

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 1 December 2025 at 7.00pm at Silloth Community Hall

Present: Cllr. O. Martin (Chairman)

Cllrs. C. Baty, A. Emmerson, M. Irving, C. Johnston, A.J. Markley,
K. Orchard, M. Orchard, J. Scott & C. Searle.

Also present: Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

930. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs. J. Cook & W. Jefferson were accepted by the Town Council.

931. Declarations of Interest

None.

932. Exclusion of Press & Public

It was agreed that the press and public be excluded for items 11, 23 & 24 on the agenda.

933. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman attended the Armistice Day service.

934. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 3 November & 17 November 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

935. Public Participation

A member of the public spoke regarding the ice cream concessions, specifically addressing the proposed 5% increase in the concession price for 2026. The lifeboat pitch has been quieter over the last 2 years, costs continue to rise and increased competition in the town has affected trade. A member of the public also spoke about plans to convert a property to flats and asked for clarification on the council's agreement regarding access arrangements.

936. PSHE Education in Secondary Schools: Preparing Young People for Adult Life

Bobby Forbes (Member of UK Youth Parliament & Chairman of the UK House of Commons Youth Select Committee) provided a comprehensive update about the inquiry into PSHE Education in Secondary Schools: Preparing Young People for Adult Life.

937. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices, and Publications

The schedule of correspondence was noted by the Council. Key items included:

- a) **Cumberland Council – Community Governance Review:** Information regarding the Community Governance Review in Cumberland in 2026 was received, and Councillors are to send their individual responses.
- b) **Cumberland Council - Electoral Services:** An email detailing future costs for Town Council elections, estimated at approx. £3.00 per elector, which could amount to £6,657 for Silloth. Concern was raised over the significant increase in costs, especially given the move towards more digital processes. It was noted that costs will be shared with Cumberland Council during combined elections, but a mid-term local election could incur the full £6,657 cost. An email is to be sent to query the level and breakdown of the election costs.
- c) **Rabbit control on the Green:** An email seeking permission for nighttime rabbit shooting on the Green. The Council were not in favour of shooting rabbits and permission was not granted.
- d) **HMS Biter** - An email from the Commanding Officer of HMS Biter expressed interest in exploring future collaborative opportunities through events, visits, or other initiatives. **RESOLVED** that enquiries be made with the Lifeboat Station about HMS Biter participating in the Emergency Services Day in August 2026 and the Remembrance Day service in November.

938. Planning Applications

The Town Council considered the following:-

Ref No: FUL/2025/0129 **Applicant:** Mark Newby, The Good Companions (Cumbria) Ltd **Proposal:** Change of Use from Church to day centre **Location:** Former St Andrews Church, Solway Street, Silloth, CA7 4EF – No objections.

Ref No: FUL/2024/0236 **Applicant:** David Perry **Proposal:** 13 new residential dwellings **Location:** Former Skinburness Hotel, Skinburness Village, Skinburness, CA7 4QY. Amendment: Various amended documents and flood risk assessment received 9-9-2025 and 18-11-2025 – No objections. Cllr Markley abstained from the vote.

939. Committees

Minutes Noted: The minutes of the Finance & HR Committee meeting held on Monday 17 November 2025 were noted.

Forthcoming Meeting: Mon 8 December 2025 – Town Plan Committee at 7pm.

The agenda is to include consideration of any larger projects within the Town Plan to discuss with Marcus Campbell-Savours MP once a meeting is arranged with him.

940. Representatives on Outside Bodies

- i. **Solway Coast National Landscapes:** The joint conference with Solway Firth Partnership on 14 November at The Halston, Carlisle was very interesting and well attended, possibly their best conference to date. Everything is reported as continuing well within the National Landscapes.
- ii. **Silloth Tourism Action Group:** Cllr. Baty was congratulated for the grant received from the Hadfield Trust. Four information boards for the military trail have been installed at Grune Point, Mawbray, Cemetery and West Beach. Hopefully the Pickett Hamilton fort will be installed soon, pending paperwork being submitted to the Town Clerk. More leaflets are to be printed.
- iii. **Sea Dyke Charity:** There was a meeting two weeks ago but there was no surplus money available to hand out this time. Swinsty Farm is progressing well.
- iv. **Longcake Education Trust:** Next meeting is in February. The trust is happy to consider funding applications from any youth groups, not just schools.
- v. **Friends of Silloth Green:** A report was circulated with the agenda.
- vi. **Sports Association:** No meeting was held. A board is to be added to the shelter with contact numbers.

941. Cumberland Council Report

A report was given by Cllr. Markley. There are a lot of new bus routes resulting from the government funding, and the Silloth/Maryport bus service is to continue for another 12 months. Cllr. Markley has again requested a Sunday bus service to Carlisle. The combined authority will come into place in 2026, with the new mayor to be elected in 2027. Criffel Street is to be finished and waiting for an answer on when work on Solway Street will commence. Work on pollarding the trees in the town has slowed up. An email is to be sent requesting a timeline for the completion of the work. A lot of traffic uses the road between Silloth and Wigton, and major work is needed, particularly to widen the road at Kingside Hill.

942. Grounds Maintenance Report

The monthly grounds maintenance job sheets were circulated, listing all work carried out during the past month. The report was noted by the Council. The Town Council considered a resident's concerns about a tree in Norman Wood, adjacent to their property, that is growing at an angle. The tree has been inspected, and there is no evidence of the root plate lifting or signs of disease or decay; the angle is due to the way the tree has grown with the wind. Regular inspections were recommended to monitor the tree. After considering the matter, and noting the tree has been reported twice, the Town Council agreed to arrange for the tree to be dismantled at a cost of £750. An email is to be sent to the resident.

943. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk presented a report outlining work undertaken during the past month. The report was noted by the Council.

944. Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED: That the payments listed in the register to 1 December 2025 be approved. Two additional payments were added: Jaybee (Blake) Ltd £60.48 & S. Hart £30.00.

945. Requests for Financial Assistance

No requests received.

946. Events to be Held on Town Council Property

- a) There were no requests to consider for events in 2026.
- b) The Town Council considered an email regarding a possible future circus visit and the fees charged for using the Green. After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would be willing to reduce the daily charge for a circus to £200 per day, with a minimum booking of 5 days, and no other circus to be booked within the same 12-month period. A reply is to be sent.

947. Memorial Plaque

The Town Council considered a request for a memorial plaque to be placed in front of a memorial tree in the Criffel Street bed. **RESOLVED** that the application and the proposed wording be approved.

Item 21 to be discussed at the end of the meeting.

948. Councillor's 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 that were instructed to withdraw.*

949. Silloth Football Club

Following the meeting with sports clubs on 17 November, the Town Council reviewed the utility bills for the Changing Rooms. The Football Club took over responsibility for the bills in 2024, in lieu of paying rent. After some discussion, it was agreed that the utility bills must be paid in full as per the agreement. A final reminder is to be sent. The new lease is also outstanding and needs to be sorted as soon as possible, otherwise the club will no longer be permitted to use the junior pitches. The current lease covers the changing rooms and main pitch, but the new lease will incorporate the junior pitches, none of which they pay rent for.

950. Concessions

a) The Town Council considered responses from concession holders regarding charges for the 2026 season and whether they wished to continue for a further year. **RESOLVED** that the following charges will apply for 2026:

- Fairground site - £6,074 (5% increase).
- Land Train Concession - £3,309 (5% increase).
- Pizza Van concession - £1,155 (5% increase).
- Ice Cream concessions – £6,510 (no increase due to reduced trade, increased costs and extra competition).

b) **RESOLVED** that the tender of £500 received from Beverley Jeffrey for the coffee van pitch on Skinburness Road for the 2026 season be accepted.

951. 2026/27 Budget

The Town Council considered the 2026/27 budget figures, as proposed by the Finance & HR Committee. The budget figures were amended to reflect the revised concession fees, and £1,500 added for potential election costs to bring the provision included in reserves up to £6,500. **RESOLVED** that the Town Council agrees the final budget, with a total funding requirement of £220,783 for 2026/27, representing a 5.56% increase on the previous year. The Precept is to be requested from Cumberland Council. The level of general reserves at the end of the current financial year is anticipated to be approx. £50,068. Earmarked reserves at 31 March 2026 include £7k for replacement machinery & equipment and £5k for election costs.

952. Amounts Owning to the Town Council

The Town Clerk provided an update on outstanding amounts.

Name.....

Date.....