

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 2 November 2015 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillor S Ashworth	Councillor B Carter
Councillor Mrs A Kendall	Councillor P Kendall
Councillor Mrs C McCarron Holmes	Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe
Councillor Ms S Stamper	Councillor Ms C Tindall (Chairman)
Councillor I Tyson	Councillor T Todd
Councillor L Williamson	Councillor Mrs J Wood

In Attendance

Mr P Bramley (Clerk)
Mrs L Douglas (Clerk)
Viv Patterson (Press)

52/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Barcock, W Pegram & M Wood.

53/15 Declarations of Interest

None received.

54/15 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

55/15 Minutes of Meeting held on 7 September 2015

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 7 September 2015 be confirmed as a correct record & signed by the Chairman.

56/15 Minutes of Meeting held on 5 October 2015

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 5 October 2015 be confirmed as a correct record & signed by the Chairman.

57/15 Minutes of Meeting held on 28 October 2015

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 28 October 2015 be confirmed as a correct record & signed by the Chairman.

58/15 Police Report

A written report was received from Sergeant David MacDonald. There had been 80 crimes in October, which compared favourably with 101 in September & 133 in August, & also with October 2014, when there were 124. In the previous month, there had been 18 incidents of anti-social behaviour spread across the town in general with no particular trend. This is down from the previous month which saw 32 incidents.

There were been issues at Ewanrigg Junior school with mud being thrown over the fence into the playground. Patrols had been stepped up but no suspects identified. There were 4 incidents of serious anti-social behaviour of a persistent and complex nature, two resolved by multi agency intervention and two ongoing, with one culminating in a restorative justice conference to take place in November. The police planned to deal with antisocial behaviour through proactive community policing, high visibility patrols, enforcement action and multi-agency operations as part of their on-going strategy.

There had been a spike in burglaries in October with eight recorded throughout the town. Three were non-dwelling burglaries & five dwelling burglaries, mainly occurring on the edge of town adjacent to the Grasslot area. There had been instances where windows had been smashed to gain entry but a number continued to occur through insecure doors etc. The Police were working hard to catch those responsible & to encourage the public to be more vigilant and security conscious. The Police would work on prevention initiatives & target known offenders and have them brought to justice. A burglary campaign was being launched in November offering free crime prevention surveys in the area affected. Three people had been arrested for the burglaries and were on police bail pending forensic enquiries.

The Police were aware of concerns regarding drug use in Maryport and their work specifically targets 'street level' drug users and dealers who are affecting the quality of life for local residents due to the associated crime and disorder they caused.

Residents regularly raised drug misuse as their number one priority. As well as executing Magistrates Court warrants, officers were utilising stop and search powers in problem areas such as Crow Park & using a variety of methods for short and long term resolutions. A positive drugs warrant was executed at Grasslot and the suspect was on police bail pending forensic examination of the substance seized. The public toilets on High Street were being used by local drug users but following high visibility patrol, consultation with Allerdale Borough Council and removal of bins, there had been a dramatic reduction in incidents at that location and police had not received any further reports.

Resolved that:

- 1) The report be noted, with no questions raised.
- 2) It be noted that as a result of changes to policing arrangements, Cumbria Police officers would only attend Council meetings occasionally.
- 3) It be noted that Cumbria Police officers were willing to meet with Council members to discuss specific matters raised at times to be agreed.

59/15 Correspondence

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

- 1) That the report from Citizens Advice Allerdale be noted & the payment of the Annual Grant of £1,000 for 2015/16 agreed.
- 2) That it be agreed that a contribution be made from the Environmental Improvements budget in respect of the reinstallation of seating area at Maryport Coastal Park following its removal.
- 3) That the letter to the Minister for Police expressing the Council's extreme concerns at proposals for significant reductions to the Cumbria Police Budget, following the introduction of changes to the national grant distribution formula which the Council considers misguided & failing in its recognition of the particular features & problems with policing a sparse, rural county with a poor transport network such as Cumbria, be endorsed.
- 4) That Cumbria County Council's consultation on its refreshed Council Plan be noted & that members submit any comments to the Clerks.
- 5) That, further to the response received from Allerdale Borough Council Town Centre Manager concerning agreement to support provision of benches in the town centre only, members contact the Clerks with suggested sites.

60/15 Accounts for Payment

Resolved that accounts for payment, in accordance with the schedule, totalling £15,748.44, be agreed.

61/15 Finance Report

Resolved that the Finance Report for the period 1 April to 30 September 2015 be agreed.

62/15 Maryport Town Council Website

Resolved that, following problems created by an illegal access to the Council's website, it be agreed that the website be upgraded & restored with improved security arrangements at an estimated cost of around £2,000.

63/15 Seating around Maryport Marina

Resolved that, further to minute 36/15, advertising be arranged seeking interest from members of the public in suggestions for suitable commemorations & from local organisations who may be interested in contributing, & that suitable benches identified by the Chairman, be agreed.

64/15 Risk Assessments

Resolved that councillors' position with regard to insurance cover when working on external projects as an individual be sought & risk assessments be requested when councillors are working in their roles as members.

65/15 Items for Next Agenda

None received.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, a meeting of the Allotment Committee took place.

Signed

Chairman

Date