

**Minutes of a meeting of Silloth Town Council**  
**Held on 9 January 2012**

**Present:-** Cllrs. I. Baty, A.J. Markley, G. Wilkinson, C. Graham, D. Wallace, E. Wannop, C. Baty, R.W. Allison, A. Weightman, M. Snaith & W. Jefferson. Also Ian Payne (Allerdale Borough Council), Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk) & Ken Wannop.

**946** **Apologies**

Cllr. S. Graham.

**947** **Declaration of Interest**

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

Cllr. Wannop - re: Ken.

**948** **Exclusion of Press & Public**

It was agreed that items 20-25 and 9(r) & 9(s) be discussed without the Press and Public present.

**949** **Chairman's Announcements**

Nothing to report.

**950** **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 5, 13 & 20 December 2011 were approved by the Town Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**951** **Police Report**

No report

**952** **Proposed Skateboard/Bike Park**

Cllr. S. Graham and Mr David Baker were unable to attend the meeting, so it was agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting.

**953** **Adjournment of Meeting**

There had been one request to speak from a member of the Public but he was unable to attend the meeting.

**954** **Correspondence**

A) Campaign to Protect Rural England - Planning Explained.

B) Cumbria Wildlife - September 2011 No 91.

C) HLF - Heritage Focus - Issue 5 Winter 2011.

D) West Cumbria ageUK - Annual Review 2011.

E) North West Air Ambulance Charity - Skylines - Autumn/Winter 2011.

F) Local Council Review - Winter 2011.

G) RWE npower renewables - Re: Community benefit funds from Hellrigg Wind Farm. Information on the proposed structure and administration of the Community Fund.

H) Local Works - Appeal for help to save the Sustainable Communities Act.

I) Allerdale Borough Council - Following a complaint from a member of the public regarding the relocated putting green and potential risk from golf balls

- striking properties, letter asking for a plan for the putting green including any safety features to be installed. Reply sent by the Clerk.
- J) Email from Mr David Baker to show his support for the Bike Park that several local boys have raised money for.
- K) Cumbria Wildlife Trusts - Letter asking for support of the mayor of Silloth and information about the Big Buzz Tea Party.
- L) Environment Agency - Email re: Proposals to form new internal drainage boards in North and South Cumbria.
- M) Rotary Club of Silloth-on-Solway - Letter regarding the removal and damage to memorial benches on The Green. Reply sent by the Clerk.
- N) Email re: Bike Track in Silloth. Suggestion for a possible location - pine plantation opposite Alma Terrace which is currently overgrown and unused. Trails could easily be cleared and jumps built at a minimal cost if cleared and constructed by volunteers.
- O) Email from Cllr. S. Graham expressing concerns regarding the cost of water relating to the Changing Rooms. Clerk has written to United Utilities to obtain clarification on the matter.
- P) Cumbria Highways - Community Travel Plans Review 2011. Details of the current CTP list for the area and asking for views on whether any issues or schemes can be deleted or added. The list of priorities had been picked out by members of the public. The Council would need to review it as it had taken a long time to come around. Letter to Cumbria Highways to inform them when a response would be sent in.
- Q) House of Commons - re: Proposed Closure of the Cumbria Fire Service Emergency '999' Fire Control Room. Letter from Tony Cunningham MP enclosing an explanation from Jill Stannard, Chief Executive of Cumbria County Council. The proposals have been out for consultation and there have been a lot of opposition to it. The Fire Service have tried to partner up with the Police etc but it could not be done. It was not financially viable and possible to do it.
- R) Letter of complaint from Mr Clive Firth, against Cllr. Christine Graham.
- S) Letter from Mr Colin Harrow expressing concern about the attitude and behaviour of Cllr. Christine Graham.
- T) Cumbria Highways - Proposed bus board meeting, Silloth. Representative required to attend a site meeting on Friday 13 January at 14.00 hrs. Cllr. Wilkinson offered to attend the meeting.
- U) Allerdale Borough Council - Re: reductions in local government finance and in particular changes in the Concurrent Grant Function. To be dealt with later.
- V) Allerdale Borough Council - Savings Consultation 2011. Proposals attached and views requested by 23 January 2012. There is a proposal to close the Tourist Information Centre during the winter months although no decision has been taken as yet. The TIC is currently situated in the Solway Coast Discovery Centre. Letter to be sent opposing a reduction in service. Silloth is the only 'seaside resort' and to take the TIC out of the town would be a step backwards. The Town Council expect to be fully consulted on any changes, along with the Solway Coast AONB, as it could be detrimental to the area.
- W) Email from Mr Thomas Burns asking the Council for an update on the Skinburness Hotel. Planning permission was granted and it is now up to the owners to carry out the necessary work and within the specified timescale. Council do not have any further information to add at present. Obtain dates from the plans.
- X) Letter from Angela and Peter Ellwood of 88 Skinburness Road asking if the area

in front of their property is to be tidied up. The Council are looking to get the gorse cut back and are seeking advice from Peter Holliday, as to what can be done.

**955** **Planning Applications**

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

**Ref No:** 2/2011/0884 **Proposal:**-Demolition of rear extension and proposed single storey extension **Location:** 35 Eden Street, Silloth **Applicant:** Mr L. Moore

**Ref No:** 2/2011/0847 **Proposal:** Proposed new bay window to front of dwelling **Location:** 7 Esk Street, Silloth **Applicant:** Mr Bailey

b) The **Town Council** considered the following:-

**Ref No:** 2/2011/0791 **Proposal:** Outline application for single storey dwelling **Location:** Land at rear 158 Skinburness Road, Silloth **Applicant:** Messrs. Bennet/Hinde/Gill - Application withdrawn 07/12/2011

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

**Ref No:** 2/2011/0847 **Proposal:** Proposed new bay window to front of dwelling **Location:** 7 Esk Street, Silloth **Applicant:** Mr Bailey

**956** **Committee Reports**

Minutes of a meeting of the allotment committee held on 13 December 2011 were circulated to the Council.

**957** **Licences**

None.

**958** **Reports from Representatives**

**Primary School** New Head teacher now in place. The deputy acting Head has now gone.

**Joint Advisory Committee** AONB are concerned about the proposal removal of the TIC from the AONB which would be a detriment to the area. The removal of the service would have an impact on the AONB.

**Silloth Tourist Action Group** STAG are working on the Jubilee weekend and formulating what they will be doing. New Head wants to meet with STAG. Rotary club have got the letter back regarding the Jubilee Beacon.

**Silloth Regeneration Partnership** No meeting.

**Sea Dyke Charity** No meeting.

**Longcake Education Trust** Meeting next week.

**Solway Community Technology College** Back to school. Kids cooked a meal for 100 people which was excellent.

**Sports Hall** No report.

**Silloth Community Hall - The Space** No report.

**959** **Allerdale & County Council Reports**

**Allerdale Borough Council** - The committee that Cllr. Snaith is on does not meet at Allerdale and it is therefore a long time since she was at Allerdale Borough Council. Nothing to report. Cllr. Jefferson reported that there had been a decision regarding the appeal re: turbines in the Workington area. Allerdale won the appeal which is significant. 6 Cumbria MP's had agreed on something - that there are to be no more

turbines.

**Cumbria County Council** - Thing never stop. Flooding aspect is a big issue. Plenty of salt on stock. AMEY contract finishes in April and things will be done by CCC in-house.

**960 Handyman's Report**

Bus shelter roof has been done. Waiting to paint them once the weather gets better. Carried out general maintenance and some machinery maintenance. Ken has looked at a couple of sets of gang mowers but no good. Been in touch with some suppliers to see if anything can be done with the Council's own gang mowers. Machinery is expensive. Job done clearing the area at Skinburness Road is marvellous and the grounds maintenance team are to be commended on what they have done.

**961 Town Clerk's Report**

Nothing to report. Cllr. Wilkinson questioned when the work is to be carried out in the play area i.e. removal of rocking horse etc. Clerk to contact T. Wilson & Sons at Abbeytown to get the work done.

**962 Requests for Financial Assistance**

The Town Council considered the following requests for financial assistance.

a) Silloth First Responders - It was agreed to give a donation of £500 towards the costs of the pager rental, as last year.

b) North West Air Ambulance - The Great North Air Ambulance is the main one covering our area but the North West Air Ambulance is also used occasionally. It was agreed to provide a donation of £100.

**963 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.

**964 Applications for events**

An application for various dates had been received from Mr Malcolm Moore re: Solway Crafters for the Craft tent on The Green. The Town Council agreed to the following dates 6,7,8 & 9 April, 5,6 & 7 May, 14 &15 July but not dates when it clashes with other events on The Green, subject to the agreement with other event organisers. There needs to be a small sub-committee to look at charging. There will be a substantial increase in costs but these will be known by the beginning of March. Parks committee to make a recommendation to the next Town Council meeting. Now that the Green has been refurbished the Council need to look at getting some sort of revenue to cover costs. Charges must not be a deterrent and they need to be fair.

**965 The Green Project**

**A) Update on progress**

Everything going according to plan. Letter has gone to Tony Milner from Jason Dixey thanking them for what they have done. Under budget at present. A priority list was discussed some time ago by the Council. A drain across the Green was going to be costly but this is no longer required as approval has been given by Environment Agency for the water to be dispersed into the sea. There may be others things that can be brought in. Sundog energy approached Cllr. Markley about running a pilot for

solar powered lighting which may be an option. Site meeting at 11.00am tomorrow at the Lambert Gill offices. An alternative footpath surfacing has been found for some of the footpaths.

The Press and Public were asked to leave the meeting while the remaining items on the agenda were discussed.

**966 Grounds Maintenance - The Green**

Ian Payne attended the meeting to discuss issues in relation to the Grounds Maintenance of the Green and to look closely at overheads and to see if there are any ways of working that are more efficient, in terms of, say, fuel and manpower. Allerdale need to make savings and are looking to save £3.5m over 3 years. The major expenditure, other than staff costs are contracts i.e. FOCSA, ISS and Carlisle Leisure. Allerdale paid £48K last year for maintenance of The Green and other grass verges in the town. Need to look at whether the Town Council can make any savings. Asking contractors to make savings of 10-15% over the 3 years. Allerdale are not looking to take the grounds maintenance back in-house and not wanting to dictate to contractors. If we can, then it is hoped that the Town Council can make savings. Town Council currently add 3% inflationary increase each year to the grounds maintenance income.

**967 Lease - The Green**

A discussion was needed to consider practical issues with regard to trading concessions, utility costs and NNDR (rates) for the Public Conveniences etc. A meeting took place in August 2010 with Mr Payne with various proposals drafted. The lease of The Green was signed in July and utility bills etc have started to come in but the Town Council have not received any revenue yet. Things have moved on since August 2010, with a whole series of service reviews having taken place. At the moment Mr Payne doesn't have an answer. Allerdale are wanting to talk to Parishes and Town Councils to look at the level of spends and see what the priorities are within the communities. The public toilets are not kept open as long as they are required. May need to look at a reduction in the provision i.e. length of time that they are open. May be able to offer funding to local businesses for the public to have use of their toilets. The Council generally felt that this would not be something that would be favourable. A lot of places charge for the use of their toilets and this is something that may have to be considered. Need a meeting before April with Mr Payne to get to the bottom of the details.

**968 Concurrent Grants**

Things have changed now in that grant is only paid for Allerdale owned land. Allerdale Borough Council pay out £250k in concurrent grants. The scheme is being looked at and needs to be operated in partnership with the town and parish councils.

**969 HLF - Update**

Site meeting tomorrow at 11am. Information required by Lambert Gill to enable them to upload photos to the Town Council website. Clerk to speak to HCI Data tomorrow. Chris is working on a plan of where the memorials seats are on The Green.

**970 Part-time Parks Warden and Community Engagement Officer**

Following the advertising of the above vacancies, there has been a good response

with over 91 requests for application packs. 38 applications have been received - 18 for the position of Community Engagement Officer and 20 for the position of Parks Warden. These need to be short listed and the candidates interviewed. The Town Council need to be careful and for the process to be done properly. As a public body, the Council is accountable. It was suggested that Jason be involved with the interviews of the Community Engagement Officer, based on his experience and expertise. There needs to be a different panel to interview candidates for the different jobs. Interview panels to be as follows:- Community Engagement Officer - Jason Dixey, Chris Graham & Bill Jefferson, with Cllr. Allison in an advisory capacity. Parks Warden - Cllr. I. Baty, Ken Wannop & Wendy Jameson, with Cllrs. R.W. Allison and C. Graham in an advisory capacity.

**971 Grounds Maintenance - Solway Community Technology College**

An annual review meeting took place at the school. In the last 12 months, 464 hrs have been spent at the school which @ £20 p/h comes to £9260 + fuel, soil, herbicide etc @ £1300. Total cost of the contract should be nearer £10,560. Next year there won't be any need to repair the lines or pressure wash paths etc (i.e. 51 hrs repairs to lines & 60 hrs washing paths) which will reduce the costs. A suggestion was made at the review meeting, to cut back on the amount of times the grass is cut and utilise the time on other things. There is a new running track to lay down which will take a lot of time to do and incur a lot of hours. Town Council currently get £6850 for doing the work and are therefore subsidising the contract. The extra income from the contract helps the Council pay it's overheads. Presently the people of Silloth are subsidising the grounds maintenance at the school. It was agreed that the contract price needs to be increased. Contract to be increased to £7500 for the coming year, to see what the reaction is from the school. Town Council cannot pay off any staff, as we are in the process of employing someone new as a result of the HLF bid. Need to specify how many cuts we will do for the price submitted.

**972 2012/13 Budget**

Following discussions with Ian Payne and the changes to the concurrent grants system, the Clerk needs more time to look at the Budget. The Council have already agreed that there is to be no increase in this year's Precept and it may be necessary therefore to draw on reserves. Budget meeting to take place on Monday 16 January 2012.

**973 Letters of Complaint**

Two letters of complaint were received by the Town Council regarding Cllr. C. Graham. The letters were copied to all Cllrs. and included on the agenda. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Mr Harrow informing him that the Town Council cannot comment on what happened but that his letter has been placed on record and his comments noted. Cllr. C. Graham gave out a short summary in response to the letters received. It was suggested that a small committee be formed consisting of the Chairman, Deputy and Clerk to consider the matter. Cllr. C. Graham to be asked to respond to the complaints, if she so wishes and then see what action to take. Letter to be sent to Mr Firth to acknowledge receipt of his letter and informing him that the Council will be responding in due course. Cllr. Jefferson volunteered to speak with Mr Firth.

**974**    **Amounts owing to the Town Council**  
Nothing of any concern.

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