

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 28 May 2012

Present:- Cllrs. A.J. Markley, G. Wilkinson, S. Graham, C. Graham, E. Wannop & W. Jefferson.
Also present Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:-** Cllrs. I. Baty, C. Baty, R.W. Allison & D. Wallace.

Cllr. Markley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Minutes**

Minutes of the Annual town meeting held on 28 May 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record. It was questioned why it had taken so long to repair the roof of the bus shelter. It was also questioned whether a new notice board could be obtained for Criffel Street. A new one is being made by the wood carvers.

3. **Annual Town Report**

The Town Report was given out and a report from STAG also handed out.
No good having the street cleaner come round on a Sunday and Bank Holiday due to cars being parked. A request could be sent to ask if they can change the rota but the Town Council can't control what Allerdale does.

4. **Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2012**

Grants are down due to HLF funding received. The Changing rooms had problems with burst pipes etc which had to be fixed accounts for the increase in expenditure. Community Hall is being refurbished, with the outside being made watertight first. A new office has been created within the hall. Two new posts have been created – a Community Engagement Officer and a Parks Warden which are funded through HLF. Annual Town Report should come out prior to the meeting but need reports in from Cllrs. to produce the report. Needs brought up at a Town Council meeting. Maintenance of sports areas is higher this year due to refurbishment done to the tennis courts on Skinburness Road. The Town Council are investing in the town and things are getting done. Budget – precept figure is not included under income. Vehicle and transport costs – includes the refurbishment of the gang mowers costing over £3000. It was questioned what the breakdown of administration is. Creditors have increased. Income from Green activities includes money for ice cream concessions but cancelled out by expenditure for public conveniences. Play areas - £10k included in the budget for Eden Street but will assess what is needed. Some equipment needs to be replaced. The Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2012 were agreed.

5. **Other Matters**

- It was mentioned that the Town Report needs to be distributed earlier. Chris is now the STAG representative but she was not the representative last year. Want to see a more composite report of what has gone on over the year.
- Allerdale Borough Council are having to make cuts of 28.5% over 4 years. Cumbria County Council are facing the same problem - £43m cuts last year and over £20m this year.
- The Water Splash on the Green is not working properly and need more bins but things will be sorted out. Everyone is out because the weather is good but need more people in Silloth.
- There has been an issue with the toilets not being open. Locks will be changed to radar locks. Silloth is lucky to have the toilets we have, as it is not a legal requirement to provide them. Allerdale were going to close one lot of toilets but the Council have managed to retain them all. Tourist Information Centre is also not a statutory requirement but we have managed to keep ours here. Cemetery has been an ongoing problem and it took months to get a water butt. Dog fouling is still a problem on the Green. Litter – there needs to be more education in schools and people to take action when people are seen dropping litter. Needs brought back to the Town Council regarding the Town Report. Public conveniences are essential when we get numbers of

visitors. The Edwardian toilets were initially going to be for men and women but due to the loss of funding an extension could not be added to the building. Radar key is meant to ensure that toilets for disabled are in a clean and tidy condition and therefore not for general use of the public. Town Council are now in charge of closing the toilets but it needs discussed regarding times etc.

- The view across to Scotland from Petteril Street is good, now that the bushes have been removed. Old signs are to be replaced with traditional finger post signs. The sign belongs to the Highways and will need to be readable by motorists.
- Parking on the Green has become a problem and needs discussed at a Town Council meeting. There is plenty of parking on the streets and car parks but still park on the Green.
- Bus shelter on Eden Street – says Eden Street west bound but is actually east bound.
- It was questioned if audit report can be included with the Town Report.
- It was asked if the Council could ask ABP to allow pedestrians access to the beach. Matter is in hand and written to them.
- Concerns were raised that the bus stop opposite Petteril Terrace is a potential accident spot. Pensioners requested a bus stop there. Police, Highways and Council looked at it and because it was requested and deemed safe, it was agreed. Cllr. Wilkinson met with David Bell from CCC, bus company, transport office and police and all agreed that it was safe. David Bell has promised a site meeting with people concerned about it. If anyone is concerned, then write in to the Town Council. Everything was done too quickly and local residents not consulted.
- Weeds around the town – Cumbria Highways are responsible for controlling the weeds. Weeds on roads and gutters are a problem. Weeds along the footpath to Barracks Bridge also a problem – letter to be sent to Cumbria Highways.
- Memorial seats – Olga Wood bought a seat for a former Mayor of the town. Memorial seats are in storage for safe keeping. The Council wants information on who owns the seats and people to get in touch with Chris Graham, to discuss what can be done with the seats. People want to remember loved ones but it puts the town in a difficult position. New seats have been put on the Green and it needs looked at to see what to do with the memorial seats. Seats could be replaced or put back. Plaques have been kept from the seats and will be put on a new seat if appropriate. The Council are relying on the public getting in touch. Details were put in the Buzz asking them to get in touch but there were only two responses. The 41 club had a seat on Lawn Terrace. The two seats that were destroyed was a mistake. Agenda item for the next Town Council meeting.
- Rugby Club – plans for a new training facility with a bar and changing rooms etc. Some were concerned that it will affect the Sports Hall. Plans are in their infancy. Funding is available for the development. The proposed sports centre will replace the existing facility at the rugby club and should not affect the sports hall. The sports clubs will be working with the school through Jennifer Rowlands.
- General discussion at the town meeting is valuable. Would like to see an election for Cllrs but only 9 people stood and therefore remainder had to be co-opted.
- It would be good to have the report prior to the town meeting which would encourage people to attend. Cllr. Jefferson offered to write up a statement summarising the activities for the previous year and plans for the future. It would also be good to have a report from all the clubs, sports groups etc.
- The Council were complimented on the Green project and the stage at which it has got to.
- The Space needs to be progressed.

Signed.....

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