

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 4 April 2022 at 7.00pm at Silloth Community Hall

Present:
Councillors

G. Betsworth (GB), J. Cook (JC), V. Hope (VH), M. Irving (MI) & A.J. Markley (AJM).

Also present: Wendy Jameson – Town Clerk (WEJ), Toni Magean (Allerdale Borough Council)
 & Lorraine Smyth (ACTion for Communities in Cumbria) – via zoom.

213.	Appointing a chairman As the Chairman and Deputy were unable to attend the meeting, Cllr. Markley was appointed as Chairman for the meeting.	
214.	Minutes Silence There was a minutes' silence at the start of the meeting to acknowledge the atrocities which are currently going on in the world and to remember Lawrence Marshall who sadly died recently, who was a former Town Councillor and Mayor of Silloth.	
215.	Apologies Apologies received from Cllrs. C. Doran (unwell), W. Jefferson (family visiting), M. Orchard (holiday), J. Snaith (holiday), G. Wilkinson (holiday) & L. Winter (unwell) were accepted by the Town Council. Absent: Cllr. Emmerson.	
216.	Declarations of Interest None.	
217.	Exclusion of Press & Public It was agreed that the Press and Public be excluded for items 21,22, 23 & 9 (w) on the agenda.	
218.	Town Plan Lorraine Smyth (ACTion for Communities in Cumbria) and Toni Magean (Allerdale Borough Council) attended the meeting to discuss the creation of a Town Plan. A couple of workshops have been held but it has been a struggle to get people to attend the meetings and it was decided to incorporate a session within a full council meeting. The town plan needs to be worked on by the Town Council and then taken out to the community to discuss the issues/visions. There is a lot of funding that we are not getting access to. Getting a plan in place will enable us to access more funding. Speeding, dog fouling, accessibility, improving the Green, events to make income and a wellbeing initiative are all things that have been discussed. The plan is being driven by a desire to bring in funding. Allerdale have done a strategic plan and a copy of the slides have been sent to all Cllrs. The challenge is to unpick the strategic plan and take it out to the community. The working group were asked about what people speak to members of the Council about on a regular basis. Silloth has been put forward by Allerdale for a share of the Government Changing Places funding. The Town Council were also allocated some Welcome Back funding for the Eden Street play area and the Skinburness car park is also scheduled to be done with funding from Cumbria County Council. We need to see if members of the public have any suggestions. Unless the Council have the funds to pay a consultant to do it, the Council will have to do it themselves. Everyone will need to go out and talk to people. Over a period of 4 months, the plan is to concentrate on specific issues, whereas in other places they would go out with a large questionnaire covering all the issues. The first one could concentrate on the environment, the Green, and events etc in June/July, with surveys on-line and consulting visitors etc but there needs to be a commitment from the Council to do the research. ACTion for Communities for Cumbria has submitted a funding bid for some Arts money to create an 'Audio Adventure' which could fund a walking production on the Green. The feedback could go into the plan which would take place around September and would work well with what has been done before. Toni Magean has been asked by Allerdale to support the Town	

	Council in putting together their Town Plan. The Allerdale Strategic context is to improve lots of factors and is a list of aspirations. There needs to be synergies between the Allerdale and Town Council plan. Toni has been asked to support the Town Council, but it is not Allerdale taking over or dictating. It is important to have a plan in place and then when funding opportunities come along, there will be projects ready to put forward. We need to speak to people to see what they want. It has been a problem getting people to attend meetings in the past and it was suggested that a Tuesday meeting would be useful. A meeting will take place on Tues 26 April at 7pm in the Community Hall, a progress report at the Annual meeting on 9 May and then meet again on 16 May at 7pm in the Community Hall. This will be our Town Plan but can link into the larger aspirations contained in the Allerdale strategic document, rather than reinvent the wheel.	
219.	Chairman's Announcements None.	
220.	Minutes RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on the 7 and 29 March 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
221.	Public Participation There were no requests from any members of the public to speak at the meeting.	
222.	Schedule of Correspondence, notices, and publications a) Letter seeking permission for a memorial bench. The Town Council had taken the decision not to accept any more applications for memorial benches as we have so many now which all need maintained. The Town Clerk has refused at least six enquiries since the decision was taken. The Council may need to look at some sort of alternative as a memorial for families. The viewing platform may be a possibility to consider. The Council have already made the decision to remove the existing wooden structure. Reply to be sent to the family. b) Email regarding an HGV parking next to the MUGA on Town Council land which is not safe particularly as the area is used by young children. Letter to be sent to the owner to ask that he refrain from parking his vehicles on Town Council land. c) Email seeking permission from the Town Council to use a metal detector around the Silloth area including Silloth Green. The proposal was discussed but there were reservations about the risk of setting a precedent, potential damage, the need for rules and the risk of it encouraging others to use metal detectors without obtaining permission. RESOLVED that permission should not be granted due to the Green being a public place and the concerns discussed. Letter to be sent to explain the Council's decision.	WEJ WEJ WEJ
223.	Planning Applications Allerdale Borough Council has granted planning permission for the following: Ref No: FUL/2022/0028 Applicant: Silloth AFC Proposal: Erection of new club house Location: Silloth AFC, Eden Street, Silloth. Ref No: FUL/2022/0039 Applicant: G Winter Proposal: Conversion of dwelling to three flats with extension to rear Location: Lilac House, Station Road, Silloth, CA7 4AE Ref No: HOU/2022/0032 Applicant: Steven & Beverley Shaw Proposal: New ground floor bathroom extension, installation of new UPVC windows/doors and a new rear summer house/covered barbecue area (Resubmission of HOU/2021/0266) Location: Seawinds, 206 Skinburness Road, Skinburness, Wigton, CA7 4QS Ref No: HOU/2022/0025 Applicant: David Thompson Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and proposed side extension Location: Lindens, School Lane, Silloth, CA7 4DX	
224.	Committees Minutes of the following meetings were noted: a) Planning Committee – 7 March 2022	

	b) Planning Committee – 29 March 2022	
225.	Representatives on Outside Bodies i) Joint Advisory Body (JAC) – No meeting. ii) Silloth Tourism Action Group (STAG) – AGM took place last Monday which was attended by Cllr. Cook and 3 members of the public. A discussion took place on the best way forward. Cllr. Cook wants it to carry on as it is a good way to promote the town and bring in funds, but it needs more manpower. Cllr. Cook will try to get more people involved over the next couple of months and if not, the group will fold. Cllr. Hope is willing to come on board. This is probably the right time to revive it and apply for funding. STAG was congratulated for what it has done over the years. iii) Sea Dyke Charity – No meeting. iv) Longcake Education Trust – No report. v) Solway Community Technology College & Sports Hall – Cllr. Cook was unable to attend the Governors meeting but will get in touch with the school about the Sports Hall. It is used by the school, but the sports clubs want to be able to use the building which was built to be used by the community. vi) Friends of Silloth Green – The tulips and daffodils on the Green are looking good. The volunteers have been very busy and have planted trees and shrubs in the woodland area which also includes the addition of a new seat. They are also helping to plant up the circle bed on the Green for the Queen's Green Canopy and with the new picnic area at the Eden Street play area. viii) Sports Association – Everything seems to be progressing well. ix) Silloth Coastal Community Team – No meeting.	
226.	Borough Councillor and County Councillors' Reports Currently in the pre-election period which is the period immediately before elections or referendums when specific restrictions on communications activity are in place. The elections are to take place for the new Cumberland Council on 5 May. Potholes are currently being repaired which are big issue locally. Cllr. Markey has spoken to the High Sheriff of Cumbria and told him about the Queen's Green Canopy submissions for Silloth. Cllr. Irving asked if there were any plans to remove trees on Caldew Street when they are currently doing work on the pavements. Any issues with trees obstructing the streetlights need to be reported using the Cumbria County Council website.	
227.	Ground's Maintenance Report A grounds maintenance report was provided, with details of work carried out over the last month.	
228.	Town Clerk's Report A report was provided by the Town Clerk in relation to work carried out over the last month and matters being dealt with.	
229.	Payment of Accounts a) It was RESOLVED that the Town Council ratify a decision made by email regarding the installation of a wooden fence around the new picnic area at the Eden Street play area at a cost of £2,574.80 + VAT for materials and £2,230 + VAT for labour - to concrete in posts, fasten rails and palings and hang gates. Also includes hire of mini digger and post hole borer. The work is to be carried out by Jim Scott Joinery, the majority of which will be funded through the Welcome Back funding. b) It was RESOLVED that the payments listed in the register report to 4 April 2022 be approved for payment.	
230.	Requests for financial assistance An application was received from the Silloth-on-Solway Sports Association to fund some fun days of sporting activities for children aged between 4-16 years during the school holidays. RESOLVED that funding of £500 be awarded to the project and if more funding is required, they can submit a further request. Email to be sent notifying them of the decision.	WEJ
231.	Events to be held on Town Council property An email was received regarding the possibility of starting a parkrun in Silloth and suggesting that he attends a Council meeting to explain what's involved. RESOLVED that a reply be sent asking for further information and details of the route to be used.	WEJ

232.	Public Toilets & Splash Pad The Town Council discussed the re-opening of public toilets on the Green and considered when to open the Splash Park this year. Last year the Splash Park was only open during the school summer holidays, but it was agreed to revert to previous arrangements, with the Splash Park to be open from the end of May until the end of summer. Currently the Criffel Street and RNLI toilets are open with an extra clean done at lunchtime. If the Town Council decided to dispense with the Skinburness building it would have to relinquish the lease and the building would then be put on the open market which the Town Council would not benefit financially from. RESOLVED that the Edwardian toilets be re-opened, and investigations be made into re-opening the Skinburness toilets which have been closed for approx. 3 years. Cleaning to revert to pre-covid arrangements, with all the toilets opened and cleaned in the morning and then locked up at night. Town Clerk to liaise with the cleaning staff and grounds maintenance team.	WEJ
233.	Councillors' reports and items for future agendas Youth Club – The youth club would like a bike rack. Cllr. Markley suggested an email be sent to Danni Armstrong at Allerdale Borough Council to see if they would be able to provide one.	WEJ
	<i>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 they were instructed to withdraw.</i>	
234.	Paramount Amusements An email was received seeking permission to operate two rides next to their premises from April until the end of September. The Town Council discussed the matter at length, and it was RESOLVED that permission would not be granted. It is important to preserve the Green as an open space and there would be inevitable damage caused to the Green having two rides parked there for 6 months of the year. Paramount Amusements can use their own land in front of the arcade for any rides they have. Reply to be sent.	WEJ
235.	Quotations A quotation of £250 has been received from Evolve Tree Services to undertake an inspection of the trees on Lawn Terrace which has been accepted, with the inspection to be carried out this month. The report will be brought to the next meeting and a decision made on what work is required, if any.	WEJ
236.	Energy Contracts The Town Clerk provided an update on the current situation with regards to the Council's utility contracts which are arranged through an energy broker. The Town Council agreed on what action to take and gave the Clerk delegated authority to liaise with the energy broker.	WEJ
237.	Amounts owing to the Town Council The only amounts owing is for sports club rents, but the bills have only just been sent out and therefore not a concern.	

Signed.....

Date.....