

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2020 at 7.00pm at Silloth Community Hall

Present:— Cllr. M. Orchard (MO).

Councillors

C. Bell (CB), J. Cook (JC), P. Donald (PD), A. Emmerson (AE), S. Graham (SG), M. Irving (MI),
W. Jefferson (WJ), A.J. Markley (AJM), J. McCormick (JM) & G. Wilkinson (GW).

Also present: Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk).

493.	Apologies Cllr. J. Snaith	
494.	Minutes silence There was a minutes' silence for Margaret Snaith, a former member of the Town Council, who sadly passed away this week.	
495.	Declarations of Interest None.	
496.	Exclusion of Press & Public It was agreed that the press and public be excluded if when discussing staffing matters.	
497.	Adjournment of meeting A request was received from Mr James Graham and the meeting was therefore adjourned to allow him to speak. He commented on the Council's finances and precept which was noted by the Council.	
498.	Budget a) 2019/20 Budget - The Clerk provided a report comparing the actual expenditure to date with the overall budget for 2019/20. Everything is on track. Installation of SMART meters will help to monitor and reduce the amount of electricity used and put an end to estimated bills. The report was noted. b) 2020/21 Budget - The Clerk produced some draft budget figures for 2020/21 which were considered by the Town Council in detail. Various adjustments were made to the draft figures to reduce the funding requirement for the coming year. Confirmation has been received from Allerdale that public conveniences are to be exempt from business rates which will mean a saving of £4,200. Skinburness toilets are closed over the winter months and it was also suggested that the Edwardian toilets should also be closed over the winter which will reduce costs and preserve a valuable asset. Silloth will have use of some speed activated signs for which Holme Low have received funding from the Hellrigg Community Fund. If the Council decides they would like some permanent signs, then further consideration can be given in the future. Funding of £6,000 was removed from the current budget. Funding applications have been submitted to Cumbria Community Foundation and Robin Rigg but awaiting the outcome. Funding to cover the cost of solar panels and LED lighting for the Community Hall has been included in the budget which will reduce the running costs of the building. A grant of £2,500 has been received from the Hellrigg Community Fund and currently awaiting the outcome of an application to the Robin Rigg Community Fund. Splash Pad costs have been reduced by £2,500 to reflect the anticipated reduction in water costs. Clerk to further investigate the possibility of a well, to supply water to the splash pad. A tractor and hedge cutter were bought in 2015, to enable the Council to manage the pruning of the avenue. The machinery is now 5 years old and the Council are no longer able to do verge cutting due to staff changes which has resulted in a loss of revenue. Prices have been obtained to ascertain the value of the machinery which ranges from £20k to £25k. It was agreed that the tractor and hedge cutter be sold and	

	<p>the proceeds from the sale retained for future maintenance and management of Silloth Green. A new trailer is required which will be funded from the sale of the equipment.</p> <p>Silloth needs to look after itself now. Contractors were previously used to maintain the Green but to a poorer standard. The town is now maintained to a high standard and the Council are in control. Some difficult decisions however need to be made. Fairground rent has been set at £2,200 for 2020 but will be put out to tender next year. Hopefully there will be extra revenue from ice cream concessions this year, with an additional pitch next to the Big Fella sculpture.</p>	
	<p>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.</p>	
<p>499.</p>	<p>2020/21 Budget</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding staffing and any possible savings that could be made in the coming year. The Town Clerk is to seek further guidance and come back to the Council. Members of the Council were reminded that the discussion during this part of the Agenda is confidential and not to be discussed outside the meeting.</p> <p>Taking into account the level of reserves at the end of this current financial year which are anticipated to be approx. £44,717 which includes £20,000 reserve for the ongoing maintenance of the new footpath from West Silloth, it was RESOLVED that the total funding requirement for 2020/21 will be £171,795, with the Precept to be requested from Allerdale Borough Council. Using the draft Council Tax base figure of £864.24 provided by Allerdale, this would result in a £196.15 charge on a Band D property for the Town Council's element of the Council Tax bill which will remain the same as last year. The Clerk was thanked for her work in preparing the annual budget figures etc.</p>	

Signed.....

Date.....