

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 3 July 2023 at 7.00pm at Silloth Community Hall

Present: Cllr. O. Martin (OM).

Councillors

C. Baty (CB), J. Cook (JC), A. Emmerson (AE), M. Irving (MI), A. J. Markley (AJM), M. Orchard (MO),
A. Reynolds (AR), J. Scott (JS) & C. Searle (CS).

Also present: Wendy Jameson – Town Clerk (WEJ).

823.	Apologies Apologies received from Cllrs. W. Jefferson & L. Winter were accepted by the Town Council.	
824	Declarations of Interest None.	
825.	Exclusion of Press & Public It was agreed that the Press and Public be excluded for items 24, 25, 26 & 27 on the agenda.	
826.	Chairman's Announcements Cllrs. Martin and Cook had attended the performance of Oliver at the school which was really good. They managed to raise £1,000 with raffles etc.	
827.	Minutes RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 5 June 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
828.	Public Participation There had been no requests to speak from members of the public.	
829.	Schedule of Correspondence, notices, and publications a) Letter from a local resident regarding the bus service between Silloth & Maryport which will cease in July. This is the second service withdrawn this year and is something that needs to be highlighted in the Town Plan. Cllr. Searle wrote to Denise Rollo and was told he would receive an update following a meeting with Stagecoach but has heard nothing back. This is an ongoing issue. The buses have been used more since the reduction of bus fares was introduced. Reply to be sent to the resident. b) NADT Summer Sessions – Request to use the hollow in front of the sports hall for some sports sessions on 4th August and 11th August. RESOLVED that permission be granted, subject to all the necessary paperwork being provided i.e., risk assessment, public liability insurance etc. Safety barriers would be required. Also, ask if it is a free session for the kids. Reply to be sent to NADT. c) Cumbria's Plan Bee – Cumbria Local Nature Partnership are encouraging town and parish councils to discuss what they can do to help and then make a pledge to make a positive change for pollinators. The Council already do a lot to help pollinators on the Green with the Bee Garden and other planting and therefore no further action required. d) Email requesting that a bin be sited next to the MUGA and for the grounds staff to empty it. A bin was removed due to it being used for commercial waste and it was agreed there are enough bins in and around the sports area. RESOLVED that no additional bin will be provided at the current time and to simply monitor the situation. e) Silloth RNLI – Email asking if the Town Council would consider becoming a RNLI Water Safety Ambassador. RESOLVED that the Town Council agree to being a RNLI Water Safety Ambassador. Some of the obsolete signposts could be used for new signage. Reply to be sent and the Town Clerk will sign up on the RNLI website.	WEJ WEJ WEJ

830.	Committees a) Planning Committee It is proposed that planning applications be considered by the full council which would avoid the issue of committee meetings not being quorate and that the planning committee be dissolved. Cllr. Cook declared an interest regarding the planning application to be discussed later. Dissolving the planning committee would save time in terms of less meetings and plans would be considered in the full council meeting but all councillors would need to look at the plans prior to the meeting. A vote was taken, 4 for and 4 against, with the chairman using his casting vote to RESOLVE that the planning committee be dissolved. b) Substitute committee members It was suggested that the council consider adding two substitute members to each committee to be called upon when required to cover apologies at committee meetings. Some committees already have more members than required and therefore will not need 2 substitutes. Allotments Committee (2 substitutes required) – Cllr. Martin to be a sub. Parks & Play Equipment Committee (1 substitute required) – Cllr. Markley to be a sub. Staffing Committee (2 substitutes required) – Cllrs. Searle & Reynolds to be subs. A substitute member would be called upon if apologies have been received for a committee meeting. If there was an ongoing issue in relation to staffing, it would need to be dealt with by the same committee members. If members have put their names forward to be on a committee, they need to be committed to attending those meetings, otherwise they should not put themselves forward to be on a committee. Apologies for meetings need to be submitted as soon as a councillor is aware they will not be able to attend a meeting, to enable the necessary arrangements to be made. Town Plan Committee (2 subs required) – Cllr. Reynolds to be a sub. Members of the Council not at tonight's meeting will also be asked. Accessibility Committee – no subs required. c) To consider reports received from the following committees and any action required as a result: i) Planning Committee – 5 June 2023 – noted. ii) Parks & Play Equipment Committee – 15 June 2023. • Copy of an email regarding the Fairy Trail which Vicky hopes to reinstate in the very near future when she has more time – noted. • Request received for Playdale to be asked to come for a site visit to discuss replacing equipment on the Eden Street Playing Field area – Thurs 6 July 2023 at 11.30am. There are to be three options for play equipment using the £30k funding which would be put out to public consultation via Facebook, with the one receiving the most votes being the option chosen. • A suggestion was received for a centre piece for the memorial area at the former viewing platform. The cost of fencing the viewing platform would have been expensive. The proposed centre piece is a metal framework in the shape of a lighthouse which will be filled with stones, on to which memorial plaques can be attached. The cost will be £180, plus the cost of the stones to fill the framework and for around the base. Centre piece to be obtained. iii) Allotment Committee – 1 July 2023 – noted.	WEJ
831.	Planning Application Reference No: FUL/2023/0132 Applicant: Durali Cengiz Proposal: Covered porch and alteration to frontage (part retrospective) Location: Blue Dolphin Cafe, Wampool Street, Silloth CA7 4BS Cllr. Cook declared an interest and Cllr. Markley abstained. The ramp has been there for a number of years but the application is for a covered porch. The property is also within the conservation area. The decision on the application will be made by officers at Cumberland Council. There would need to be a specific planning reason to object to an application. A vote was taken, and it was RESOLVED that	WEJ

	the Council recommends the application be approved.	
832.	Representatives on Outside Bodies i) AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) – There will be a meeting later this month. ii) Silloth Tourism Action Group (STAG) – Cllr. Cook has been in touch with Naomi regarding the room at the Discovery Centre and whether a voluntary organisation can take over the room to do different things throughout the year. STAG needs to be up and running again. Cllr. Cook will get back in touch in 10 days and hopefully come back with plans. iii) Sea Dyke Charity – Meeting next Monday. iv) Longcake Education Trust – Graham Wilkinson sent a report following the last meeting. Grants of £750 each have been given to each of the four schools. v) Friends of Silloth Green – It has been a good month and the group have raised over £500 with the plant stalls. Wood preserver has been put on the raised beds. A grant has been received from the Charity Shop and they have applied for a grant from the Co-op Community Fund. A question was raised about using cars on the Green – item to be included on the next Agenda. They would also like to install a couple of extra sockets in the potting shed. The group have suggested putting a wooden border along the edge of the Lawn Terrace bed – item to be included on the next Agenda. viii) Sports Association – No report. There is a meeting in 2 weeks.	
833.	Cumberland Council Report Cllr. Markley attended a planning meeting today. Scrutiny meeting took place regarding the provision of a swimming pool at the Wave which has not been approved. There will be a panel meeting in 2 weeks' time. Community members of the panel members can't vote but have an input. There is currently no representative from Silloth on the community panel. Cllr. Markley will let us know who the portfolio holder for tourism is. Cllr. Markley provided an update regarding the current strike action by refuse workers but is not involved in the process. A paper is going through at Cumberland Council to harmonise the situation, but it will take time. The community panel has an allocation of funding to distribute, and each councillor also has an allocation of funding. Cllrs. Tony Markley, Mike Johnson, Elaine Lynch, Trevor Allison & Kevin Thurlow are on the Fells & Solway Community Panel. It would be useful to have information about any community panel funding which could be shared with local groups.	AJM
834.	Ground's Maintenance Report A grounds maintenance report was provided in relation to work carried out over the last month.	
835.	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.	
836.	Payment of Accounts It was RESOLVED that the payments listed in the register report to 3 July 2023 be approved for payment.	
837.	Requests for Financial Assistance None.	
838.	Events to be held on Town Council property Cycling Festival – Cllr. Martin has spoken to Danni Armstrong about the Cycling Festival and the possibility of holding a Food Festival in Silloth. The organisers are willing to work closely with us next year to mitigate any future concerns. A member of the Council can attend the group planning meetings and report back to the Council. Ragnarock – A complaint was received from a local resident about the noise from the Ragnarock event which has been referred to Cumberland Council who now deal with licencing. The site was left tidy after the event and there had been no other issues. Silloth Music Festival – Some of the paperwork has been received for the Silloth Music Festival in September, with some more paperwork to follow.	

839.	Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 A report was received from the Stamper & Co Accountants following the internal audit of the Accounts which confirmed that there were no issues arising regarding the financial recording of the Town Council's activities and the preparation of their annual accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023. Noted.	
840.	Budget The Town Clerk prepared a report comparing the actual expenditure to date with the budget for 2023/24 which was noted by the Council. Everything is on track and there is funding in place for several projects planned for this current year.	
841.	Silloth Town Plan The Town Clerk provided a brief update on the current number of surveys which have been returned Accessibility – 198, Sustainability – 203, Health – 127 & Transport – 131. A few more have been handed in and if there are any more, please pass them to the Town Clerk. The data will now be compiled, and the plan drafted.	
842.	Councillor WhatsApp group Councillors only meet once a month, but it was suggested that there be a councillor WhatsApp group, whereby councillors could talk about things throughout the month, although no decisions could be made. Some guidance was obtained from CALC. Not all councillors have WhatsApp and it is important not to exclude anyone and it was therefore RESOLVED not to proceed with it at the present time.	
843.	Community Hall It was RESOLVED that arrangements be made for soft washing the front of the Community Hall building, up to a maximum budget of £1,000. The ridge tiles at the back of the building also need attending to.	WEJ
844.	Councillors' reports and items for future agendas Cllr. Irving – Residents have been in touch regarding the condition of the “witches’ hat” at Grune Point, the former World War II pill box. The point has gone off the top and the rendering is loose. They would like to see it renovated and a plaque on it for the firemen who died many years ago. Cllr. Searle – Planning training is needed for the full council. Arrangements to be made with CALC. Cllr. Baty – Play equipment for the West Silloth play area. Playdale are coming on Thursday and will also have a look at the West Silloth play area.	
845.	Hudson Bomber Travis and Thomas have offered to refurbish/repair the Hudson Bomber at the end of the season which is an important feature of the Green. The Council are happy to cover the cost of any materials required and it will also need painted afterwards. Currently being stored at the grounds maintenance yard.	
	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.	
846.	Football Changing Rooms The Town Clerk gave an update on progress about the refurbishment of the Changing Rooms following the burst pipe in December. The work is covered by the Council's insurance and two interim payments have been made. A 3 rd invoice has been received but the insurance company is waiting for the final invoice before any further payments will be made. Having spoken to the builder the remaining work should be completed within 2 weeks. RESOLVED that no further payments be made until the work is complete. An email was received from the Football Club regarding the new building, with a question regarding the VAT implications. Advice will be obtained regarding the VAT.	WEJ

847.	Staffing Committee Cllr. Martin gave an update following the recent issues with regards to the cleaning of the public conveniences and recommendations of the Staffing Committee. Contract cleaners have been brought in to cover 2 days a week and holidays and will be starting tomorrow.	
848.	Quotations a) RESOLVED that the quotation received from M. W. Joinery Solutions of £2,349 for joinery work at the Criffel Street toilet block be accepted. b) RESOLVED that a pair of 16 x 6 goal posts for Skinburness Road and a pair of 12 x 6 goal posts for West Silloth be obtained. c) RESOLVED that the quotation received from Zan Cleaning of £1,004 for deep cleaning all four toilet blocks be accepted, and arrangements be made as soon as possible.	
849.	Amounts owing to the Town Council There are no amounts owing to the Town Council.	

Signed.....

Date.....