307 Dog Fouling

Item not discussed as Cllr. Graham was not present.

308 Damage to break waters

Item not discussed as Cllr. Graham was not present.

309 A Right of Reply

Cllr. Wilkinson withdrew his item on the Agenda.

310 The Space

New plans are being drawn up and getting a rough idea on pricing. Grants are available and the toilets need sorted out as a priority. Clive to organise another meeting soon.

311 The Green Project - Update

Meeting of the Parks Committee next week. Anna and Jason will be coming to the meeting. A snagging list has been put together which is to be taken up with the contractors. Parks committee to report back to the Council.

312 Amounts owing to the Town Council

The only amount outstanding is the amount owed by the Solway Crafters.

Signed.....

Date.....