

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 25 March 2013 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillor B Carter	Councillor Ms G Elliot
Councillor J Gardener	Councillor Mrs A Kendall
Councillor P Kendall	Councillor G McAlpine
Councillor Mrs C McCarron-Holmes	Councillor W Pegram
Councillor Ms C Tindall (Chairman)	Councillor Mrs J Wood
Councillor M Wood	

In Attendance

Mr P Bramley (Clerk)
Mrs V Patterson (Press)
Sergeant J Stamper (Cumbria Constabulary)

101/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Long, G Mitchell & Mrs L Radcliffe.

102/12 Declarations of Interest

A declaration of interest was received from P Bramley, Clerk, Item 12, Personal & Prejudicial Interest as an employee of Maryport Town Council.

103/12 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

104/12 Minutes of Meeting held on 28 January 2013

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 28 January 2012 be confirmed as a correct record & signed by the Chairman.

105/12 Police Report

Inspector Joe Stamper was in attendance and advised that since the last meeting, the Police had carried out another traffic operation focussing at particular sites on speeding, drivers not wearing seat belts, driving whilst using mobile phones, etc. Many people were issued with fixed penalty notices as a result of this action. On Wednesday 20 March, Maryport PCSO's were involved in a school football tournament, involving nine schools & some seventy primary school children, as a part of their community liaison work.

Police were planning to carry out a Night safe exercise, checking that licensed premises were adhering to the law, & would be involving a young person under the legal age for being served with alcohol as a part of this. Police had recently been conducting an exercise with Allerdale Borough Council to address the dog fouling problem, & had issued a number of fixed penalty notices. The Police were also working with the event organisers on arrangements for the Trawler Race from Maryport in May.

Burglary figures across the district including Maryport had increased recently, & many were believed to be due to premises being left insecure. Members were asked, as a part of their community role, to remind the public to ensure doors & windows were secure when leaving their premises. Several warrants had been issued relating to drugs misuse, & one particular property continued to receive special attention, with the Police working with the housing association concerned. This had resulted in arrests being made & Sergeant Stamper advised that he was confident that charges for possession of Class A Drugs would be upheld. In the coming weeks, the Police were planning to carry out truancy sweeps with partner organisations in this area. Sergeant Stamper responded to questions concerning a number of matters raised by members:

- The Police Plan included premises on industrial estates, & Sergeant Stamper agreed to check on where leaflets had been handed out recently to establish whether all businesses on industrial estates had been covered.
- With regard to the Night Safe exercise, the proprietor would receive an £80 on the spot fine for selling to an underage customer, which would extend to an interview with the Police & licensing authority if it was repeated, & would lead to court action in the event of further underage serving.
- Sergeant Stamper agreed that the dog fouling work could be extended to include checks at Flimby & stated that if the public provided the Police with details of times & places of regular perpetrators, it would assist them greatly. He added that two fixed penalty notices were issued for dog fouling in the previous week.

Resolved that Sergeant Stamper be thanked for his attendance & the report be accepted.

106/12 Correspondence

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

- 1) A grant of £250 be awarded to the Dearham & District First Responders, (which includes Maryport), to assist with the purchase of emergency bags.
- 2) A grant of £200 be awarded to the Maryport Amateur Operatics & Dramatic Society to assist with the funding requirements of the groups centenary production in the Carnegie Theatre, Workington.

- 3) A grant of £30 be awarded to Cumbria Constabulary for trophies in respect of a children's football tournament for primary schools held at Netherhall School, Maryport.
- 4) Allerdale Borough Council's intention to spend at least £10,000 on Maryport Promenade in 2013/14 be noted & kept under review, & information sought on Allerdale Borough Council's success in attracting Flag Funding for this area of work.
- 5) Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner Richard Rhode's response to the Town Council's concerns with Maryport policing arrangements be noted & kept under review.
- 6) Further to Minute 101/12, it be noted that the Honour Boards loaned to the Council in 1997 & currently on display at Maryport Junior School had been made available to collect by prior arrangement with the school.
- 7) Allerdale Borough Council PARCS scheme in 2013 be supported to a level of service the same as 2012.
- 8) Maryport ARLFC be provided with a letter of support for their National Lottery funding bid, noting the club's value to the town & local community.

107/12 Accounts for Payment

Resolved that accounts for payment, in accordance with the schedule, totalling £8,933.81, be agreed.

108/12 Precept & Council Tax 2013/14

Resolved that it be noted that, further to Minute 98/12, the Local Scheme Council Tax amount granted by Allerdale BC had been slightly higher than the amount they originally estimated, which had resulted in a Council Tax level at Band D of £42.72 for Maryport Town Council, which represented an increase of 1.4% over the 2012/13 Band D Council Tax figure of £42.15.

109/12 Finance Report

Resolved that the Finance Report for the period 1 April 2012 to 28 February 2013, & the following budget virements, be agreed:

- 1) £3,000 from Environmental Improvements to Property Maintenance.
- 2) £200 from External Audit to Remembrance Day.

110/12 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 2014.

111/12 Council Asset Register Review 2012/13

Resolved that the Council Asset register 2012/13 be agreed.

112/12 Love Maryport Town Team

Resolved that the Chairman investigate support for proposals by the Love Maryport Town Team to provide lunch bags for school children as a part of a planned event.

113/12 Maryport Flower Beds & Displays

Resolved that the Council request from Allerdale Borough Council the transfer back to Maryport Town Council the raised flower beds on Netherhall Corner, to enable the Town Council to operate & maintain them.

114/12 Christmas Lights Switch-on 2013

Resolved that consideration be given to holding the Maryport Lights Switch-on 2013 on a Saturday, involving the closure of Senhouse Street, & to working in partnership with the Town Team, at the next meeting.

115/12 Insurance Policy Renewal

Resolved that a three year long term agreement with Zurich Municipal Insurance, commencing with the policy for 2013/14, be agreed.

116/12 Street Lighting

Resolved that the Council contact Direct Roads to request that street light column numbers be stencilled onto columns, rather than being affixed with a label or sign, to enable them to be identified, following reports of vandalism to the current favoured methods of identification, & that the Council contact Cumbria County Council to request information showing the street light column numbers on a per road basis to further assist with their identification.

117/12 Christchurch Closure

Resolved that the Council contact the Church of England Commissioners to confirm whether it is their intention to dispose of the property &, that being the case, to ascertain their interest in it being offered for a peppercorn rent to a suitable community group or groups.

118/12 School Partnership Proposals

Council representatives had been seeking to develop partnership work with schools, identifying activities on a term by term basis, in furtherance of the involvement of the community in activities through schools. The following activities & arrangements had been proposed:

- School Egg Decorating: the Mayor or Deputy would judge eggs decorated by school children & award Easter Egg prizes to the best boy & girl in each year group, plus best overall, for each Infant & Junior School taking part.
- Litter Pick summer term; Schools pupils to work on a litter pick on the Cycle Track from Maryport to Flimby, with each school allocated a length to clear.
- School Sports Days; the Mayor or Deputy to open the events & award prizes, as required, with consideration given to the supply by the Council of food & drink for school pupils.

- Christmas Lights Festival; each pupil to decorate a Christmas decoration to hang in Santa's grotto & each school to sell produce the pupils have made.
- Resolved** that the activities & arrangements outlined be agreed & that the Council continue to work with schools to develop & provide them.

119/12 Items for the Next Agenda

None identified.

120/12

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

121/11 Council Staff Appraisal

Note that Mr P Bramley left the room whilst this item was discussed.

Resolved that:

- 1) The continued progress made in Council administrative operations & improvements made in specified areas be noted.
- 2) The Clerks' salaries be increased by one increment with effect from 1 April 2013.

The meeting finished at 9.00 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date