

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 24 July 2018 at 7.00pm at Silloth Community Hall

Present:– Cllr. A.J. Markley (AJM)

Councillors

I. Baty (IB), J. Cook (JC), J. Snaith (JS), W. Jefferson (WJ), A. Emmerson (AE),
S. Graham (SG), G. Wilkinson (GW) & M. Orchard (MO).

Also present: Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk), Amber Sykes (CCC), Tim Riley (ABP), David Wood (Caltech),
Ben Clarke (Carrs), Judy Williamson (Harrisons) and approx. 30 members of the public.

903.	Apologies Cllr. O. Martin. Also, Sue Hayman MP.	
904.	Declarations of Interest As recorded.	
905.	Exclusion of Press & Public None.	
906.	Public Participation The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow two members of the public to speak. There needs to be a solution to the volume of wagons along Criffel Street, with possible alternative routes or a bypass considered. The port and mill need to be viable. Mrs Wilson's café opened 5 years ago and people enjoy the nostalgia of the place but the noise from the wagons is disheartening. There is a dip in the setts outside and damage is being caused to the building.	
907.	Wagons using Criffel Street Following concerns expressed by members of the public about damage to the setts, damage to properties and the noise, a meeting was called to discuss wagons using Criffel Street and consider any proposals to remedy the situation, with representatives from ABP, Carrs, Caltech, Origin, Harrisons, Prime Molasses, Cumbria County Council etc. Associated British Ports would like to see the port grow bigger. Information about the history of the port was given out. Wagons started in the early 60's and the port now totally operates with trucks. ABP would look favourable on something better. Carrs have contacted contractors and owner drivers. It is impossible to speed along Criffel Street due to the nature of the setts. Carrs employs 54 people and want to co-operate. If there are any issues with a specific vehicle they can be reported to Carrs. Carrs is at a cost disadvantage due to the location of Silloth and Brexit is also causing uncertainty. Carrs will do what they can do co-operate. It has been discussed previously about reducing the speed limit on Criffel Street but wagons are not speeding. Caltech operates 8am - 5pm, Mon to Friday and is busier in the winter than the summer. It was questioned how a road can be built, where and how it would be funded. It would cost approx. £4m per mile. The County Council only have a limited amount of funding and it took many years to achieve the Carlisle bypass, with significant costs involved to keep the link open. It was only because of the 'garden city' that they could bid for the southern bypass. The granite setts are hard wearing but it was questioned whether the foundations are solid enough. The setts need to be retained and everyone wants to work together to find a solution. Traffic monitoring has been carried out over the last 7 days to count the volume and speed of traffic. Over 7 days, the average speed of vehicles using Criffel Street was 18mph. Total vehicles – 9204 South and 9821 North, totalling 19,025. 9% of the traffic was HGV's. Mon-Friday average – 1148 South and 1332 North. 7-day average – 1315 South and 1403 North. The traffic will be monitored for a month and the equipment will be brought back in the winter. Sat/Sun traffic figures are higher. Sat – 1814 South and 1714 North. Sun – 1648 South and 1448 North. The accuracy of the counts will need to be checked as the cables have sunk between the setts. More and more wagons have been using Solway Street and there have been no boats in the dock this week.	

<p>Maintenance of Criffel Street – depression in the carriageway will be sorted out. There could be substantial work involved to look at resetting the granite setts but it will be considered against other schemes and a decision made on the level of priority. A category 1 defect would be if the Council risks being taken to court and the potential of causing damage to a person or vehicle. There is nothing on Criffel Street which is classed as a category 1 defect. There is a large hollow outside the Balmoral which is on top of a sewer and needs attention.</p> <p>The aspiration for a new road is good but there needs to be proper solutions put forward.</p> <p>Empty wagons make the most noise when they hit the hollows or missing setts etc. The local committee highways budget for the whole of Allerdale for 2018 is £3.7m. There would need to be consultation with the community to look at possible routes. It was questioned if it is the condition of the road which is causing the problem. By the very nature of the setts it slows vehicles down. The average speed of the vehicles using Criffel Street does not warrant a 20mph speed limit. Small scale maintenance will be carried out and a bid submitted for larger scale maintenance.</p> <p>It was questioned if Heritage Lottery funding would be available, as it is an important part of the heritage of the town. Could look at getting an independent study done to look at the condition of the road.</p> <p>Alternative routes could be used for the empty wagons but it would need public consultation to look into it. Diverting wagons down Solway Street would impact on residents of Solway Street which is a more residential area.</p> <p>Short term repairs are often not substantial and don't last. A new machine is going to be used by the County Council to repair roads properly</p> <p>When work is done by utility companies they are responsible for reinstating the road. If the repairs are not done properly then they need to rectify the problem. If they are not sorted after 2 years then it becomes the responsibility of the County Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED to approach Heritage Lottery to see if there is funding available and look at getting an independent survey done into the condition of the setts.</p> <p>Drivers have been asked to stick to 15mph and under.</p> <p>Building an alternative route is aspirational and not likely to happen. 2019 would be the earliest that any substantial work could be done. Environmental monitoring could be done to monitor the noise which would be undertaken by Allerdale Borough Council.</p> <p>Hauliers are happy to work with any suggestions to help the situation.</p> <p>RESOLVED that no further consideration be given to an alternative route out of the town. Quotations to be obtained for an independent study.</p>	
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Signed.....

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