

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting
Held on 29 May 2014 in the Community Hall, Silloth

Present:- Cllrs. A.J. Markley, S. Graham, G. Wilkinson, C. Graham & M. Orchard.
Also Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

822 Apologies:- Cllrs. D. Wallace & J. Baxter. Also Margaret Wright.

823 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28 May 2013 were approved by the Town Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

824 Annual Town Report

Cllr. Markley welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Clerk for the detailed Town Report which is well put together, informative and an interesting read.

825 Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2014

The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014 were agreed. The Clerk was willing to answer any questions.

826 Matters of Interest

Members of the public had an opportunity to raise any matters of interest which were considered and discussed.

The hedge alongside the path to Barracks Bridge and the market badly needs cut and is dangerous for pedestrians. There are also weeds along the edge of the path and gutters at Barracks Bridge which need sprayed. Letter to be sent to the Cumbria Highways.

It was questioned whether there are specified times for music to play on Sundays on the Green. The 'Gigs' will normally be from 10.00am to 4.30/5.00pm. Youngsters often park up and play their own music but if causing a nuisance then it would be a Police matter. Gigs will cover a wide range of music.

It was questioned why West Beach is blocked for access and if the Council can do anything about it. The land belongs to Associated British Ports and is still accessible to pedestrians. Cars can get to the first car park. ABP are willing to keep it open.

It was questioned if the Tourist Information Centre has closed but members of the Council don't know otherwise. AONB building houses a number of services i.e. library, local links, AONB etc. The schools, Community Hall, Fire service and AONB are all in the vicinity of each other.

Deckchairs – It was put out to local businesses to operate the facilities i.e. putting green and deckchairs but not being utilised at the moment. It was questioned whether putters could be given out at one of the shops but there would be an issue with the facilities not being manned. The Council may need to consider using it for something else. Insurance is a necessary requirement but restricts who can run the facilities.

It was questioned what is happening regarding the Chemist. There is an online consultation where the public can report how it is operating. They don't hold the necessary stock of medicines they require which results in having to wait days for prescriptions. A pharmacy in Silloth is a necessity especially when there are four old folks homes in the town. The service is not up to standard. Rural areas are often covered by mobile services but Silloth is not rural. We need to keep the businesses/facilities we have.

The Fire Station is safe as it is not a manned station but they have a problem in recruiting people. Retained firemen have to meet the national standards of physical fitness etc which restricts the number of potential candidates. RNLI have a similar problem in getting crew members.

It was suggested that the Green be made an area where dogs are kept on a lead. Most people pick up after their dogs but there are some that don't. An area has to be enclosed for them to enforce a dog control order. The Council may need to look at enforcement and take action itself. The problem is the owners and not the dogs that are at fault. Allerdale wanted to put a stencil on the footpaths to warn dog owners of the penalties but they would have spoiled the look of the place.

The Town Council were cutting the grass in the housing estates under contract with Allerdale Borough Council. The contract ended and we are no longer responsible for certain areas. The grass is not getting cut as regularly and is making the town look a mess.

The Rotary Club have asked if the Town Council's staff would be willing to weed and pressure wash the paving under the Rotary oak, with a donation from the Rotarians to cover the cost.

Rose Garden - There is still a problem with the rose garden which was included on the snagging list but never done. The contractors were going to replace the soil and the dead roses. The Town Council may need to look at what can be done to improve the rose garden.

It was questioned what decision had been reached in relation to the 28ft slide which Mr Blake wanted to put outside the Amusement arcade. It would need to go through planning but nothing is going to happen this year. The Town Council had agreed to his proposal.

Cemetery - There are a lot of pot holes and headstones that have fallen over. The contract for the cemetery is up for tender again in 2 years and the Town Council may consider taking it over. The pot holes were meant to be repaired. Headstones are the responsibility of the family to have put right.

Rhododendrons were to be done last year but it rained too much that the ground was too soft for machinery to gain access. Pruning can only be done at certain times of the year. The work is planned to be done towards the end of this year. A lot of it is not just Rhododendrons but also Holly bushes etc. Representatives from Muncaster Castle came to have a look and advised on the options available. Skinburness Road is looking good after the work done to cut back the gorse bushes.

Signed.....

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