

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 5 June 2023 at 7.00pm at Silloth Community Hall

Present: Cllr. O. Martin (OM).

Councillors

C. Baty (CB), J. Cook (JC), A. Emmerson (AE),
A. J. Markley (AJM), A. Reynolds (AR), J. Scott (JS), C. Searle (CS) & L. Winter (LW).

Also present: Wendy Jameson – Town Clerk (WEJ), Lorraine Smyth from ACT (via zoom)
& members of the public.

744.	Apologies Apologies received from Cllrs. M. Irving, M. Orchard & W. Jefferson were accepted by the Town Council.	
745	Declarations of Interest Cllr. Cook - regarding item 18 on the agenda.	
746.	Exclusion of Press & Public It was agreed that the Press and Public be excluded for items 18, 20, 26 & 27 on the agenda.	
747.	Chairman's Announcements To enable the meetings to run smoother, if members of the council wish to speak, they should raise their hand. Any motions will need a proposer and seconder, after which there will be a show of hands to vote. Cllr. Martin has had a busy first month having presented the prizes at the Silloth Green Day dog show which was a huge success for the town and one of the busiest days. He also attended the Saturday men's breakfast club at Christ Church which is held on the first Saturday of the month and provides quality food and chat. Cllr. Winter joined the meeting. The Chairman attended Seacote Caravan Park for a fundraising event in the afternoon. £750 was raised for a defibrillator. He also attended the Cycling Festival on the Green and spoke to Danni Armstrong and Graham Kennedy from Cumberland Council. A few things need picked up on, including advertising where parking is available and leaving more access points on to the Green. It was suggested that the organisers meet with the Town Clerk and a couple of representatives of the Town Council before next year's event. They have been asked if Silloth could host a Taste Cumbria event in the future. Some of the businesses on Criffel Street were a lot quieter because of the road closure and the Green was also quiet as people didn't know where to park. The Chairman attended the kids' football yesterday. There are over 160 kids now and 10 different teams. The under 12's girls' team have been unbeaten all season and won the county cup final. All the other teams are also doing really well. Letter of congratulations to be sent from the Council. Cllrs. Martin & Cook have been visiting local shops and businesses to introduce themselves and encourage them to bring any issues to the Council.	WEJ
748.	Minutes RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 15 May 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
749.	Town Plan Lorraine Smyth from ACT attended the meeting via zoom and provided an update on the Town Plan which has been dragging on a bit. Four surveys have gone out with the following responses: Accessibility – 197, Sustainability – 203, Health – 50 & Transport – 48. The last two surveys are low on numbers but very positive. 71% of respondents said Silloth is caring and supportive and only 3 said it wasn't. 62% want to see more learning opportunities and about 50% didn't know what learning	

	opportunities are available. 38% are willing to pay an extra £1 p/w for more social activities. A few more responses are needed to the last 2 surveys – at least 30-40 more and then work can be done on putting the plan together. When walking round the town, councillors could be getting surveys completed. If June is spent getting some more responses, the plan can be put together in July. We can then speak to Cumberland Council on what our priorities are. Lorraine has spoken to Nik Hardy who is aware that Silloth is due some funding, having previously missed out. 30 people have offered to help which is positive. Surveys could be taken to the Men's Club at the church, FOG volunteers, Walking Football group etc. The school have been given 30 of each survey to complete which should be coming back soon. It was agreed that each councillor would endeavour to get five of each of the last two surveys completed which will help the numbers.	
750.	Public Participation A local resident asked to speak at the meeting and expressed concerns about the fairground site, the possibility of concessions being allocated for a 4-year period and also, recent posts on Facebook.	
751.	Schedule of Correspondence, notices, and publications a) Email regarding the maintenance of the grassed area adjacent to Holiday Crescent. The grass has been cut and the grounds maintenance team have been asked to remove the damaged football posts. Cllr. Baty has been making enquiries with Cumbria CVS about possible funding. The matter will be considered by the Parks & Play Equipment committee. b) Email from an allotment holder seeking compensation for damage to some fruit trees. A meeting of the Allotment Committee will be arranged soon and will look at it. The contractor has offered to pay for replacement trees, if necessary. c) Email from a local resident asking where the council stands on the recent disruption to bin collections. No-one is happy with the consequences of the strike action. People will start fly-tipping and throwing black bags into the recycling centre bins. The grounds maintenance bins have not been getting emptied and with more visitors, the situation will only get worse. RESOLVED that a letter be sent to Cumberland Council and Allerdale Waste Services. Contact Denise Rollo (portfolio holder at Cumberland Council), Charles Holmes (Chief Exec of Allerdale Waste Services) & also Andrew Seekings (Chief Executive of Cumberland Council). d) Cumberland Council - Gambling and Licensing Policies consultation - The deadline for responses is 11 July. No comments. e) Solway Community School – Letter seeking continued support for the annual awards evening. RESOLVED that the Town Council will continue to support the school and provide a donation of £25 towards a prize.	
752.	Planning Applications None.	
753.	Committees None.	
754.	Representatives on Outside Bodies i) AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) – Cllr. Markley is now the Cumberland Council representative on the AONB, although he has not received confirmation yet. Cllr. Cook put his name forward to be the Town Council's representative, as he has previously been on the AONB which was agreed by the Town Council. ii) Silloth Tourism Action Group (STAG) – No report. iii) Sea Dyke Charity – No meeting. iv) Longcake Education Trust – No report. Graham Wilkinson is remaining as a trustee of the charity. v) Friends of Silloth Green – The potting shed has been painted. Daffodil bulbs and polyanthus have been lifted and will be saved for use next season. The summer bedding is now in. The tomato plant sale raised £120 and there is another sale this week. The shelter at the allotment has been painted and the allotment strimmed. Raised beds are to be painted. Cllr. Martin will pop over on a Wednesday during his break. viii) Sports Association – Minutes of the last meeting were provided with the agenda. Coastal Community Team – The group no longer exists. The last of the	

	funding has been transferred to the Town Council to fund the new car park for west beach which is currently going through the planning stage and the various ecological reports being done. Once planning has been approved, tenders can be obtained to do the work.	
755.	Cumberland Council Report Cllr. Markley is Chair of the Place Overview and Scrutiny committee. They have considered the proposal for a swimming pool at the Wave Centre, Maryport and it was sent back to the Executive to re-look at it. It has not been agreed. Cllr. Markley attended planning site visits at Frizington and Caldbeck today which is going to Cumberland Council on Wednesday. Also attended a Solway Firth Partnership site meeting at Campfield, Bowness on Solway. There will be a joint meeting/conference with the AONB in November. The first full council meeting is coming up. Cllr. Markley is chair of the Place Overview & Scrutiny committee, is on Planning, IFCA and substitute for various others.	
756.	Ground's Maintenance Report A grounds maintenance report was provided in relation to work carried out over the last month. The football club are going to be doing some work to the pitches which involves applying selective weed killer, Verti draining, applying fertiliser, re-seeding, spreading tons of Eden Sports Sand and drag mat the sand into the surface. It will bring the pitches up to standard and is being paid for by the football club. Work is to start next week and will take approx. 6 weeks to complete. There is a lot of litter around the paths in the pines near the woodland play which needs addressed. Football club to be asked that the contractor meet all the necessary health & safety requirements regarding the use of pesticides. Also, access to the sports area at the Albion corner to be blocked off.	
757.	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.	
758.	Payment of Accounts It was RESOLVED that the payments listed in the register report to 5 June 2023 be approved for payment.	
759.	Requests for Financial Assistance None.	
760.	Events to be held on Town Council property The condition of the public toilets on Green Day was terrible which was also brought up at the Town meeting as there were no portaloos provided. Cllr. Martin had an issue with his emails and apologised. Staff were getting abuse from members of the public who were having to queue to use the toilets and able-bodied people were also using the Changing Places facility which is not what it is there for. All events are meant to provide portaloos.	
761.	Commendation/Award for volunteers The suggestion of some sort of award/commendation was considered over 10 years ago. It was suggested that the town couldn't function without the volunteers and the Council needs to show some appreciation. It was suggested that there could be an annual awards night to thank the volunteers. It was questioned how the volunteers would be identified. There could be so many categories, with nominations and an independent panel to go through the nominations and pick the winners. They could be awarded a certificate. RESOLVED that a Working Group be formed comprising of Cllrs. J. Cook, O. Martin, A. Reynolds, L. Winter and C Searle, to look at a way of doing it and bring it back to the full Council.	JC, OM, AR, LW & CS
762.	Cumberland Council It was suggested that a meeting take place with the leader and two deputies of Cumberland Council to discuss the Town Council's aspirations. Cumberland Council are still finding their feet and have not	

	had their first meeting yet. After considering what Lorraine Smyth has` said regarding the Town Plan, it was agreed to target early September for a meeting, at which point the Town Plan should be in place and the Council will be in a better position to know exactly what the town wants. There may be other funding pots coming up. Members of the Council to get 5 each of the last two surveys completed. RESOLVED that Mark Fryer, Lisa Brown & Emma Williamson from Cumberland Council to be invited to a meeting in early September. In the meantime, any issues brought up at the Town Meeting will be reported again.	WEJ
763.	Unofficial signage The amount of unofficial business signage around the Town was discussed and it was agreed that they need to be reported, including the huge trailer that has been parked near Barracks Bridge.	
764.	Discovery Centre A few years ago, a room was done up in the Discovery Centre and the flight simulator was set up in there, with various models and diorama on display. They are now piled up gathering dust. Silloth has very few wet weather attractions. The models could be put on display in the newly cleared mezzanine area and the flight simulator put into use again. The building belongs now to Cumberland Council, and it could be put forward as a project. It was questioned who would look after it and how it would be sustainable. RESOLVED that Cllrs. J. Cook & C. Baty get together and put a plan together. Cllr. Markley will find out who to contact at Cumberland Council.	JC & CB AJM
765.	Light Members of the public have requested that some lighting be provided where the former pensioners hut was located, to light up the footpath. RESOLVED that some solar lighting be obtained which can be secured to the fencing panels.	WEJ
766.	Installation of benches in bus stops It was suggested that some backless benches be provided in the bus shelters, to support those passengers who can't stand for a prolonged length of time. RESOLVED that a bench be obtained for each of the bus shelters at Eden Street and Petteril Street, and the seat in the bus shelter at West Silloth be reinstated with some new planks of wood.	WEJ
767.	Councillors' reports and items for future agendas Cllr. Cook – Cllrs. only meet once a month but if there was councillor WhatsApp group, councillors could talk about things throughout the month, although no decisions could be made. Cllr. Martin – Proposed that a quotation be obtained for soft washing the front of the Community Hall building. Cllr. Baty – Suggested that the cycling event be discussed, including the road closure and complaints received. Cllr. Martin will be meeting with Danni Armstrong next week and he will raise any concerns.	
	<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>	
768.	Town Entrance Signs Cllr. Cook left the meeting. After some consideration it was agreed that two signs be re-covered in reflective vinyl at a cost of £150 per sign. The Cumbria in Bloom signs also need a clean. Grounds maintenance lads to be asked to remove the signs ready for re-covering. Cllr. Cook re-joined the meeting.	
769.	Tendering Process It was suggested that the Town Council review the tendering process, with a view to concessions	

	being for a 4-year period, with an annual increase. After a lengthy discussion, it was RESOLVED that all concessions i.e. ice-cream/food, fairground and land train would be put out to tender. There will be an “option” to extend for a further 12 months, if all the relevant criteria are being met and for a maximum duration of 4 years – which is the council’s term of office. Cllr. Winter left the meeting. It was further RESOLVED that minimum tender prices would initially be set, with an annual inflationary rise and the tenders to be put out much earlier. The land train has been operating on the main Green when events are on. Email to be sent reminding them not to operate on the main Green when events are on due to Health & Safety.	
770.	Quotation The Town Council considered a quotation received for repairs to Hudson Bomber which amounted to £2,300. RESOLVED not to proceed with the quotation and arrangements be made for the replica plane to be collected from Abbeytown. Alternative repair options would be investigated.	
771.	Amounts owing to the Town Council Rents are owing from the Rugby Club £475, Football Club £392, Cycling Festival £350 and Ragnarock £700. The organisers of the Ragnarock event are not based in Silloth and have therefore been charged £350 per day. Final reminders are to be sent to the Rugby Club and Football Club requesting that bills are paid by 30 June or further action will be taken. UPDATE: After checking the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2022, it was confirmed that the rent for the Ragnarock event should have been £100 per day. An amended invoice has been sent.	
772.	Dates for meetings Allotments Committee – Sat 1 July at 10am at the Allotments. Parks & Play Equipment Committee – Thurs 15 June at 7pm, meeting at the Eden Street Play area. Accessibility Committee – Mon 11 September at 7pm in the Community Hall.	

Signed.....

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