

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on 3 February 2014

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

683 Apologies:- Cllrs. C. Baty, C. Graham & I. Baty.

684 Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Markley – re: Markley Transport, Carrs Coaches, County Council etc.
Cllr. A. Emmerson – STAG & schools.

685 Exclusion of Press & Public

It was agreed that the public be excluded for items 23 onwards on the Agenda.

686 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman attended the High Sheriff's luncheon at Windermere and Silloth Charter night. Interviews have taken place for new grounds maintenance man and Aaron ward has been appointed. Cllr. Markley had attended various visits in relation to flooding. Dubmill was open from 5.00pm tonight. There has been a lot of damage along the coast. A lady had phoned Cllr. Markley about dog fouling on the football pitch on Skinburness Road following a child's clothes and boots being wasted as a result. A further letter to be sent to Allerdale to report the problem.

Cllr. Orchard joined the meeting.

A letter has been received from Silloth Rotary asking for permission to put ducting across the oak tree to provide a power supply for lighting. The work needs to be done before work is started on the Community Garden in March. It was agreed that permission be granted but it would need to be done to safety standards. Also require clarification on how long the tree will be lit up due to cost of electricity. An anonymous notice has been put up around the town headed up 'NO FAITH IN ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL' which was brought to the attention of the Council.

687 Minutes

After a minor amendment the minutes of the meetings held on the 13 January and 27 January 2014 were approved by the Town Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

688 Police Report

A report was received by email and noted.

689 Adjournment of Meeting

There had been no prior requests from members of the public to speak at the meeting.

690 Silloth Green

Training – Anna asked for names of anyone wishing to take part in the First Aid and Risk Assessment courses. Clerk to check what grounds maintenance staff need.

Volunteer hours – When putting together volunteer timesheets with Owen Martin for HLF, it has come to light that he has done 290 hours of volunteering in 2013. Anna suggested that a certificate could be provided to volunteers, in recognition of their work on the Green. There needs to be some sort of criteria in place. There are a lot of volunteers involved in a lot of different things, whose time is not being acknowledged. It was agreed that Anna come back to the next meeting with suggestions.

Signage – Border Signs were awarded with the contract to provide the signage. Anna has been liaising with Alistair Harkness and the designer regarding the interpretation boards. The boards will incorporate a graphic map of the Green with points of interest and features, with Heritage aspects described at the side with a photo. Anna will work with Border Signs, approve the designs with Jane and then bring

them back to the Council. Cllr. Jefferson suggested that Anna speak to Brian Irving as he has experience of what to include on signage etc.

Funding application - Anna has been assisting STAG with an application for funding to HLF re: Silloth over the war years. The Cumberland News have done an article about it and Chris Puxley has offered his help. Information has been coming in from all over.

691 Correspondence

- a) Clerks & Councils Direct – January 2014.
- b) Dunlop Playground Services – Playground Inspection reports for 2013.
- c) Email from Angela Ellwood thanking the Council for cutting the bushes near the Lighthouse. The bushes should recover in the Spring and has improved the views.
- d) Neighbourhood Care Independence Programme – Information about the programme and how communities can get involved etc.
- e) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Green toilets. Email from David Bryden. Decoration will take place after refurbishment works from next years repair budget. Repairs to drainage will be undertaken as part of refurbishment works. Cubicles will be altered prior to refurbishment. Roof works will be carried out to ensure no further water ingress occurs.
- f) Email from PCSO Peter Nichol who has now taken over as the PCSO for Silloth from Lyndsay Tuck and will do the monthly report.
- g) Cumbria Association of Local Councils – Information about possible ‘capping’ of precepts. Announcement by the Secretary of State will not be made until 17 February. Details of the options for parish councils.
- h) Solway Tourism Development Event – 12 March 2014 12-15pm-3.00pm at Culterham Village Hall, Mawbray. Information passed to STAG and Friends of the Green.
- i) Solway Coast AONB and the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership invitation to a joint one day International Symposium to celebrate World Wetlands Day on Friday 31 January at Samuel Lindow Foundation Building (UCLAN) Westlakes Campus, Whitehaven from 10.00am-4.00pm.
- j) Email from Dr Rick Wylie (UCLAN) asking for details of visitor numbers to Silloth and invitation to World Wetlands Day event.
- k) Big Allerdale Switch – Information about the collective energy switching scheme. Closing date for registration is 17 February 2014.
- l) Solway Coast AONB – Events guide for Feb/March 2014.
- m) Email from Mrs Therese Mellish in relation to the planning application for a single 282 foot turbine at Kelsick House Farm, Abbeytown. The application is outside our area and has been refused at Allerdale. Minutes of Town Council meetings are available on the Town Council website. Reply to be sent.
- n) United Utilities Drought Plan consultation. Closing date for responses 17 February 2014. Document can be viewed at <http://corporate.unitedutilities.com/documents/draft-drought-plan-2014.pdf> (194 pages). This is more relevant to West Cumberland than here. No comments to be sent.
- o) Email from Clerk at Crosscanonby PC asking for support in efforts to persuade Allerdale Borough Council, Cumbria County Council and Solway Coast AONB to further prevent erosion along the coastline. Due to the adverse weather considerable damage has been done to the coastline. The road between Silloth and Maryport needs to be protected and kept open, as it is an essential lifeline. Letters to be sent to Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria County Council.
- p) Email from Mr Kevan Fogg in relation to his son and wife who need to find an alternative place to live due to their rented house being sold and asking if the Council can influence the situation. The Clerk has received a subsequent email to say the family now have another house to move to.
- q) Cumbria Association of Local Councils - details about the planning training. The workshop is suitable for parishes inside and outside of the National Park and will be held on Thursday 15 May, 1.30pm-5pm, Penrith Fire and Rescue Headquarters. Only one person per parish can register. No-one wished to attend the workshop.

692 Planning Applications

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

Ref No: 2/2014/0014 **Applicant:** Mr Stephen Gray **Proposal:** To provide 1st floor office/store above garage **Location:** Norsands, East Cote, Skinburness Road, Silloth

Allerdale Borough Council have refused the following:-

Ref No: 2/2013/0778 **Applicant:** Mrs Tracey Galloway-Smith **Proposal:** Erection of fence – retrospective **Location:** Seafield House, 7 Pine Terrace, Silloth

693 **Committee Reports**

Meeting of Play Equipment Committee to be held on Sat 8 February at 10.00am and Allotment Committee meeting to be held on Monday 17 February 2014.

694 **Licences**

None

695 **Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Primary School: Nothing to report.

Joint Advisory Body: Solway Coast AONB have been awarded the National AONB conference which is to be held in July. It will be held at Newton Rigg to get other AONB's and the National Park etc to attend. The Government minister will be there. JAC have delivered excellent financial resources and provided value for money.

Silloth Tourism Action Group: No report.

Sea Dyke Charity: Tenants of the farm have been given 12 months notice of the end of the contract. There have been a lot of issues.

Longcake Education Trust: Meeting on 13 February.

Solway Community Technology College: Mock exams have just been done and now working towards GCSE's. Year 10 parents evening has just taken place. Solway Coast college in New Zealand are coming to the school in October and want to visit the Town Council, AONB etc.

Sports Hall: No meeting.

696 **Allerdale & County Council Reports**

Allerdale: Cllr. Jefferson gave a verbal report.

County Council: Wigton swimming pool re-opened today after 5 months. A private consortium is to run the pool. The Fire Brigade is looking for volunteers to speak to the community. Assisted area status for business – Silloth was never within the boundaries but they have changed and Silloth is now included which should encourage inward investment. Budget proposals are going to cabinet next week. There is a 2 year roll out for broadband and another £10m to be put into it. There have been a lot of floods in the county but our area has been lucky. Included in the 2014/15 programme:- Footway reconstruction at Fell Close, Causewayhead East is to be resurfaced and £50k set aside for work on the setts.

697 **Park Manager's Report**

No report.

698 **Town Clerk's Report**

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

699 **Payment of Accounts**

The Clerk produced a register report to 3 February 2014 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.

700 **Application for financial assistance**

Citizens Advice Allerdale – It was agreed that no funding would be provided this year due to the current budget constraints.

701 Applications for events

Silloth Music & Beer Festival – The date for the Music and Beer Festival was agreed by the Council which is to take place on 4-7 September 2014.

A Treasure Island theatrical event is listed in the Solway Buzz on 15 August but the Town Council have not been informed about it.

702 Committees

Additional Cllrs. were appointed on to the various committees to bring them up to full quota:-

Play Equipment Committee – Cllrs. A. Emmerson & S. Graham.

Allotment Committee – Cllr. D. Wallace

Planning Commttee – Cllr. M. Orchard

Parks Committee – Cllr. J. Baxter

703 New Street

The Town Council considered what action could be taken regarding the condition of the entrance road to New Street, next to the former Police Station. No-one will do any repairs as it does not belong to anyone and is unadopted. The Town Council put some road planings down a few years ago. The manhole cover belongs to United Utilities which was reduced in height a few years ago. If the residents got together as a community venture, the Council maybe able to work with them but the Council don't have the finance available to do any work. Under S57 of the Highways Act if the roadway is dangerous then the Highways can do the work if the residents won't. Concerns have also been raised about the lane between Esk Street and Caldew Street which seems to be subsiding. The Clerk has already reported the matter to the Highways but will follow it up again.

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.

704 Purchase of container

Prices have been obtained for the purchase of a container for the grounds maintenance yard. Ken has been to see some at AW Blakes at Southwaite. 27ft 10-15 year old containers start at £2100. For an additional £200, a brand new 20ft container can be obtained. Included in the cost is paint and a new lock. It was agreed that a new 20 ft container be purchased which would replace the old tin shed and provide valuable secure storage.

705 Removal of Asbestos

A price of £974 has been obtained from West Coast Thermal Ltd for the dismantling and removal of asbestos at the allotments. This was accepted by the Council.

706 Community Hall refurbishment

Cllr. Weightman reported that Mr Hefford would not be submitting a price to cover all the work required to the Community Hall. The Town Council considered the two quotations received which ranged from £8984 + VAT to £11,848 +VAT and it was agreed to accept the quote from Ray Holyoak for £8984 + VAT.

707 Amounts owing to the Town Council

Awaiting payment from the Sports Clubs (excl Tennis Club) and from Fletchers Amusements.

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