

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 20 July 2020 at 7.30pm via video conference

Present:– Cllr. M. Orchard (MO).

Councillors

J. Cook (JC), C. Doran (CD), A. Emmerson (AE), M. Irving (MI),
W. Jefferson (WJ), A.J. Markley (AJM) & G. Wilkinson (GW).

Also present: Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk).

	<i>In accordance with The Local Authorities & Police & Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority & Police & Crime Panel Meetings) (England & Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting was held by video conference call.</i>	
633.	Apologies Cllrs. J. McCormick & S. Graham.	
634.	Declarations of Interest As recorded.	
635.	Exclusion of Press & Public None.	
636.	Public Participation There were no requests from members of the public to speak at the meeting.	
637.	Reopening of the Town Council facilities Covid-19 risk assessments had been completed by the Town Clerk for the reopening of the splash pad and community hall and circulated to members of the Council prior to the meeting. The Clerk was thanked for what she had done. The splash pad comes under the same guidance as outdoor swimming pools but is nothing like an outdoor swimming pool in that it doesn't have a lifeguard/attendant and uses fresh water rather than chlorinated water. After considering the Government guidelines, the Council are not in the position to keep everyone safe and not aware of any other splash parks being open under the current situation. Guidance is binding on us and the responsibility would fall on the Council if there was an issue. The Council would not be able to ensure social distancing and comply with Test & Trace. It would put an extra burden on our existing public toilets and the Council is also not in the position to clean the equipment after every use. Recently there have been reports of covid-19 traced back to three pubs in Carlisle which could result in thousands of people needing to be tested. There would have no way of tracking it if the splash park is opened. The toilets have been reopened using information provided in the risk assessments, information provided the day before and also information provided by Cllr. Markley. Contrary to what has been said on social media, there was no information provided by Cllr. Owen Martin. Our cleaning staff have been getting verbal abuse from people when they go to clean the toilets, despite doing a job to keep them safe. People are abusing the facilities, leaving them in a mess and using the pines to relieve themselves, even though the toilets are open. It was questioned whether all the toilets should be reopened but we would not have the staff to undertake the necessary extra cleaning and social distancing would also be an issue. People are not happy with having to wait for the toilets to be cleaned even though they are being cleaned for their safety. It was agreed that the splash pad should be kept closed for the rest of the season and the toilets to remain at three but if they need to be closed they will be. Need to put something out on social media to let them know we are doing our best to help people but it is a two way thing. The toilets are being cleaned for their safety. The picnic area would also need to be cleaned and the amount of rubbish would increase considerably if the splash pad were open which would put the grounds maintenance staff at more risk.	

It was agreed that the Pagoda is also to remain closed. The new picnic benches have been a real success and are being well used. The market will be reopening next week, as a result of the toilets being reopened. It was agreed that the splash park stay closed for the remainder of the season and also the Pagoda. The big fella sculpture is currently fenced off as a new path has been created. It was agreed that the fence be removed once the grass has taken and a sign added remind people to carry out social distancing and use antibacterial wipes if required. Risk assessment also done for reopening the Community Hall and everyone was happy for the building to be reopened, with the necessary safeguards put in place. It was questioned whether it would be possible to resume face to face Council meetings. Unfortunately, the building is not big enough to enable members of the Council to socially distance and the Government are still encouraging Councils to hold virtual meetings for the foreseeable future. There was a lot of litter over the weekend and it was questioned when the new bins would be arriving. The extra bins have been ordered for the Green but no date for delivery has been confirmed. The grounds maintenance lads would be responsible for emptying them. Allerdale were wanting to reduce the collection of the bins at the yard to once a week instead of twice weekly. The Town Clerk got in touch with Cllr. Markley and the matter has been dealt with and they are to continue emptying the bins twice a week which is crucial at this time of year with all the visitors. A call was received from Bill James about the Silloth leaflets which are out of date and were previously done by STAG but STAG doesn't have the resources to do it at the moment. A leaflet could be done by Allerdale but it would advertise the whole of the Solway coast and not just Silloth. It was questioned whether something could be put in the Solway Buzz to promote the town. Fly tipping is becoming an issue at the former Skinburness Hotel site. Email will be sent to Allerdale to report it. HGV's have been getting stuck after going around the corner at the former Skinburness Hotel, as the 6' 6" sign has been moved. Email to be sent to Amber Sykes and copied to Cllr. Markley, to request a sign be installed before the corner. Something to be added to social media about the toilet facilities and also to the Solway Buzz, to ask people to respect the facilities and particularly our staff. If there is a hint of a second wave of coronavirus then facilities can be closed immediately. The Chairman mentioned that we are still waiting for audited accounts from STAG which were to be provided in 2 weeks. Cllr. Cook will ring the guy tomorrow and liaise with the Clerk.

Signed.....

Date.....