

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on 7 October 2013

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

542 Apologies:- Cllr. C. Baty, A. Weightman, E. Wannop & PC Andy Robertson.

Cllr Markley welcomed Cllrs. Emmerson and Orchard on to the Town Council.

543 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr. Mark Orchard signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

544 Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Markley – re: Markley Transport, Carrs coaches, County Council etc

Cllr. C. Graham – STAG, SPAND and Fake Festivals

Cllr. A.Emmerson – STAG & Schools

Cllr. M. Orchard – Silloth RUFC

Cllr. D. Wallace – Silloth Football club

545 Exclusion of Press & Public

It was agreed that the public be excluded for items 25 & 10 bb) on the Agenda.

546 Chairman's Announcements

Cllr. Markley gave a report on the various events he had attended over the last month and mentioned the Silloth Civic Service which is to take place on 13 October. He has also been invited to the re-dedication ceremony of HMS Biter in Manchester and is happy to attend.

547 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2 September 2013 were approved by the Town Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

548 Police Report

Andy Robertson sent his apologies and provided a report by email. Lack of attendance at Council meetings is a concern.

549 Fake Festivals

Lee from Fake Festivals attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of staging a Fake Festival on Silloth Green. Fake Festivals began in Yorkshire and have been in operation for 8 years, staging approximately 30 festivals a year from Tynemouth to Bristol. The Festival is aimed at families and runs all day, incorporating local bands. They work within the necessary requirements of Councils. Festivals are licensed out and someone is interested in holding one in Silloth. Financial risk is taken by the licence holder. An event would not be affected by the weather as it is held in a large marquee which is fenced off. The tribute bands used are the best in the country with Queen, U2 and Greenday being the groups chosen by the licence holder. There will be a security team in place, litter collected, no drinks brought in or taken out of the venue site. Concessions can be sourced locally, with the event advertised and marketed locally. Tickets would be £15 for an adult for the full day and would anticipate approx 1000 people to attend the festival in the first year. The suggested date for the festival would be 24 May. Marquee could be left up on the Sunday which could then be used for the Green Day event. It was agreed that a further meeting would be held before the end of the month, to give the Council the opportunity to discuss the matter fully. Lee was thanked for attending the meeting.

550 Silloth Green

Community Garden – Feedback has gone back to Moota. Jane has agreed to Moota's continued involvement as long as price comes in under £10k which will ensure continuity. Moota have been asked to come back with a 2nd design, with detail of the paths and give costings for the hard landscaping. Barriers may be needed whilst the work goes on over the winter, with a view to planting in the Spring. Plants are to be low maintenance. HLF have agreed that a creative person is needed to help design the mosaic which is to be incorporated into the design. Clive Firth is making two benches with motifs carved into them which are heritage related, one of which could be dedicated to Bill Allison. A funding application is to be submitted to the Hellrigg fund for £3k - £1k for a sensory chair and £2k for sensory equipment. Funding may be available through the 0-19 fund and neighbourhood forum. Garden will be ready in the Spring, with the formal opening on Silloth Green Day.

BMX Track – Contractors will be on site in 2 weeks. The design has gone through ROSPA who are happy. Pat O'Mally's are coming on 21 October to do the work and there will be a 3 week construction time.

Signage – Looking to be done by Spring 2014 which has been agreed with Jane. Anna has made enquiries with three different companies. Fitzpatrick Woolmer can provide design and hardware but will need text and logos. Interpretation needs more input. A guy from Border signs is willing to come and see what is needed. It was agreed that a couple of Cllrs attend the meeting and provide their input. No figures have come back from Brocksopp as yet.

551 Memorial for Bill Allison

Cllr Weightman has spoken to Wendy (Bill's wife) and she has a few ideas as to what he would have liked. It was agreed that Alaric, Ely and David talk to Wendy and come back to a future meeting with some suggestions.

552 Adjournment of Meeting

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

553 Correspondence

- a) Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2013.
- b) ACT Gazette – Issue 15: Autumn 2013.
- c) CALC Circular – September 2013.
- d) Solway Coast AONB Ranger Service – Events letter – October/November 2013.
- e) Letter from Mrs Lesley Williams enquiring about the possibility of a memorial bench in memory of her parents Robert and Annie Margaret Crooks.
- f) North West Allerdale Engagement Area – Email from Hayley Bishop providing further details on the changes to the engagement areas and how the forums will work.
- g) Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service and the Prince's Trust – recruiting for team 9 starting on 23 September.
- h) Carers Group – support to families and/or carers of someone suffering with an eating disorder every 2 weeks on Tuesday evening 6pm-8pm at The Beacon Unit, Penrith Hospital from 10 September.
- i) Electric Blanket Safety Tests carried out by Cumbria Trading Standards from Mon 16 September to 4 October at various venues.
- j) Email from Sindy Phillips thanking the Council for their support in objecting to the proposed Carwath wind turbines.
- k) Email from Elizabeth Clark, Clerk to Boltons Parish Council to thank the Council for their support against the wind turbines a High Pow.
- l) Email from David Thompson re: Former Fisons, Silloth. Fairhurst & Partners have been in touch and were the planning agents for the owners, Harvest Park Developments Ltd. Letter going out to Harvest Park Developments.

- m) CALC – Allerdale District – Notice of joint meeting with Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria County Council incorporating the AGM on 26 September 2013 at Crosscanonby Community Hall at 7.00pm.
- n) Allerdale Borough Council – consultation on a new leisure centre for Workington. Individual Cllrs were circulated with the information and had the opportunity to reply.
- o) Heritage Lottery Fund – Confirmation from HLF that NHMF have agreed to extend the Grant Expiry date in the grant contract to 30 June 2015.
- p) CALC – consultation on the detailed route corridors for the upgraded electricity connections from Sellafield to the main national supply lines.
- q) Neighbourhood Planning Support – Workshop to be held on Wednesday 2 October, Ulverston, Cumbria
- r) Cumbria Resilience – Full day training and exercise event for those who respond at the tactical and operational levels in the acute phase of a flooding incident in Cumbria – 16 October 2013 at Whitehaven for Allerdale and Copeland responders.
- s) CALC – Invitation to AGM on 9 November at 10.30am at Rheged, Penrith.
- t) CALC – re: Parish Budgets 2014/15. Information following the changes to the budget process with the introduction of the local council benefit scheme.
- u) VG Energy – Information on funds available for community renewable project which could include wind turbine, biomass or solar technologies.
- v) Email about the major campaign, including TV advert, to recruit foster carers.
- w) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Fisons site. Notification has been received of the demolition work but an application has not yet been registered. The site is being cleared but the owners will not demolish any buildings until they have approval. There is asbestos and approved contractors will be used. Further update to follow.
- x) Email from a lady who attended the Green Flag ceremony expressing concerns about the amount of weeds in the Rose garden and other areas of new planting. Ashlea were meant to be coming back to replant the Rose garden but as yet this has not been done. The rose garden and other beds have been weeded this week. Reply to be sent to Mrs Bonner and email to Jason regarding the replanting of the Rose Garden.
- y) Letter from some residents of Lawn Terrace asking for the Council to consider returning the Green in front of their properties to its original state i.e. the removal of the heaps of soil, bushes and mounds. Cllr. S. Graham spoke to residents some time ago about the problems on Lawn Terrace. The putting green was part of the plan for the Green and part of the HLF bid. It is the mounds that are the issue, not the Putting Green and it was agreed that a meeting of the Parks Committee be convened to look at the matter.
- z) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Litter bins. Request from Peter Haley for a meeting to clarify who is responsible for litter picking and bin emptying. Combined meeting to be arranged with representatives of the Parks Committee.
- aa) Fake Festivals – Email providing information on Fake Festivals and a copy of their operational plan. Dealt with earlier in the meeting.
- bb) Silloth Rugby Club - Email from Jimmy Lettice to say the rugby club are looking for an alteration to the existing lease to make it a 50 year lease and a change of name. To be dealt with at the end of the meeting.
- cc) Managing Radioactive Waste Safety: Consultation on the site selection process for a geological disposal facility. Consultation will run for three months closing on 5 December 2013. Consultation document can be found at:
<http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/geological-disposal-facility-siting-process-review>
 All County Councils nationally have been excluded from the consultation and it has been put into the hands of the Borough and District Councils which is not democratic. A new group has been set up (like SPAND) which is Cumbria led and want to meet with the Town Council. There needs to be a meeting and for the Council to formulate a response to the consultation. Town and Parish Councils are also being disenfranchised. The Lake District National Park has applied to be a World heritage site which will protect the National Park somewhat but may push the

- problem more onto the Solway Plain. It was proposed that a meeting take place with this new organisation and discuss the matter further at the next Town Council meeting, with a view to formulating a response. Replies to be sent to dd), ee), jj) and kk).
- dd) Email from John Cook expressing concerns over the latest Government announcement relating to the siting of GDF in Cumbria and requesting the council consider a pledge of support for Cumbria County Council.
 - ee) Radiation Free Lakeland – re: Geological Dumping. Letter giving the opinions of Radiation Free Lakeland on the recent announcement of the new consultation and urging the Council to let the Government know that we are not a willing community. Includes a briefing by Nuclear Free Local Authorities.
 - ff) North West Allerdale grants panel – Grants panel is to be set up and looking for one representative from each Parish/Town Council. It was agreed that Cllr. Wilkinson would represent the Council, as he will already be at the meetings.
 - gg) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Dog fouling. A stencil can be applied to footpaths, lanes, pavements etc to highlight to dog walkers that no excuse for not picking up after their dog and if caught they will face a fine of up to £1000. Suggested locations required. It was agreed that the Parks Committee would consider the matter.
 - hh) Invitation to service of Remembrance on 10 November at Christ Church, Silloth at 9.45am. Wreaths available. Cllr. Markley will be attending and a wreath will be required.
 - ii) Solway Community Technology College – Invitation to awards evening on Wednesday 6 November 2013 and request for continued support. It was agreed that a donation of £25 be provided as in previous years. Cllrs. C. Graham and S. Graham will be attending the awards evening.
 - jj) SPAND – Letter in response to the Government announcement relating to the siting of GDP in Cumbria and the consultation. Cumbria County Council has been excluded from the process and SPAND urge the Council to write to offer their support on any action they may pursue.
 - kk) Email from Arthur Millie regarding the announcement on the GDP and providing a copy of the letter he has sent to CALC and his response to the GDP review.
 - ll) Email from Margaret Snaith asking if the Council would consider siting a defibrillator at the Community Hall for use by any member of the public. The cost of the machine and secure box is £1000 and could be funded through the Hellrigg Wind Farm Community Fund. There is currently a defibrillator at the school and one at the Golf club which are available for the public to use, as well as 12 more in the town which are kept by the First Responders. It was felt that Silloth has adequate cover and other places may be in more need. Reply to be sent to Margaret.
 - mm) Request from Colin Baty for permission and use of the football changing rooms, grassed area, goalposts and floodlights for his own football coaching. Email also received from S.G. Hart. It is not clear which areas he wants to use for training and it was agreed to leave the matter to the sports club meeting and discuss it then.
 - nn) Email from Clive Firth regarding the managing of the Community Space which has now reverted back to the Town Council. There was funding of £10k available and a Board was put together, to push ahead with a bid for funding. However, Stuart and Jennifer did not feel it was ethical or viable to apply for the grant money, as they were not intending to sit on the board long term and no other members had come forward to take it further and so the decision was made to wind up the Silloth Community Space Ltd. The Town Council were there to help set it up with a view that the community could take it forward.
 - oo) Allerdale Borough Council – Allerdale Local Plan (Part 2) – Site Allocations. Closing date for submissions 22 November 2013. The allocation for housing has already been used up by the Fisons development.
 - pp) Email from Cllr. Bill Jefferson following his recent meeting at Allerdale with Solway Crafters, Mark Fryer and a senior Allerdale officer, with a suggested course of action to draw a line under the matter. There has been too much said and a lot of third party reporting and it was felt there would be no merit in pursuing the matter. After some discussion it was agreed that a line be drawn under the matter and that the Parks committee re-iterate what has already been decided

upon with regard to charging on the Green. In future, they would need to work only through the Clerk.

554 Planning Applications

Notification received that an appeal has been made against the planning refusal for the following application:-

Ref No: 2/2013/0136 **Location:** Land at Blooming Heather, Blitterlees, Silloth **Appeal by:** Mr & Mrs Robinson

Allerdale Borough Council has received the following demolition application:-

Ref No: 2/2013/0690 **Location:** Former Fisons site

555 Committee Reports

None

556 Licences

None

557 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Primary School: The school has won the Golden Apple award for best Primary school. Letter of congratulations to be sent from the Council.

Joint Advisory Body: AONB is a national success and the best in the land in terms of leverage and what it brings in. With a budget of £165K has brought in funding of £3.2M. Copy of the minutes of the JAC meeting held on 26 September were given to the Clerk for information.

Silloth Tourism Action Group: Chairman of STAG was present at the meeting. Christmas Lights switch on and Bonfire is coming up. Funds raised at the bonfire and fireworks will be ploughed back into future events. Currently formulating a 5 year strategy for events so that they can work out what money they need. Tullie House application has gone in for history of Silloth airfield. Looking at doing a 1940's weekend event.

Sea Dyke Charity: Cllr. Markley attended the last meeting. £5000 given to schools last year, £1000 to convalescent home and £3000 to local halls.

Longcake Education Trust: Next meeting is on Thursday.

Solway Community Technology College: Need more pupils. The school is doing really well and is one of the best in Cumbria. Parent teachers are applying for funding from the Hellrigg fund.

Sports Hall: Not being used as much but the school is aware of it.

The Space: Included later on the agenda.

558 Allerdale & County Council Reports

Allerdale: Nothing to report.

County Council: The hole in the road outside the Golf hotel is to be fixed this week and the one at Blitterlees in the coming weeks. County Council need to make savings of £80m over the next 2-3 years. There is to be a restructuring of Corporate Directors which will be reduced to four. Nuclear working group meeting tomorrow.

559 Park Manager's Report

Ken gave a detailed report on what grounds maintenance work has been done since the last meeting which has included general maintenance, grass cutting, dismantling of water splash equipment, installation of memorial seat, clearing shrub beds, removed summer bedding, fertilising rugby pitch, fitting new gate to play area and machinery maintenance. There has been a report of a poisonous plant called Deadly Nightshade on the Green. On further investigation it has been found to be Black Nightshade which has a white flower rather than purple. Ken took action by spraying the plants with weed killer and then dug them out. There may be other plants, so Ken will have another look and remove anything if found. Ken to call in expert advice if necessary. A supply of bark is needed for

the shrub beds on the Green which will be obtained. Peter Holliday to prune back the gorse etc towards the end of this month.

560 Town Clerk's Report

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

561 Requests for Financial Assistance

Great North Air Ambulance – Due to budget constraints it was agreed that no donation can be provided this time.

562 Payment of Accounts

The Clerk produced a register report to 7 October 2013 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. Jason had sent a list of payments which are due for the Green project which include the following:- a) £654.50 revised locks to pagoda door b) £370.00 - replace lock on Edwardian toilet and c) £475.00 – level survey to proposed BMX track. It was agreed that the bill for £654.50 be questioned with Jason as the work would not have been necessary had the top lock been fitted in the first place. The other two amounts were agreed.

563 Application for an event

Silloth Christmas Lights – 30 November 2013. There was no problem with the event, although they may need to be aware should work have commenced on the Community Garden. Clerk to contact Allerdale to check whether there has been any progress in relation to the refurbishment of the public toilets on Criffel Street.

564 Community Hall

It was agreed that the toilets, kitchen, hallway and redecoration of the main room are to be the main priority for refurbishment. New estimates are to be obtained for the necessary work. Further funding can be included in the budget for next year if necessary. The Town Council will be able to reclaim any VAT and will get better value for money.

565 Accounts for the Year ended 31 March 2013

The external auditor raised two points following the audit of the Accounts. Each page of the minutes are to be initialled by the person signing the minutes. There has been significant expenditure and the accounts are currently understating the amount of assets but as soon as expenditure is completed the asset must be included in the council's asset register and reflected on the annual return. These matters will be addressed. The audit had involved a significant increase in the amount of work in providing all the necessary information to the auditor and the Clerk was thanked for all her work. The bill from BDO LLP for the audit was significantly higher this year at £2400 due to the higher level of income/expenditure.

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.

566 Amounts owing to the Town Council

Both the Football and Rugby club have not paid their rent for last year and a reminder has been sent.

567 Lease between Silloth Town Council and Silloth Rugby Club

The existing 50 year lease between Silloth Town Council and Silloth Rugby Union Football Club is dated 1/12/1984 and is for the land on which the club premises is sited. Initially it was thought a 'Deed of Variation' would be sufficient but on further investigation a lease cannot be extended and it would require a new lease to be drawn up which would probably cost in the region of £1000 plus in

legal fees. The existing lease has 20 years remaining on it and it was questioned whether a longer lease is necessary. The Town Council would be happy to write a letter of support to go with any funding applications if this would be helpful. Email to be sent to Jimmy Lettice to ascertain what is required and a sports club meeting to be arranged at which the matter can be discussed further.

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