

# MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 14 April 2014 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.**

## **Present**

<b>Councillor S Ashworth</b>	<b>Councillor B Campbell</b>
<b>Councillor Ms D Charlton</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs A Kendall</b>
<b>Councillor P Kendall (Chairman)</b>	<b>Councillor D King</b>
<b>Councillor Mrs C McCarron-Holmes</b>	<b>Councillor G Mitchell</b>
<b>Councillor W Pegram</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe</b>
<b>Councillor Ms C Tindall</b>	<b>Councillor L Williamson</b>
<b>Councillor Mrs J Wood</b>	

## **In Attendance**

**Mrs L Douglas (Clerk)**  
**Mr P Bramley (Clerk)**  
**Mrs V Patterson (Press)**

### **134/13 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Carter, Ms G Elliot, A Moore, G McAlpine & M Wood.

### **135/13 Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were received from Councillors Mrs A Kendall, Item 8(9), Personal, & P Kendall, Item 8(9), Personal.

### **136/13 Requests for Dispensations**

None received.

### **137/13 Minutes of Meeting held on 10 March 2014**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 10 March 2014 be confirmed as a correct record & signed by the Chairman.

### **138/13 Police Report**

Inspector G Hunter reported on crime figures for the area on a ward by ward basis for the previous two months, comparing them to the previous year. Recorded incidences of anti-social behaviour showed a reduction of 50% in Ellenborough, with reductions in Flimby & Netherhall; figures for Ewanrigg were similar to the previous year. Crime incidents had halved in Ellenborough, were similar in Flimby but had increased in Ewanrigg & Netherhall. A lot of the criminal damage reported was damage to cars, & shoplifting had increased in Netherhall.

Over the previous two months, a significant input had been given to the Furnace Road area of Maryport, where ongoing problems with anti-social behaviour had been reported. This had resulted in a large improvement, with no reported incidents over the previous six weeks.

The Police would be checking the operation of licensed premises in the coming months, particularly with the World Cup on the horizon, & addressing criminal damage issues, which were generally carried out between 6pm & 8am, when Police would be operational.

Inspector Hunter agreed to investigate the possibility of a specific officer undertaking door knocking duties.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **139/13 Presentation by Allerdale Borough Council senior Development Officer - Reducing Poverty, Denise Rollo**

Mrs Denise Rollo spoke on her new role with the Borough Council in addressing poverty issues. She welcomed the Town Council's proposal that the provision of a Social Supermarket in Maryport be supported & advised on investigatory work which she had carried out in that respect. The dramatic increase in use of food banks in Maryport over the previous year was evidence of the impact that households in the area were feeling, with a threefold increase in Ellenborough, Ewanrigg & Netherhall wards. In addition, evidence suggested that whilst people may not have reached the point where they had become reliant on food bank support, due to low income, they would welcome access to good quality food.

Mrs Rollo considered that trying to establish an independent Social Supermarket would be difficult, & so had approached 'Community Shop' concerning their pilot operation in Barnsley. Community Shop were planning to add around twenty further shops following their pilot operation, & had agreed to add Allerdale to the list of possible sites for the following expansion, should all go successfully. Maryport would be considered as an option for one to be sited when that point was reached, although that might take some two years.

Allerdale was looking at various projects which fell within its Reducing Poverty strategy, with work focussed on areas of deprivation, & would look to support communities seeking to help themselves. Mrs Rollo agreed to look into the provision of breakfast clubs across the borough, which were operating successfully in Maryport Schools, & advised that Allerdale was looking at a financial inclusion project to assist people with financial problems, which it was proposing to train Customer Services staff for. She agreed to forward a copy of the revised Reducing Poverty Strategy once it had been completed.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) The Council welcome Mrs Rollo's contribution to tackling poverty, that she be encouraged to work with the Town Council & Cumbria County Council in addressing the provision of a social supermarket in Maryport.
- 2) The Council agree in principle to support the provision of a social supermarket in the town utilising NNDR monies, should the government determine that a proportion of business rates should be paid directly to the Town Council, as a part of a national proposal forming a part of the Sustainable Communities Act.
- 3) The Council give due recognition & thanks to people who contribute to food banks, a service which should not be necessary, but which has become a dependency for many due to the failings of the government.

**140/13 Correspondence**

**Resolved** that the schedule of correspondence be received & noted, & the following matters determined:

- 1) That, further to Minute 119(13), the Police & Crime Commissioner's confirmation that, contrary to information provided to the Town Council, grant monies provided to Allerdale were not specifically for addressing street lighting problems, but were for addressing anti-social behaviour problems in general, be noted.
- 2) That Glasson 69ers Grasslot Cycle Club be forwarded a grant application form, in respect of a request for general financial support.
- 3) That Kate Whitmarsh from Ewanrigg Local Trust be invited to do a presentation on the work of the group following the receipt of Big Lottery funding in Ewanrigg.
- 4) That it be agreed to enter the Cumbria in Bloom competition 2014.
- 5) That a grant of £250 be awarded to Ricky Lightfoot of Ellenborough Athletic Club to support his trail & marathon running across the world, recognising his contribution to the area as an international sportsman.
- 6) That it be agreed to support Sevenoaks Town Council in its campaign for local councils to be awarded a proportion of the business rate levy for the area, as proposed under the Sustainable Communities Act.
- 7) That arrangements be made to meet with Cumbria County Council's Area Support Manager for Allerdale & their Poverty Officer, in conjunction with Allerdale Borough Council Reducing Poverty Officer.
- 8) That the proposal for the construction & installation of a lighthouse feature received from EW & PA Nicholson (Holdings) Ltd to replace the tug boat formerly displayed on Netherhall Corner be agreed.
- 9) That a grant of £2,000 be awarded to the Solway Trust towards the provision of Maryport trawler Race & Family Fun Day.
- 10) That a grant of £2,000 be awarded to the Solway Trust towards the provision of Maryport Carnival.
- 11) That a grant of £2,500 be awarded to Maryport Rugby Club towards provision of Maryport Cider & Beer Festival, (Fakefestival).

- 12) That it be noted that Allerdale Borough Council Deputy Monitoring Officer had considered a formal complaint made by a member of the public in respect of an alleged breach of Maryport Town Council's Code of Conduct & allegations that criminal offences were committed, specifically concerning Councillor Peter Kendall & more generally Councillor Mrs C McCarron Holmes. For each of the nine allegations made, the Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that there was no evidence to support the allegations made, & concluded that:
- a) There had not been a breach of Maryport Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct.
  - b) The complaint made against Councillor Peter Kendall did not merit a formal investigation.

#### **141/13 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved** that accounts for payment, in accordance with the schedule, totalling £7,660.19, be agreed.

#### **142/13 Finance Report**

**Resolved** that the Finance Report for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 be agreed.

#### **143/13 Service Contracts**

Further to Minute 133/13, it was reported that the Mayor & the Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee had met contractors on 18 March. Agreement had been reached to extend the existing contractual arrangements with Cockermouth & District Garden Services, with the addition of Flimby allotment site, based on the originally tendered rate from the contractor, together with the additions made for maintenance of hanging baskets, tubs & displays. The arrangements were agreed for another three years, (to 31 March 2017), at the same rates as those charged from 2011 to 2014. A similar agreement had been reached with R Stamper Services for Bus Shelter Maintenance & General Maintenance. Officers were awaiting a response from Brown & Armstrong Ltd concerning arrangements for the maintenance of the Fishy Tales monument.

**Resolved** that the contractual arrangements reached be noted.

#### **144/13 Netherhall Corner Flower Displays**

**Resolved** that it be noted that a three year licence for the maintenance of the flower beds at Netherhall Corner had been agreed between Allerdale Borough Council, as owners, & Maryport Town Council, & that such arrangements be made as considered suitable with partners from the Lakes College & Solway Trust for the maintenance of the beds over the period of the licence.

#### **145/13 World War 1 Centenary**

**Resolved** that the Council support the Parade in recognition of the centenary of the commencement of World War 1 arranged by Maryport Rotary Club taking place on 26 April 2014 &, further to Minute 125/13, seek permission from the descendants of local Victoria Cross winner Mr Edward Ben Smith VC DCM to locate a memorial paving stone, available through the government, in Maryport Memorial Gardens, (subject to agreement from Allerdale Borough Council).

#### **146/13 Memorial Repairs**

**Resolved** that it be noted that funding was available for repairs to War Memorials, & that clarification of ownership of those in Flimby & Maryport be sought, noting that it was believed that all assets belonging to the former Maryport Urban District Council were transferred to Allerdale Borough Council in 1974 as a part of local government reorganisation, whereas officers at Allerdale believed that ownership of the memorials rested with the Town Council.

#### **147/13 Maryport Cottage Hospital Meal Arrangements**

**Resolved** that, following the recent announcement that the area Health Trust was proposing to cease providing on-site cooked meals at Maryport Cottage Hospital, the Council contact the Trust, urging it to reconsider its decision, noting that the Cottage Hospital received a lot of support, including financial support, from the community, that the on-site cooked meal service was highly thought of by both the community & patients, & that it was considered that the patients deserved & benefited from the on-site meal service, which could not be replicated by an alternative service of microwave meals.

#### **148/13 Meeting Extension**

**Resolved** that the meeting be extended beyond 9pm to allow for the completion of business.

#### **149/13 Maryport Railway Station**

**Resolved** that, further to Minute 127/13, the Council be represented by Councillors P Kendall, Mrs C McCarron Holmes, Mrs L Radcliffe & Ms C Tindall in discussions to be held with Northern Rail Client & Stakeholder Manager Mr Craig Harrop, concerning the suitability & quality of Maryport Railway Station as one of the main entry points to the town, at a meeting to be held on 16 May 2014.

#### **150/13 Items for Next Agenda**

- 1) Flyposting

D Charlton

Following the conclusion of the meeting, a meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee commenced.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....