

# MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 9 December 2013 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.

## Present

Councillor B Campbell	Councillor B Carter
Councillor Ms D Charlton	Councillor Mrs A Kendall
Councillor P Kendall (Chairman)	Councillor D King
Councillor Mrs C McCarron-Holmes	Councillor G Mitchell
Councillor W Pegram	Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe
Councillor Ms C Tindall	Councillor Mrs J Wood

## In Attendance

Mrs L Douglas (Clerk)  
Mr P Bramley (Clerk)  
Mrs V Patterson (Press)  
Inspector G Hunter (Cumbria Constabulary)

### 82/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G McAlpine, Councillor A Moore & Councillor M Wood.

### 83/13 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from: Councillor Mrs A Kendall, Items 6(2) & 6(3), Personal & Prejudicial; Councillor W Pegram, Items 6(2) & 6(3), Personal & Prejudicial; & Councillor Ms C Tindall, Item 6(4), Personal & Prejudicial.

### 84/13 Requests for Dispensations

A Dispensation Request for Setting the Council Tax or Precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, where the Council member or their spouse/partner held property interests within the Maryport area, was received from Councillor B Campbell.

### 85/13 Minutes of Meeting held on 28 October 2013

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 28 October 2013 be confirmed as a correct record & signed by the Chairman.

### **86/13 Police Report**

Inspector G Hunter reported on crime incidents by ward area. Ellenborough had experienced a similar number of incidents to the same period in the previous year, mainly anti-social behaviour & criminal damage issues; Netherhall showed a small increase over the previous year, on similar crimes; Ewanrigg experienced a similar number to the previous year, on similar crimes; Flimby showed a small increase, mainly incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Following previously reported incidents of criminal damage to vehicles in the Netherhall area, checks were undertaken on licensed premises, through an under-age person seeking to purchase alcohol; the off licenses refused to provide a service, but all the pubs agreed to serve, resulting in fines.

Thirteen drug warrants had been issued in Maryport over the previous eight week period, with one person charged for possession of cocaine. Traffic speeding checks had been carried out recently, with a number of incidents of speeding in the Netherhall School area. Given the time of year, attention had been given to potential drink driving & eleven positive tests had resulted in the previous 35 hours. A number of people had been charged with causing damage to vehicles in recent weeks.

Over the coming weeks, attention would be given to the potential impact of works parties & socialising, which, based on previous experience, would be likely to lead to more violent & public order offences than at other times. In addition, potential drink drivers would be targeted.

Inspector Hunter reported that, following previous notifications from the Council, Cumbria Police were working with Cumbria Highways to try to address the problems reported with some bus stop arrangements in Flimby.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **87/13 Correspondence**

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

- 1) That Cumbria Independent Custody Visiting Scheme request for volunteers be noted.
- 2) That the Council agree to a further twelve months lease arrangement for Shiver Me Timbers with Maryport Harbour & Marina Ltd, & advise that any further extensions beyond 31 March 2015 should be agreed directly with the Lake District Coast Aquarium.
- 3) That a request for financial support from West Cumbria Rape Crisis be withdrawn, since the Council already provided financial support to the organisation.
- 4) That the invitation from Cumbria CVS to become a 'supporter' be noted.
- 5) That no response be made to Cumbria County Council's Budget consultation.
- 6) That permanent thermoplastic dog fouling logos proposed by Allerdale Borough Council be supported with no restrictions proposed on areas on application.

### **88/13 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved** that accounts for payment, in accordance with the schedule, totalling £18,076.12, be agreed.

### **89/13 Finance Report**

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

### **90/13 Lifebuoys/Throwing Lines**

**Resolved** that the absence & shortage of lifebuoys & throwing lines on Maryport Promenade be reported to Allerdale Borough Council.

### **91/13 Equality**

**Resolved** that the Council agree to the introduction of a 'Charter for Equality', as follows:

'The Council & Councillors, when dealing with members of the public, help, support & assist everyone on an equal basis, whether they are man, woman or child, regardless of their religious beliefs, nationality, colour, marital status, or sexual orientation; all will be treated equally, without fear or favour.'

### **92/13 Shop Closure**

**Resolved** that the Council's concerns with the continued loss of quality shops in Maryport be raised with Allerdale Borough Council Town Centre Manager for Maryport, & that the Council be represented by Councillor Ms C Tindall, Councillor P Kendall & Councillor Mrs C McCarron-Holmes.

### **93/13 Fleming Square Lights**

**Resolved** that the Council investigate the cost of introducing Christmas lighting in Fleming Square, the lighting to be supported through suitably installed posts.

### **94/13 Ward Notice Boards**

**Resolved** that the Council agree to the installation of poster cabinets on suitable bus shelters, as a means of providing a basis for promoting the operations of the Town Council, the cost to be met from the budget provision for Bus Shelter repairs.

### **95/13 Environmental Works**

**Resolved** that the Council agree to provide funding for the following schemes & arrange the works through Cumbria County Council, following the County Council's offer of match funding for the larger schemes & to ensure that the coastal path work was included in the maintenance programme funded in future years by Natural England, as follows:

- 1) Coastal Path from Fothergill Bridge to southern boundary, (estimate £400), in 2013/14, the cost to be met from the Environmental Improvements Reserve.
- 2) Eagle Gill Walk, including replacement of bridge, clearance of trees & putting down a gravel surface, (£3,000), in 2013/14, the cost to be met from the Environmental Improvements Reserve.
- 3) Church Lane, including drainage work & concreting as necessary, (£5,000), in 2014/15, the costs to be met from the Environmental Improvements budget.

**96/13 Internal Audit Report**

**Resolved** that the positive Internal Audit report for the period April to September 2013 be welcomed, that the Clerks be commended for the continued high level of excellence demonstrated in the management of the Council’s financial & governance records; & that the Council’s Internal Auditor be thanked for the clear & concise reporting methodology which she exercises.

**97/13 Fire Station Services**

**Resolved** that:

- 1) Noting that Proposition 28 in the Cumbria County Council Budget consultation proposed the removal of one from two fire appliances stationed at Maryport, the Council write to Cumbria County Council & Cumbria Chief Fire Officer expressing the view that two appliances & two crews should be retained in Maryport, as the proposed alternative arrangements would provide inadequate cover, particularly in the event of the simultaneous occurrence of more than one incident in the area covered by the proposed supporting service, which appeared quite likely.
- 2) The Council support a campaign, organised through the Mayor, to support the retention of two appliances in Maryport, to seek support from the public & surrounding parish councils affected by the proposals.

**98/13 Co-operative & Station Inn Bus Shelter Repairs**

**Resolved** that the Council support repairs proposed to the Co-operative Bus Shelter to replace the damaged advertising panel with a panel, at a cost of £625, & to the Station Inn Bus Shelter to replace all seven windows with metal panels, at a cost of £2,100, the costs to be met, as necessary, from the Property Repairs Reserve.

**99/13 Christmas Lights**

**Resolved** that all those who helped to make the Maryport Christmas Festival 2013 such a success be thanked, including local organisations, businesses & entertainers who provided their services freely & contributed, schools who took part & Council members who assisted, &, in particular, the Council Clerks for their magnificent efforts.

**100/13 Items for the Next Agenda**

None received.

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

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....