

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 29 July 2013 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

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

In Attendance

Mrs L Douglas (Clerk)
Mr P Bramley (Clerk)
Mrs V Patterson (Press)
Reverend Mrs S McKendry
Reverend Mrs G Hart
Sergeant A Robinson (Cumbria Constabulary)
Superintendent G Slater (Cumbria Constabulary)
Members of Public

22/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ms C Tindall & Councillor A Moore.

23/13 Declarations of Interest

None received.

24/13 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

25/13 Minutes of Meeting held on 3 June 2013

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 3 June 2013 be confirmed as a correct record & signed by the Chairman.

26/13 Police Report

Superintendent Gary Slater & Sergeant Alison Robinson advised that there had been a lot of police action recently to address the spate of burglaries in the Maryport area, including joint action with Home Housing & an increase in proactive patrols, & plain clothes surveillance, with the aim being to identify targets & make arrests. Much of the problem was related to insecure properties, through unlocked or open doors & windows, & police were making people aware of this, with some 120 properties visited on 9 July, for example. PC Raymond had attended a meeting held recently at the Ewanrigg Centre to discuss the current extent of burglaries.

The recently held Maryport Carnival & Blues Festival had generally resulted in few police actions. For the Blues Festival, there was some concern at the extent of loud music on Shipping Brow & people blocking the road. A spate of vehicle damage over the weekend of the Blues Festival was thought to be unrelated to the Festival & a suspect had been arrested.

Two new full time PCSO's covering the Maryport area, Emma White & Stewart Graham, had commenced work on 29 July, with the aim of one being on duty at any one time.

The Police Officers responded to a number of questions from members:

- 80% of the recent burglaries were where access had been attained through insecure properties. The police were calling at properties where doors & large windows were insecure advising them to close them, & it was disappointing to note that they had received abuse from people on occasions. Those responsible for the burglaries were considered known to the police, which appeared to be drug related activity, & three had recently been arrested on this basis, with a fourth arrested for handling stolen goods.
- Sergeant Robinson advised that the police would review arrangements for Shipping Brow on Blues Festival weekend at their debriefing.
- Following a report that the Council Clerk was asked by a tourist for the location of Maryport Police Station prior to the meeting, & had to advise that it would be closed at that time, members were advised that it was easy to contact the police by telephone or through the internet. Whilst Maryport Police Station was reasonably well used, budget cuts had made it necessary to close it.
- The Police would welcome intelligence gathering input from members.
- The Police were trying to adopt a multi-agency approach to crime in Maryport, given the extent of which was drug related.
- The Police were in discussion with Allerdale Borough Council to try to provide a joined-up service which would include Maryport.

27/13 Food Banks

The Reverends Susan McKendry & Gill Hart gave a brief presentation regarding the Food Bank service in Maryport, which was carried out through volunteers and outside agencies. Members of the public could donate food items at a number of participating supermarkets or at any of the Maryport Churches, which was used to put together food parcels, in Cockermouth, containing nutritious items that should feed a person in crisis for three days. The speakers emphasised that this was not a long term solution to people's problems, but a response to a crisis situation. Qualification for food parcels was through authorisation by an appropriate agency & the award of vouchers, for which there was a maximum of three per person. Vouchers were

available through Barnado's, Cumbria County Council Social Services or Allerdale Borough Council Housing Services. There was a lack of such agencies in the Maryport area, which added to the difficulties of people in need of assistance. The Council was requested to consider whether it could provide assistance, & what type, to the Church, to assist in overcoming this problem.

Resolved that the Council support the provision of assistance in principle & give further consideration at a special meeting to be arranged to discuss the matter.

28/13 Correspondence

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

- 1) That consideration of the matter raised by Maryport Royal Naval Association on the Removal of Wreaths be undertaken in Part 2 of the meeting.
- 2) That the Council ask for more information from Allerdale Borough Council & from the Churches Together team concerning the Community Right to Bid.
- 3) That a meeting be arranged with an appropriate officer from Allerdale Borough Council to discuss proposals for the Green Hut further.
- 4) That the additional information supplied by Maryport Inshore Rescue Association be noted & that a grant of £250 be awarded in support of the acquisition of a new pager system.
- 5) That the additional information supplied by the Solway Trust be noted & that a grant of £4,000 be awarded, of which £1,000 was in respect of support for Maryport Carnival & the remainder in support of the Harbour Festival/Trawler Race, to be funded from grant provision made in budget for organisations from which an application had not been received following request.
- 6) That Maryport Monsters Football Club be awarded a grant of £400 towards new football equipment.
- 7) That Asanta Sana Foundation Charity be awarded a grant of £150 towards a Children's Fun Day on 10 August.
- 8) That Netherhall Football Club be awarded a grant of £150 towards five substitutes' suits.
- 9) That the Grant Award statement of application of 2012/13 grant from Maryport Maritime Heritage be accepted & the 2013/14 Annual Grant payment made.

29/13 Meeting Extension

Resolved that an extension of the meeting beyond 9.00pm be allowed to enable the following items of business to be addressed.

30/13 Accounts for Payment

Resolved that accounts for payment, in accordance with the schedule, totalling £46,214.01, be agreed.

31/13 Finance Report

Resolved that the Finance Report for the period 1 April to 30 June 2013, & the following transfers from earmarked reserves, be agreed:

- 1) £3,500 from the Allotment Reserve to improve the Flimby Allotment site access route & ground clearance works to Church Street Allotment Field, as agreed with the owner, to enable it to be used by horses.
- 2) £7,500 from the Environmental Improvement Reserve to fund the costs of the Netherhall Corner Boat Planting & their maintenance, together with hanging basket maintenance.

32/13 Maryport Attributes

Resolved that:

- 1) Consideration be given to the suitable display of memorabilia recording historic & other notable pieces of information associated with Maryport, in the form of plaques or similar, at a future meeting.
- 2) Council members feed ideas to the Clerks for consideration by the committee.
- 3) The Council contact Allerdale Borough Council concerning the possible use of the blank walled area on Senhouse Street for such a display.
- 4) Consideration be given to other potentially suitable display areas.
- 5) The potential financial assistance from the Town Team, through Mary Portas funding, be noted.

33/13 Cumbria CVS Maryport

Resolved that the Council request a presentation from Cumbria CVS on its operations in Maryport.

34/13 Trees & Open Spaces

Resolved that the Council note the advice provided by Allerdale Borough Council on the potential impact of trees on the top promenade being pruned, & that advice be taken on this matter from a tree surgeon.

35/13 Lighting on Posts

Resolved that the Council contact Cumbria County Council to ascertain whether street lamps attached to properties were included in their lighting maintenance programme.

36/13 Maryport Town Team

Resolved that:

- 1) Councillor Ms G Elliot report on Town Team operations to the committee at each meeting, as appropriate.
- 2) The Council support the Maryport Joint Schools Council, which was holding a Dog Walking event on Saturday 17th August in support of its campaign against dog fouling.
- 3) It be noted that a session organised with volunteers to clean street signs had been well attended, despite the short notice provided.

37/13 Well Lane Temporary Gates

Resolved that a grant of £250 be provided to Derwent & Solway in respect of the provision of temporary gates at Well Lane for the Blues Festival weekend, noting that the gates were reusable & would be stored for use in future years by Derwent & Solway Housing Association.

38/13 External Communication Protocols

Resolved that members note the guidance received from CALC on a suitable protocol for external communications, in further clarification of the Council's Communications Policy, given the potential for misunderstanding on the part of the recipient of where the expressed views originated, & that the following protocol be adopted:

- 1) For the reporting of personal views, members sign off using their name only.
- 2) For the reporting of Maryport Town Council views, members sign off noting their role within the Council.

39/13 Best Kept Garden & Container Competition

Resolved that it be noted that the judging would be held between 12th & 18th August following posters and invites being placed around the town for people to come forward to take part.

40/13 Financial Support for Organisations

Resolved that, when awarding grants, the Council seek to provide guidance to applicants on other potential sources of funding that it was aware of.

41/13 2013/14 National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks

Resolved that it be noted that agreement had been reached on a new national pay scale, under the terms of which the Council's Clerks were employed, & that the new terms included an increase in salary levels of 1%, effective from 1 April 2013.

42/13 Council attendance at Maryport Carnival

Resolved that the reasons for the absence of the Mayor & Deputy Mayor from attendance at Maryport Carnival 2013 be noted, & also the reported absence of other Council members, that Clerk Lisa Douglas' assistance with the Carnival, as requested by the Carnival organisers, be supported, & that it be noted that Council members would be willing to assist with future carnivals.

43/13 Items for the Next Agenda

None received.

44/13

Resolved that the public & press be excluded from the meeting, for the following item of business, by reason of its confidential nature.

45/13 Maryport Naval Association: Removal of Wreath

Given the potentially libellous nature of the issue in question, following the receipt of a letter from the Maryport Naval Association, dated 7 June 2013, further information was sought from the Association by the Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee. The Chairman read out the contents of a letter dated 26 July 2013, received from the Association, which sought to explain & provide further background to the content of the letter dated 7 June 2013.

Resolved that:

- 1) The apologies offered by the Maryport Royal Naval Association to the Town Council & its members be accepted.
- 2) The Council express its concerns at the origins of the 7 June letter, written on the basis of hearsay, with no supporting evidence.
- 3) The Council express its surprise & confusion as to why such an issue should be raised some nine months after the alleged theft occurred.
- 4) The Council clarify that it had supported the Remembrance Day arrangements, in recent years, on a non-political basis, & would continue to do so.
- 5) The Council express its views that the removal of wreaths was an act which it did not support.
- 6) The Council urge anyone with any information concerning the allegation of theft of the wreaths to contact the Police.

The meeting finished at 10.00pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date