

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 3 March 2025 at 7.00pm at Silloth Community Hall

Present: Cllr. O. Martin (OM).

Councillors

J. Cook (JC), M. Irving (MI), W. Jefferson (WJ), A.J. Markley (AJM),
K. Orchard (KO), M. Orchard (MO), A. Reynolds (AR), J. Scott (JS) & C. Searle (CS).

Also present: Wendy Jameson – Town Clerk (WEJ), Neil Dockeray,
Jonty Molyneaux and Mark Holliday from Silloth Tourism Action Group (STAG).

563.	Minutes Silence There was a minutes' silence for Graham Wilkinson who sadly passed away recently. He served as a Town Councillor for 20 years, including 5 years as Mayor/Chairman and 5 years as Deputy Mayor/Chairman.	
564.	Apologies Apologies received from Cllrs. C. Baty & A. Emmerson were accepted by the Town Council.	
565.	Declarations of Interest None.	
566.	Exclusion of Press & Public It was agreed that the Press and Public be excluded for items 21-23 on the agenda.	
567.	Chairman's Announcements The Chairman attended the funeral of former Town Councillor Graham Wilkinson.	
568.	Minutes RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 3 February 2025 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
569.	Public Participation There were no requests from any members of the public to speak at the meeting, although representatives from STAG were present to discuss the Pickett-Hamilton fort (min 570 b).	
570.	Schedule of Correspondence, notices, and publications. a) Email from a local resident regarding the ownership, repair & maintenance of the road behind Station Mews leading to the Bowling Club. The Town Clerk had provided information to the resident but there was nothing more the Council can do. b) Silloth Tourism Action Group – Email regarding planning permission for information boards and siting of a Pickett-Hamilton fort which will be part of the Silloth Military Trail. Planning permission has been submitted before obtaining permission for the Pickett-Hamilton fort from the Town Council. Neil Dockeray, Jonty Molyneaux and Mark Holliday attended the meeting to explain the project. Illustrations of other forts around the country were passed around members of the Council. The Pickett-Hamilton fort measures 7ft across the top and the plan is to site it next to the replica Hudson bomber on the Green. It would be 4 foot above ground level to prevent it flooding, banked up with soil and grassed over. It would be kept locked but could be occasionally demonstrated to show how it works. There was support for the project and the proposed location which would be a focal point, an asset for the town and an attraction for visitors. It was requested that they come back with three specific options of how it would look for the Town Council to consider and then decide on what would be most appropriate. Clarification is also needed on the maintenance and insurance and confirmation that it	

	will be professionally installed to a high standard. Email to be sent confirming the information required. c) CALC – Devolution update – Government consultation now live – Public consultation launched which seeks views on the proposal to form a Mayoral Combined Authority for the local government areas of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness. Consultation ends on 13 April 2025. Individual councillors to send in their responses.	WEJ All Cllrs.
571.	Committees a) Minutes from the following Committee meetings were noted:- • 3 February 2025 – Finance & HR Committee • 10 February 2025 – Accessibility Committee b) Forthcoming meetings:- • 10 March 2025 – Town Plan Committee • 20 March 2025 – Parks & Play Equipment Committee	
572.	Planning Applications Cumberland Council has approved the following:- Ref No: FUL/2024/0246 Applicant: G Vasey Proposal: Replacement of 25 No. windows from single glazed to aluminium double-glazed Location: Marine Terrace, Criffel Street, Silloth, Wigton, CA7 4BZ Ref No: LBC/2024/0048 Applicant: G Vasey Proposal: Replacement of 25 No. windows from single glazed to aluminium double-glazed Location: Marine Terrace, Criffel Street, Silloth, Wigton, CA7 4BZ The Town Council considered the following:- Ref No: HOU/2025/0036 Applicant: Shaun Bell Proposal: Side Extension Location: Bramblewood, Blitterlees, Silloth, Wigton, CA7 4JJ – Approved.	
573.	Representatives on Outside Bodies i) Solway Coast National Landscape – Joint Advisory Committee – No meeting. ii) Silloth Tourism Action Group (STAG) – Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2025 were noted. iii) Sea Dyke Charity – Meeting last week. Grants of approx. £10k were given out to various halls and schools etc and they continue to invest in the farm and their assets. iv) Longcake Education Trust – Cllr. Jefferson attended a meeting last week which was not quorate and has decided to withdraw from being a representative. Papers will be passed to the Town Clerk and can be considered at the next meeting. v) Friends of Silloth Green – Volunteers have been busy on the allotment and community garden. First plant stall will be on 19th March and the AGM on 16 April. Also encouraging people to sign up to the Easyfundraising app to raise funds. vi) Sports Association – Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2025 were noted. A representative of the Town Council is required to sit on the Hellrigg Community Benefit Fund Advisory Panel. Cllr. M. Orchard agreed to be the Council’s representative. His contact details will be passed to Cumbria Community Foundation which manages the fund. A question was raised about the lack of maintenance to the exterior of the sports hall which is run by the school. Cllr. M. Orchard will contact the school direct.	WEJ MO
574.	Cumberland Council Report There is a meeting tomorrow. There is to be a 4.95% increase on the budget. There will be a community panel meeting on 17 March at the Community Hall and on 15 April in the library. From 31 March garden waste bins will be collected fortnightly, with an annual charge of £40 for an additional garden waste bin. From May waste collections will be fortnightly. From April 2025, residents will be able to request a free replacement 180 litre bin (from current 120 litre). Paper and cardboard recycling will increase to fortnightly from	

	September 2025. A major consultation exercise was carried out regarding the changes, with 41% of the respondent opposed to the changes, 30% without a view. It was questioned, what is the purpose of consultations when they don't take on board the views of those who respond. Cumberland Council are going to be borrowing another £24m. Cardboard/paper has blown into the woods from the recycling centre which needs to be reported again. It was questioned when pollarding work is going to be done on the trees around the town, the severe dip in the setts repaired on Criffel Street opposite the Queens Hotel and repairs to Solway Street.	
575.	Ground's Maintenance Report A copy of the grounds maintenance job sheets was circulated to members of the Council listing all the work carried out over the last month which were noted by the Town Council.	
576.	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.	
577.	Payment of Accounts RESOLVED that the payments listed in the register report to 3 March 2025 be approved for payment, including a payment of £10,542.86 to Danfo (UK) Ltd being 50% of the bill for the contactless entry system for the public conveniences.	
578.	Requests for Financial Assistance Northwest Air Ambulance – The Town Council already support the Great North Air Ambulance and are not able to provide funding to both.	
579.	Events to be held on Town Council property. The Town Council has agreed to the application for the Silloth Emergency Services Day on Sunday 27th April 2025, subject to the necessary paperwork being submitted within the necessary timescales.	
580.	Criffel Street toilets The Town Clerk provided an update on the installation of the 'payment access control' equipment and additional works to be done to the Criffel Street toilets. The urinals in the gents' have been moved across, as the privacy wall is going to be altered. The electrics and building work will be completed this month, with the 'payment access control' equipment to be installed at the beginning of April and will be sorted in time for Easter. A decision can be made on installing the equipment in the other toilets when the remaining amount left in the budget is known.	
581.	Councillors' reports and items for future agendas None.	
	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.	
582.	Quotations The Town Council considered quotations received for the repairs to the manhole and drain adjacent to the septic tank at the sports area which range from £500 to £2,034. The three manholes leading from the Rugby Club are the responsibility of the Rugby Club. RESOLVED that Clearflow Utilities be asked to carry out the necessary repairs at the price quoted of £500. A quotation has also been received of £650 to repair the floor of the Fitness Centre which is in a dangerous condition. The work will be carried out as soon as possible.	WEJ

583.	Food concessions There were no tenders received for the Food concession on Skinburness Road.	
584.	Amounts owing to the Town Council The amounts owing to the Town Council were discussed and it was RESOLVED that a statement be sent to Silloth RUFC for the outstanding amount of £467.80, with a date by which payment is to be received.	
585.	Persistent and vexatious complaints and correspondence policy Cllrs. M. Orchard and K. Orchard declared an interest and remained in the meeting but abstained from the vote. The Town Council discussed recent emails received which come under the scope of the Persistent and Vexatious Complaints and Correspondence Policy and considered any action to take as a result. RESOLVED that Stage 2 of the Persistent and Vexatious Complaints and Correspondence Policy be implemented, as there has been no improvement in the tone of the emails and the Town Council is not willing to accept it. It was agreed that there be a total ban on all communication from the individual for a period of six months, after which it will be reviewed again. An alternative point of contact is to be requested. Letter to be sent by the Chairman on behalf of the Town Council to explain the Council's decision. The Town Council is unable to respond to the FOI request until clarification is received on specifically what information is being requested.	

Signed.....

Date.....