

Minutes of a meeting of Silloth Town Council
Held on 5 December 2011

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

901 Apologies Cllrs. D. Wallace & A. Weightman. Also PC Andy Robertson & PCSO Hubert Wiosenski.

902 Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Wannop - re: Ken.

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

903 Exclusion of Press & Public

It was agreed that the last two items be discussed without the Press and Public present.

904 Chairman's Announcements

None.

905 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 7 & 15 November 2011 were approved by the Town Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

906 Police Report

No report.

907 Flood Lighting - Eden Street, Silloth

Jimmy Lettice representing the Rugby Club and Colin Baty representing the Football Club attended the meeting, to discuss proposals for new lighting with the Town Council. The initial proposal was to completely replace the floodlights but this proved to be rather costly. The new proposal is for portable lights which will cost £5339.99 (inc VAT) and can be used by both the Rugby and Football Clubs. Funding of £1500 has been obtained from the RFU and £2000 from Cumbria County Council. There had been some discussion on whether the purchase should be done thro the Town Council to enable the vat to be reclaimed. The Rugby club are vat registered. It was agreed that the Town Council would cover the shortfall. Rugby club to reclaim the VAT which would then be repaid to the Town Council. Clerk to liase with Jimmy regarding the purchase. Flood light that fell down needs to be checked by an electrician as it appears to be still connected. Clerk to contact Steven Henderson again.

908 Adjournment of Meeting

There had been no requests to speak from members of the Public.

909 The Space - Silloth Community Hall

Anne Sowerby (CMS Support co-operative enterprises) attended the meeting to provide an update on where things are with regard to funding etc and advise on the best way to move forward. Sandy, Mike and Clive from The Space also attended the meeting. Silloth Community Space was set up in February. The building is getting tired and needs a facelift. At a Town Council meeting last year it was agreed to look for some funding. £5000 has been received from the Community Fund - Allerdale and there is an allocation of £9800 from Awards for All. Initially the Space was looking for £60k but this was changed due to the decrease in funding available. There have been 3 officers dealing with the application at Cumbria Waste Management and this needs chased up on. Cheques will come to the Town Council as the Town Council are the accountable body and can reclaim any VAT. The Space will simply run classes, with the Town Council owning the building. It will encourage local people to use the building and encourage enterprise and craftsmanship. Various classes are running now which includes watercolour, Tia Chi, Xmas events etc. Classes will be advertised in The Buzz. The Space want to simply use the space and are not wanting to take over the responsibility of the building. Also looking at other funding from Cumbria Regeneration Fund. If they get the funding from Awards for All, The Space will be able to put in a bid of £10-£15k match fund. There will be funding of £40k+ which will save the ratepayers of Silloth. The Space is a working title to encourage people to come in. Applying for funding is a long process. The Town Council are behind the proposals. There had been concerns that if funding fell short of what was required that the Town Council would fall liable. Northern Rock may be able to help with revenue costs. The Space desperately need help and ideas and want a representative of the Town Council at their board meeting. They were advised to try British Energy Coast and Cumbria Regeneration. The exterior of the building will be getting done soon, before any work is done to the interior.

910 **Correspondence**

- A) Cumbria County Council - Cumbria Rider Winter 2011/12.
- B) Cumbria County Council - re: North Allerdale Traffic Regulation Order Review. 6 wk consultation period ended on 12 September and responses collated. Copy of 1 legal notice of County Council's intention to make the TRO.
- C) Cumbria Rural Housing Trust - Information about the Trust and offer to attend a meeting if the Council would like to discuss further.
- D) Queen Elizabeth Fields Challenge - Information about the challenge.
- E) Crutes Solicitors - re: Lease of The Green, Silloth. Letter asking for clarification and also a copy of the previous lease which is to be surrendered to the Landlord.
- F) Cumbria in Bloom - Letter asking if Silloth would like to enter Cumbria in Bloom.
- G) Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust - Cumbria Memorials Weekend 25th- 27th November 2011.
- H) House of Commons - re: Proposed Closure of the Cumbria Fire Service Emergency '999' Fire Control Room. Letter from Tony Cunningham to say that he has written to Ms Jill Stannard, Cumbria County Council passing on the concerns raised.
- I) Solway Coast AONB - Letter regarding work to overgrown area on Skinburness Road and advising on what action to take. It was agreed that the work be done by the Town Council rather than going through the AONB. Pines and gorse to be left and

clear out shrubs etc. Letter to be sent to the residents to assure them that work is to be done.

J) Rotary Club of Silloth-on-Solway - Letter from Chris Puxley regarding the proposal to have a freestanding "Church Tower Beacon" to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Rotary Club have applied to have a beacon at Silloth. Only 2012 being sited around the country. The beacon will be lit around 10pm, with some sort of entertainment prior to the lighting. The Town Council agreed to the proposal.

K) CALC - ½ Day conference re: Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste in West Cumbria - 7 January 2012 at Hunday Manor Hotel, Winscales, nr Workington.

L) Environment Agency - Proposals to form a new internal drainage board in North Cumbria. Consultation runs from 7 November to 19 December 2011. There are two meetings coming up. Pumping stations will be switched off. The IDP is when the community get together and look after the pumps, so the area is now flooded. Brian Irving from AONB is also looking at it. There is a drop in session at Wheyrigg on 12 December. It was agreed to invite Roger to a Council meeting, to give a 5 min presentation to explain how the proposals will be implemented.

M) Email from Kath Ostell asking for an update regarding work to the overgrown area on Skinburness Road. Discussed earlier. Everything is going ahead and will be done shortly as soon as there is some decent weather. Shrubs to be removed, leaving the Pines and Gorse. Waste will be chipped and a digger will come to clear the area.

N) Letter from residents of Skinburness Road regarding the overgrown area on Skinburness Road. Reply to be sent.

O) Email from Ian Payne re: Silloth Green and Grounds Maintenance Issues. Email was a reassurance that Allerdale will not be interfering with how things are run. Need a meeting to discuss toilets and taking them over in April. It was suggested that Parks Committee meet with Ian Payne.

911 Planning Applications

a) **Allerdale Borough Council** have approved the following:-

Ref No: 2/2011/0588 **Proposal:** Erection of dwelling house **Location:** Annandale, Blitterlees, Silloth **Applicant:** Mr J Graham Walton

912 Committee Reports

Minutes of the Parks Committee on 30 November 2011 and the Play Equipment Committee on 27 November 2011, were circulated to members of the Council. Paths have been put down on the Green but not happy with the finish which is not robust enough for what it is meant for. Comments have been taken on board and Jason is looking at it. AONB have recommended a firm. Jason has obtained prices for a bitumen base and resin finish on the top. The fencing was taken down at the area on the corner which gave people an opportunity to see what the finish was like. The area on the corner will become the town garden. HLF will be picking up the extra costs. It was suggested that lottery look at the suggestion from AONB. Need to check the cost and if it meets the approval for protective landscapes. The removal of memorial benches was discussed. It was a genuine error by contractors who were simply going off plans. It was in black and white that the benches were to be removed. Memorial benches should have been stored and not destroyed. A list is required of all the

memorial benches and who owns them. Things have settled down with regard to the putting green. The area will be contoured and will be undulating to create the putting green. Bill will have a chat with Ken regarding re-using the railings from the Paddling Pool.

913 Licences

None.

914 Reports from Representatives

Primary School The school is busy with Christmas parties. Cllr. Markley met the in two concerts next week. The school is doing well.

Joint Advisory Committee Annual Conference took place which was a joint effort with the Solway Coast Partnership. Well over 100 people attended at The Wave centre. Will do it again in 2 years. There was good co-operation and plans laid. Want more helpful journalism.

Silloth Tourist Action Group No meeting since the last Town Council meeting.

Silloth Regeneration Partnership No meeting. A meeting will be sorted but by this Christmas.

Sea Dyke Charity No meeting.

Longcake Education Trust No meeting.

Solway Community Technology College Prize Day last week. On Saturday night kids will be cooking dinner for the Rotary. Over 100 people will be attending. Last week prepared a three course air-line meal. Announced that awarded the funding for a complete new central heating system which will cost well over £300K.

Sports Hall No report.

Silloth Community Hall - The Space Cllr. Chris Graham volunteered as Town Council representative, as she will be there as STAG representative.

915 Allerdale & County Council Reports

Allerdale Borough Council - Tightening up on finance but seem to be getting carried away. No let up re: Central Government - haven't got the same choices and therefore have to make cuts. Executive are really scrutinising everything to make cuts where possible. It may be an opportunity for local councils to take on additional responsibilities. It may affect the AONB Discovery Centre but it will not be a problem.

Cumbria County Council - County Council saved £44m and have another £19m to save. Carlisle relief road is not yet finished as it is not up to standard. Official date of opening is 6 April 2012. Strict instructions not to accept it unless it is right. Winter maintenance - plenty of grit. LEP - local growth fund - £4.2m for local businesses. Inshore Fisheries Protection - trying to buy a new boat. FLAG - secured £1.2m from European funding to help fishing in the county. Consultation going ahead re: care homes.

916 Handyman's Report

Carried out some machine maintenance. Roofing materials arrived for the bus shelter which will be getting done shortly.

917 Town Clerk's Report

A meeting has been requested by Solway Community Technology College to review the grounds maintenance on Tuesday 3 January 2012. Cllrs. Markley, I. Baty, Ken ` and Wendy to attend.

918 Requests for Financial Assistance

No requests to be considered.

919 Payment of Accounts

The Clerk produced a register report 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.

920 Applications for events

An application for various dates has been received from Mr Malcolm Moore re: Solway Crafters. The date in June clashes with plans already proposed by STAG. To be discussed later. Charges also to be discussed later.

921 Bike/Skate Park

A proposal was put forward for a bike/skate park at the old tennis courts at the old marshalling yard. There is not a lot for kids to do around Silloth and they want a skateboard/BMX park. Cllr. S. Graham has looked at various sites and has spoken to the football and rugby club. The all weather area / old tennis courts has been suggested as a possible site. The tennis courts were removed because youngsters were gathering there and caused problems for residents. The school also uses the area for bike training. The area below the bridge was also suggested but this area is not lit and would be too far away. The BMX jumps come ready made. Need to know a bit more about them. It was agreed that residents of Bridge View need to be asked what their feelings are about it. The area is there as an amenity for sport. Letters to be sent to point out that the Council are looking at it. Various sources of funding can be tapped into but need to know that it will go ahead. The Town Council are behind it and the kids are wanting to set up a group. Funding is available for 0-19 yr olds. Extreme jumps can cost up to £60K but could produce their own jumps. Bootle have just opened a site. If site doesn't become available, kids to come back to the Town Council with their proposals.

922 Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2011

The Town Council considered the issues arising following the audit of the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2011. The Asset Register needs to include the date each asset is acquired, purchase cost and location held. The comparative figure for the year ended 31 March 2010 was restated as Fixed Assets are now listed at purchase cost (i.e. without any depreciation taken off). Fidelity Guarantee cover was insufficient but on advice obtained from the auditor this has now been increased to an adequate level.

923 2012/13 Budget

The Town Council need to raise a Precept to obtain funding. £50k to be put in for lottery which has been spread over 2 years. Need to know what Allerdale are proposing to do re:

grounds maintenance. Need to manipulate the figures, so that there is no increase to this years precept. Need to scrutinise all applications for funding and be lean. £5k for The Space and £2k for the Youth Club received from CCC and in Town Council's funds. £10k needed for play equipment. It was agreed that the Precept should be left as last year.

924 Application for events

It was agreed to defer the matter until the dates are known for forthcoming events and leave it until the January meeting. It was questioned whether details of the insurance cover submitted by Mr Moore was sufficient. Town Council need to agree on how much to charge. Item to be included on the January agenda.

925 The Green Project - Part-time Parks Warden and Community Engagement Officer

Advertisements, person specifications and pay grades for these posts are currently being compiled. Date for interviews and interview panel to be agreed. Person specification etc to be obtained from the Clerk. Advertising before Christmas not a good time. Suggested 2nd week in January when people are back into work. Community Engagement Officer was to start in January but now to be in post by February. Parks Warden to start in April. Cllr. Graham has spoken with Allerdale regarding level of salaries. Community Engagement officer will liase between the community etc, engage with stakeholders, schools/colleges and encourage other events. They will promote Silloth. Money has been put in the HLF bid to cover staff costs for the first 3 years. Need to be aware that if the Town Council want to continue after 3 years then they will need to cover the costs. Interview panel to be picked in January. Need Town Council members on the panel. HLF will be sending a scoring matrix. Interviews to be held at the end of January. Advertise 2nd week in January and Community Engagement Officer to be in post by beginning of February.

926 Estimates - Community Hall

Estimates have been received from four firms for the work to the exterior of the building, ranging from £2,676 to £11,085. After some consideration, it was agreed that the estimate received from GMB Developments for £6,861 plus VAT be accepted. Letter to be send to GMB Developments informing them of the decision.

927 Amounts owing to the Town Council

Nothing of any concern.

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