

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 4 March 2024 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), W. Jefferson (WJ),
M. Orchard (MO), A.J. Markley (AJM), A. Reynolds (AR), J. Scott (JS) & C. Searle (CS).

Also present: Wendy Jameson – Town Clerk (WEJ), 6 members of the public and 5 people on Zoom.

094.	Apologies None.	
095.	Declarations of Interest None.	
096.	Exclusion of Press & Public It was agreed that the Press and Public be excluded from items 21 & 25 on the agenda.	
097.	Chairman's Announcements Thanks to Cllr. Cook for attending the RNLI 200 th celebration at Christ Church and to Cllr. Reynolds for opening the new sandwich shop. Thanks also to the Town Clerk for all the work on the Town Plan.	
098.	Minutes Cllr. Baty asked why his questions regarding the Music & Beer Festival had not been minuted. Questions regarding the Music & Beer Festival should be sent to the committee direct, as it doesn't relate to the Town Council. Minutes are not a verbatim record of a meeting, but a summary of the decisions made, with some background information. Councillors can request for something specific to be minuted during the meeting itself. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meetings held on 5 February & 19 February 2024 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
099.	Public Participation There were no requests from members of the public to speak at the meeting.	
100.	Schedule of Correspondence, notices, and publications. a) Silloth Lifeboat Station – Invitation to attend a memorial service at Christ Church on Sun 3 March at 3pm. Monday 4 March will be the 200 th birthday of the RNLI. Cllr. Cook attended the event on behalf of the Town Council. b) Email from a local resident regarding the condition of the dropped kerbs and pavements in Silloth. The matter will be forwarded to Cumbria Highways. The Town Council will monitor the issue and will continue to address it via the Accessibility Committee.	WEJ
101.	Committees a) Minutes from the following committee meetings were noted by the Full Council:- • 8 February 2024 - Parks & Play Equipment Committee • 10 February 2024 - Allotment Committee • 12 February 2024 - Accessibility Committee b) Forthcoming meetings:- • 14 March 2024 – Full Council – re: Town Plan • 6 April 2024 – Allotment Committee • 15 April 2024 - Accessibility Committee • Early May – Parks & Play Equipment Committee	

102.	Public Toilets a) It was agreed that two people counter devices be obtained to monitor the usage of the public toilets which can be moved around the four different toilet blocks between April – September, for a week of each month. b) There had been a suggestion that the ladies and gents’ toilets at Skinburness Road be closed, the disabled toilet made available for everyone to use and in the future, changed to a pay to use toilet but still accessible with a radar key. It was agreed that the Council needs to look at the usage figures before making any decisions on closing the toilets. Some people who had responded to Town Plan surveys had said they were happy to pay to use the toilets. Further consideration would be given to adding pay to use machines and possibly closing some facilities in 12 months, in the next financial year.	
103.	Planning Applications Cumberland Council has approved the following: Ref No: FUL/2023/0234 Applicant: COVE Communities Solway Holiday Village Proposal: Removal of existing structures, including part of the Lido Building, and the installation of a children’s play park including a splash pad, outdoor pool, water slides and various play structures; creation of a new access stairwell; erection of supporting facilities including a food & beverage unit and changing facilities; recladding of the Lido Building including a new rear access, provision of an ancillary plant room, and associated hard and soft landscaping and infrastructure works. Location: Solway Holiday Village, Skinburness Drive, Silloth, CA7 4QQ.	
104.	Representatives on Outside Bodies i) Solway Coast National Landscape – Joint Advisory Committee – There is a meeting coming up in the next month. There has been an allocation of money from the Government which will be confirmed at the next meeting. ii) Silloth Tourism Action Group (STAG) – Project for the Discovery Centre building. The building does not belong to the Solway Coast National Landscapes but belongs to Cumberland Council and therefore any proposals will need to be taken up with them. iii) Sea Dyke Charity – There has been no meeting, but everything is moving forward. iv) Longcake Education Trust – At the meeting on 8 February, a donation of £100 was given to three Sunday schools, £300 to Abbeystown pre-school and grants of £300 to each of the four, day schools. v) Friends of Silloth Green – The volunteers have been busy sorting out the new bed. The dry riverbed has been dug out and 100 Rosa Rugosa plants are to be planted in the woodland area. There is also a plant stall this week. v) Sports Association – No report.	
105.	Cumberland Council Report The Community panels are asking for nominations for people to join the panels. Cumberland Council received a bus grant of £929k, of which £460k was spent straight away. Cllr. Markley is pushing for the Silloth/Allonby route to be reinstated. The HSE project has finished, and Cumberland has been allocated £148m over 7 years which is not for highways but for local transport. The viaduct at Workington is down and therefore the Carlisle/Workington rail line is not operating. Solway Street – allocation of money has been received from the Government, but it can’t be used until the start of the financial year. There is also a budget now for lamp posts.	
106.	Ground’s Maintenance Report A grounds maintenance report was provided regarding work carried out over the last month which was noted by the Town Council.	
107.	Town Clerk’s Report A report was provided by the Town Clerk regarding work carried out over the last month which was noted by the Town Council.	

108.	Payment of Accounts It was RESOLVED that the payments listed in the register report to 4 March 2024 be approved for payment, with the following additional payments £442.80 to Keep Britain Tidy and £470.25 to Henry Armer & Son.	
109.	2023/24 Budget The Town Clerk produced a report comparing the actual expenditure to date with the budget for 2023/24 which was noted by the Town Council. The Council will need to be mindful that future spending needs to be within the budget. If an election is held to fill the current vacancy on the Town Council, it will probably be combined with the Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner election in May which will reduce the cost by half.	
110.	Requests for Financial Assistance There were no requests for financial assistance.	
111.	Events to be held on Town Council property. a) Cycling Festival – 8 th June 2024 – The Chairman and Town Clerk met with Ellie Jones from Cumberland Council and Fiona from Carlisle Cycling Association to discuss this year's event. Bradley Wiggins' son won the men's race last year and the girl who won the ladies race is now in Team GB. It is quite a prominent event and everyone who took part last year enjoyed it. For the route they are using for the Cobbler race, there will be detours in place and big vehicles diverted out of town. The route will be fenced off, with marshals in place to direct the travel. Extra parking will be identified. Everything seems well organised and the event should grow. b) Silloth Rugby Club – Family Fun Day – 25 May or 1 June 2024 – Date to be confirmed. c) Silloth on Solway Festivals 2022 – Firebird Festival – Sat 6 th & Sun 7 th July 2024 – Change of dates. Amended paperwork was received today and will be checked through by the Town Clerk. d) Circus Montini – 18 th – 21 st August 2024 – Dates have been confirmed for their visit.	
112.	Community Mosaic The Council considered a proposal for the addition of a community mosaic to the raised platform on the promenade which is to become a memorial area. There is some funding available county wide for kids' projects from the Arts Council etc. The youth club kids will design and help install it under the supervision of some professional artists. Any plans will come back to the full council for final approval before any work begins. A mosaic will be a lasting project and a nice addition to the area. The project will start in the next few months.	
113.	Councillors' reports and items for future agendas It was questioned when the Hudson Bomber will be coming back which will be this month hopefully. Film Show on the Green – bring back to the next meeting – Cllr. A. Reynolds.	
	<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>	
114.	Leases a) Tennis Club – The tennis club had a brief look at the draft lease at their AGM but has decided that one of their committee members will have a closer look at it and will hopefully approve it at their meeting on 19 March. b) Fitness Centre – Mavis has been in touch with a number of queries which the Town Clerk will respond to. The lease document being used is a generic document and needs tweaked slightly to reflect the current arrangements. The main change is that the Fitness Centre is to become responsible for the business rates but as a small business, the Fitness Centre will qualify for Small Business Rates relief. The Town Council is happy for the lease to be for a shorter term if required.	

	c) Silloth Youth Club – Youth Club’s solicitor will have a look at it and will get back to us. d) Silloth Football Club – A Tenancy Amendment Agreement has been drafted which amends the existing lease to confirm that the Football Club will be responsible for the business rates and utilities from 1 April 2024 onwards. RESOLVED that the Tenancy Amendment Agreement is signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Town Council. Also, clarification is needed on whether the new clubhouse building is going ahead on the site of the former OAP hut. The Town Council is keen to support local sports clubs and are happy for the rent for the junior pitches etc to fall under the same agreement as the main pitch, with the club paying the utilities and rates. Regarding the draft plan, access is needed around the area where the junior pitches are located. The club has a 6-year maintenance plan for the pitches, with work due to start on 20 May. The pitches will need to be left for 8-12 weeks to allow time for the grass seed to germinate and grow which will clash with the Ragnarock event in June. The junior pitches will be fenced off and there will be two triangular areas remaining which they will be able to use for camping. It was suggested that a clause be included in the new lease to ensure there is co-operation to allow events to take place, especially when they are not paying any rent for the land. Ragnarock also need to be made aware of what land they have available to use. e) Silloth Rugby Club – Anonymous letters are not accepted by the Town Council but when it relates to a potential legal matter involving the Council, such as the terms of a lease, it should be discussed. Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, people making requests are not entitled to anonymity for a request to be valid. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Town Council are happy for the Rugby Club to allow other clubs to use their pitch for sports purposes only and without payment. The Aspatria pitch is currently unplayable which is why they are currently using the Silloth rugby pitch.	
115.	Football Changing Rooms An update was provided to members of the Council. £4,580 + VAT has been paid towards the final bill, with £2,000 withheld to cover the cost of the remaining jobs on the snagging list. An email was received from the Insurance assessor, confirming the action taken. It was agreed that quotes be obtained to do the rectification work. Reply to be sent to confirm that the contract has ended, the jobs on the snagging list have not been completed to a satisfactory standard and therefore £2,000 is being kept back to cover the cost of the rectification work.	WEJ
116.	Quotations RESOLVED that the quotation received from MH Decorators of £2,260 to repaint the interior and exterior of the Criffel Street toilets is accepted.	
117.	Food Concessions No tenders were received for the Food concession on Skinburness Road.	
118.	Amounts owing to the Town Council Current amounts owing include Allotment rent of £15.07 and £382.39 owed by an allotment holder for clearing his plot, with an application submitted for a warrant of control.	

Signed.....

Date.....