

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 10 March 2014 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillor S Ashworth	Councillor B Campbell
Councillor B Carter	Councillor Ms D Charlton
Councillor Ms G Elliot	Councillor Mrs A Kendall
Councillor P Kendall (Chairman)	Councillor G McAlpine
Councillor Mrs C McCarron-Holmes	Councillor L Williamson

In Attendance

Mr P Bramley (Clerk)
Mrs V Patterson (Press)
Members of the public

113/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C McCarron Holmes, A Moore, W Pegram, Mrs L Radcliffe, Ms C Tindall, Mrs J Wood & M Wood. Councillor C McCarron Holmes attended the meeting from 8.15pm.

114/13 Declarations of Interest

None received.

115/13 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

116/13 Minutes of Meeting held on 13 January 2014

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 13 January 2014 be confirmed as a correct record & signed by the Chairman.

117/13 Police Report

Resolved that, in the absence of a representative from Cumbria Police, the report received from Inspector Hunter be noted.

118/13 Presentation by Campaign for Maryport Harbour/Promenade Play Area Group

Mrs Jade Kerr spoke on behalf of the group campaigning for a Play Area in the Maryport Harbour/Promenade area of Maryport. The group's aim was for a facility similar to the Splash Zone at Silloth to be developed in Maryport, rather than for people to be travelling away from the town seeking facilities elsewhere, & ideally be combined with other facilities to provide a full day of entertainment for children. The group were seeking the support of the Town Council, assistance with applications for funding & ongoing maintenance. The group considered that a suitable facility could take place in three stages, providing equipment for different age groups.

The group was advised that, from experiences elsewhere in the area, the fund raising necessary could take a number of years. In addition, following advice received from Allerdale Borough Council, the Promenade had been leased to a trustee group, members of which had since left the area, & were proving difficult to contact. Also, the Shiver Me Timbers Play Area land was leased from the Maryport Harbour Authority, & the acquisition of that land was likely to be costly. Allerdale's Parks & Open Spaces Officer had advised that support could be given towards accessing funds & consultation on options for facilities. It was considered that seeking to lease a small piece of the Allerdale leased land on the Promenade was the most likely option.

Resolved that the Town Council offer its full support & assistance to the group, & that the group be welcome to contact the Council as & when required.

119/13 Correspondence

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

- 1) That it be noted that the street light sighted on the pathway between Criffel Avenue & the Camp Road Playing Field was apparently not owned by Allerdale Borough Council but that, since the Town Council had recently raised the issue of street lighting in the town with a number of organisations, the light had been repaired.
- 2) That a comprehensive list of the ownership of street lighting in the Maryport area be sought from those organisations which were responsible for their provision.
- 3) That confirmation be sought from Allerdale Borough Council that the Town Council owns the land on which the Bus Shelter opposite the Bounty Inn, Maryport, was sited, as a result of the transfer of that shelter from Allerdale to the Town Council as a part of the wholesale transfer of bus shelters to the Town Council, & that, following confirmation being obtained, the Council contact Cumbria County Councillor Mr K Little, who had offered funding towards the shelter on confirmation of ownership.
- 4) That the Town Council express its disappointment to Cumbria County Council that, following the withdrawal of bus subsidies & in particular, its impact on Bus Service 56, (Maryport: The Promenade), the area was not being provided with the bus service that it deserved.
- 5) That consideration of funding towards replacement of the large cross outside St Marys Church be deferred, pending information being obtained from other churches in the town which the Council had previously provided funding for crosses for on the position regarding their crosses.

- 6) That the Council contact Mr A Irving, following his request concerning a possible centenary event recognising 2014 being one hundred years since the last ship was built at Maryport & advise that the Town Council was giving priority to an event commemorating the outbreak of World War 1 in 2014, but had passed on his information to the Maryport Town Team Chairman, Ms G Elliot, for consideration as a plaque recognising the history of the town & to Maryport Museum Heritage Group for their information.
- 7) That the response from the Cumbria Chief Fire Officer to the Council's concerns be noted & that Cumbria County Council's decision to retain a second fire tender in crew, following their 2014/15 budget consultation, be welcomed.
- 8) That the Council agree a three year rolling programme of Christmas Lights improvements, commencing with lights at the Harbour side, (bridge to far lamp standard on seaward side), in 2014/15, & continuing with improvements to Curzon Street & High Street in subsequent years.
- 9) That the Council support the principle of the 'Community Shop', as a means of offering discounted food to support deprived communities, & that the Council contact Cumbria County Council & Allerdale Borough Council to recommend the principle, offered through perhaps empty shop or factory units, or a mobile shop.
- 10) That the Playground Inspection report, carried out in accordance with Standard BSEN1176, for Ellenborough Green Playing Field, be noted.
- 11) That a grant of £250 be awarded to Maryport Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society in respect of the 2014 production of the 'Witches of Eastwick'.
- 12) That, following notification received of Cumbria County Council's proposed arrangements for refilling grit bins, the Council seek a cost for the service from a suitable contractor, & make such arrangements as are necessary when appropriate.
- 13) That, further to the Council notification from Allerdale Borough Council that it had received £20,000 from Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner for the improvement of footway lighting in the borough which suffered from anti-social behaviour, & the Council's subsequent nomination of suitable sites, (minute 71(8) refers), following a recent request that Furnace Road be added to the list of nominations, it be noted that a response had been received stating that management at Allerdale had decided to apply the funding to a new CCTV network in Allerdale.
- 14) That the Council contact the Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner expressing disappointment at the decision reported in 119(13), seeking confirmation that this application of the resources had received his authorisation, & that the Council, as appropriate, develop a petition similar to that set up in support of a second Fire Tender in Maryport.
- 15) That the grant award statement of application of 2012/13 grant from Netherhall School for the Annual Awards Evening be accepted & the 2013/14 Annual Grant payment of £500 be made.
- 16) That a grant of £250 be awarded to Solway Soul Rock Singers to support the funding of the group.
- 17) That it be noted that the owner of Church Street land had advised that he did not intend to apply an inflationary rent increase to the rental for land at Church Street, Maryport, until 2016/17, when any change in the value of money in the period since the last increase would be taken into account.

- 18) That a grant of £250 be awarded to Inspira & permission be sought for the Mayor to represent the Council at the event.

120/13 Accounts for Payment

Resolved that accounts for payment, in accordance with the schedule, totalling £32,464.36, be agreed.

121/13 Finance Report

Resolved that the Finance Report for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 January 2014, together with the application of earmarked reserves & a virement, as set out below, be agreed:

- 1) The costs of the bi-election called in the Netherhall Ward as a result of the vacancy in former Councillor J Gardener's seat on the Council, for which the administrative cost was around £3,800, would be met from the Council's Election Reserve.
- 2) The additional cost of new & replacement Christmas lighting equipment would be met from a transfer of £7,000 from the Council's Christmas Lighting Reserve.
- 3) A virement of £100 from the External Audit to the Payroll Services budget to meet the cost of undertaking additional pension & year- end payroll administrative work.

122/13 Recommended Allotment Rents

Resolved that the recommendation from the Allotments Committee of an increase in allotment rents of £5 per standard plot, with associated adjustments for non-standard plots, be agreed, with effect from 1 April 2015 & clarification sought on allotment site charges made by other councils in the area.

123/13 Council Asset Register Review 2013/14

Resolved that the Council Asset register 2013/14 be agreed.

124/13 Floral Features

Resolved that the Council seek to draw up another lease with Allerdale Borough Council for the flower beds on Netherhall Corner for a period of three years, with effect from 1 April 2014, & that costs be sought for a new feature in the form of the existing galleon or a lighthouse.

125/13 War Memorials & World War 1 Centenary

Resolved that permission be sought from Allerdale Borough Council for the installation of a World War 1 commemorative paving stone in Maryport Memorial Gardens, & that that permission be sought from St Mary's Church, Maryport, for the installation of the commemorative stone there as an alternative, & the responses considered.

126/13 Dog Fouling

Resolved that Allerdale Borough Council be asked to review Maryport Promenade, particularly the north & south end sections, together with the footpaths around Mote Hill, Maryport, & take such action to combat dog fouling as is considered necessary.

127/13 Maryport Railway Station

Resolved that the Council ask for recognition to be given to Maryport Railway Station as one of the main entry points to the town by Northern Rail, & that a representative from the company be asked to a Council meeting to speak about its proposals for addressing the quality of the station area.

128/13 Meeting Extension

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

129/13 Tourist Road Signage

Resolved that the Council request from Cumbria County Council the cost of provision of a tourist sign advertising Maryport to be sited on the M6 in the vicinity of the Penrith junction.

130/13 Freedom of the Town

Resolved that:

- 1) The Council support the proposals for the award of the Freedom of the Town to The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.
- 2) The Council commence with the arrangements for the event & a Working Party to deal with the more detailed arrangements be agreed to consist of Councillors A Kendall, P Kendall, C McCarron Holmes & C Tindall.

131/13 Coke Ovens/Furnace Road

Resolved that the Council seek costs for the installation of gates, fences, etc, to try to prevent the incidents of anti-social behaviour being experienced in that area.

132/13

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

133/13 Service Contracts

Resolved that the Council agree to seek an extension of existing contracts with current successful contractors, based on the current service levels, & that negotiating responsibilities be delegated to the Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee and the Mayor to enable a suitable extension to be negotiated in line with the agreed budget with the successful existing contractors for service provision for the next contract period within the timescale available, & for arrangements to be made for any amendments necessary, again working within the agreed budget.

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

Signed

Chairman

Date