

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 20 February 2023 at 7.00pm at Silloth Community Hall

Present– Cllr. M. Orchard (MO)

Councillors

J. Cook (JC), O. Martin (OM) & M. Irving (MI).

Also present: Wendy Jameson – Town Clerk (WEJ), David Wise (Tennis club) &
Mavis Baty (Sports Association & Fitness Centre).

612.	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllrs. G. Betsworth, G. Wilkinson, A.J. Markley, L. Winter, C. Doran, C. Searle, M. Irving, and W. Jefferson. Apologies could not be accepted, as the meeting at that point was not quorate. Apologies also received from members of the Football club. Absent: Cllr. A. Emmerson.	
613.	Declarations of Interest None.	
614.	Exclusion of Press & Public None.	
615.	Public Participation Representatives from the sports clubs were present at the meeting to provide reports on activities over the last 12 months.	
616.	Reports from Sports Clubs Sports Association – It has been a busy year. Sporting summer camp for kids was arranged last summer and there will be another one this year. The MUGA is well used during the winter months and there were additional bookings due to flooded pitches. The viewing cabin is being utilised by parents. There is a small committee, and they are encouraging kids to participate in sport. The outdoor table tennis table will not be going ahead due to the close proximity to traffic, but some activity panels are to be installed which are aimed at 7- to 11-year-olds. Although there is a designated parking area, vehicles parking on the grass are causing damage. Also looking to install cricket wickets inside the MUGA. Fitness Centre – Bookings stay constant, and the electrical certificates have now been done. Tennis Club – It has been a consistent year in terms of numbers, with between 15 – 25/30 throughout the year. They are now using the Sports Hall again where there is more space. The club is looking to expand the hours they can deliver and looking for more coaches. Also looking at developing Pickleball as an all-family thing involving kids and adults. There are grants for the equipment. The club have received a grant from the Community shop towards the cost of balls and for the hire of the hall. The club was not affiliated to the LTA last year but will be doing so this year. There is a committee of 5 people. Expanding is an issue and getting more people involved. The club may look at organising demo days to get more people involved. It was on the agenda at the last Council meeting to look at getting the courts marked out for pickleball. Windbreaks would cost approx. £900. Details of recommended LTA contractors have been provided for resurfacing and painting. The courts need to be resurfaced before the lines are done. A cement surface would not be able to withstand our weather. There is a small amount of County Council funding available which may help to buy some new nets or windbreaks. The project can be included in the Town Plan. The LTA may open up opportunities for funding. Solar powered lighting would also be beneficial. Football Club – The football club provided a report via email. The junior section is thriving. There are now 10 team, with over 140 junior members. The senior team has managed to fulfil all its fixtures to date. Cllr. M. Irving joined the meeting and Cllr. Martin had also joined the meeting earlier, resulting in it now being quorate.	

	The Changing Rooms flooded in December following a burst pipe which is being dealt with by the insurance company and quotes have been obtained for the necessary work. There is no update on the new facility adjacent to the changing rooms. Rugby Club – No report provided. The club have not managed to start kids rugby yet.	
617.	Issues/Problems etc None	
618.	Annual Rents The Town Council reviewed the annual rents for the sports clubs. The rents are currently - Rugby Club - £452p.a., Football Club - £373p.a., Tennis Club - No rent, Fitness Centre - £1,133p.a. and Sports Association (re: MUGA) - £220p.a. It had previously been discussed about the football club paying their own utility bills etc for the changing rooms which would result in there being no business rates to pay, as they are a registered charity and would save almost £1,000. Email to be sent to the Football club about them paying their own bills or the Council will need to look at increasing the rent to cover the bills. Also, if the fitness centre started to pay the business rates for the Fitness Centre, they would qualify for small business rates relief which would result another saving. Enquiries to be made with Allerdale and the necessary paperwork to be completed. It was RESOLVED to increase the rents by 5% across the board, with a letter to be sent to the Football club regarding the bills for the Changing Rooms. The 2022/23 rents will be as follows: Rugby Club - £475p.a., Football Club - £392p.a., Tennis Club - No rent, Fitness Centre - £1,190p.a. and Sports Association (re: MUGA) - £231p.a. Bills to be sent out. The tennis club are looking to start membership this next year and the rent will reviewed again in the future.	WEJ WEJ
619.	Town Plan Tennis – upgrading the whole tennis facility, resurfacing, windbreaks, line marking and solar lighting. The land on the opposite side of the bridge at the sports area could be made into training pitches which would reduce the wear on the main pitches. The walking football pitch on Skinburness could be upgraded and new goals provided. The possibility of using the middle area between the football and rugby pitch for parking and converting the old all-weather area into tennis courts. It would keep sport in one place. There may be LTA grants available for refurbishing tennis courts.	
620.	Land Train The Town Council reviewed the charge for the Land Train for the 2023 season and after some discussion it was agreed to increase the charge by 10%. A copy of the full insurance relating to the land train is to be requested to ensure it meets the necessary requirements. When an event is on the Green, the land train is not to operate on the main area being used by the event organiser, due to the number of people on the Green which makes it dangerous. Email to be sent to Mr Blake informing him of the decision.	WEJ
621.	Fairground tender The Fairground tender price reduced from £6,000 to £5,000 for the 2022 season and it was agreed that tenders 'over £5,000' would be requested for the 2023 season. After some discussion, it was suggested that tenders be sent out earlier in the future and that consideration be given to awarding the tender for a 3 year period, with an annual inflationary increase built into it which would encourage investment. Could also look at extending the season to make it earlier. It was RESOLVED that tenders 'over £5,000' be requested for the 2023 season and review it again when the new Council is in place.	
622.	Food Concessions It was RESOLVED that tenders 'over £5,576' be requested for the 2023 season. It will be reviewed again when the new Council is in place, to consider awarding the tender for a longer period, incorporating an inflationary price rise, and extending the season.	

Signed.....

Date.....