

# MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 28 October 2013 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.**

## **Present**

<b>Councillor B Carter</b>	<b>Councillor Ms D Charlton</b>
<b>Councillor Ms G Elliot</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs A Kendall</b>
<b>Councillor P Kendall (Chairman)</b>	<b>Councillor D King</b>
<b>Councillor Mrs C McCarron-Holmes</b>	<b>Councillor W Pegram</b>
<b>Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe</b>	<b>Councillor Ms C Tindall</b>

## **In Attendance**

**Mrs L Douglas (Clerk)**  
**Mr P Bramley (Clerk)**  
**Mr P Crute (Press)**  
**Inspector G Hunter (Cumbria Constabulary)**

### **64/13 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Mitchell, Councillor A Moore, Councillor Mrs J Wood & Councillor M Wood.

### **65/13 Declarations of Interest**

None received.

### **66/13 Requests for Dispensations**

None received.

### **67/13 Minutes of Meeting held on 29 July 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. Councillor D King asked for his objections to the accuracy of minute 28/13(2), addressing Agenda Item 10(7) of that meeting, to be recorded.

### **68/13 Minutes of Meeting held on 2 September 2013**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 2 September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record & signed by the Chairman.

### **69/13 Minutes of Meeting held on 17 October 2013**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Budget meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 17 October 2013 be confirmed as a correct record & signed by the Chairman.

### **70/13 Police Report**

Inspector Gary Hunter reported crime figures for the area on a ward by ward basis, comparing the current period to the same period in 2012. Ellenborough figures were similar between the years, although vehicle crime had reduced; Ewanrigg figures were similar to the previous year, although violent crime had fallen; Netherhall showed an increase from 38 crimes in 2012 to 94 in 2013, with violent crime, theft from both dwellings & shops, & criminal damage crimes all showing an increase; Ellen was a similar position to the previous year. The reasons for the significant increase in Netherhall were under investigation.

The police had been undertaking a lot of preventative work in recent weeks, & members were encouraged to join the Cumbria Community messaging service, which was a useful way for the police to report regularly on policing issues. Tests were being carried out in the area for sale of fireworks & alcohol to underage people, & work was being carried out in schools on anti-social behaviour, especially concerning Halloween & bonfire night activities. An alcohol education road show was planned for Netherhall School early in 2014, & crime prevention educational days were being run in Maryport Co-op through the 'Cop in a Shop' scheme.

Consideration was given to the issue of the removal of wreaths from the war memorial in 2012, following Remembrance Day, & reference was made to a letter received from Councillor Ms D Charlton on 27 October & a letter received from Mr N Griffin, MEP, received on 28 October. It was reported that in 2000/2001, the British Legion had requested the Town Council to take over the administration of the Remembrance Day events, as they were no longer able to do so. Councillor P Kendall reported that he had maintained the area around the war memorial for many years following the Remembrance Day event, ensuring that wreaths were presented in an orderly fashion. In 2012, he had been approached by a Mr Harris, who advised that the two BNP wreaths laid had gone missing, & that it was likely to be something that 'you lot' would have done. Councillor Kendall said that he reported the disappearance of the wreaths to the police, (log number 96).

In 2013, a letter dated 7 June was received by the Council from the Royal Naval Association, stating that the association had received allegations that a member of the Town Council had removed the wreaths in question. Councillor Kendall had contacted the association seeking information on whom the alleged perpetrator was. Following this, a further letter was received from the Royal Naval Association by the Council, dated 26 July, which stated that the association had based its comments on information passed on from whom they had assumed was an onlooker, & that it was

unable to advise who the alleged perpetrator was. The letter offered an apology to the Town Council. The matter of the letters was addressed at the Finance & General Purposes meeting of 29 July 2013, (minutes 28/13(1) & 45/13 refer). Councillor Kendall referred to the letters from Councillor Charlton & N Griffin, MEP, & invited Councillor Charlton to speak on them, but the invitation was declined. Councillor Kendall stated that, with regard to the incident under consideration, there had been no 'cover up' practised by the Town Council or by the Labour Party, & the Council again urged anyone with information concerning the theft of the wreaths to contact the police.

Inspector Hunter confirmed that Councillor Kendall had contacted Cumbria Police on 11 November 2012 to report the missing wreaths, & that the matter had been investigated by the police. The police had been unable to identify any witnesses, & had written to the two people who had laid the wreaths, advising that they could not address the matter any further as no witnesses could be identified.

A discussion then took place between councillors, with advice from Inspector Hunter, on the issues surrounding the alleged theft. Councillor Ms D Charlton confirmed that she had received a letter from the police confirming the outcome of the police investigation into the disappearance of the wreath laid by her, but that she had not been visited by the police about the matter. Inspector Hunter advised that she had not been visited as she was not a suspect. Councillor P Kendall asked Councillor Charlton if she had any information of who had perpetrated the theft; Councillor Charlton stated that she did not want to tell Councillor Kendall anything, & when requested by Inspector Hunter for the same information, replied that she didn't want to talk about it as it was out of her hands. In reference to Councillor Charlton's letter, Councillor P Kendall asked what she thought the Town Council could do to protect the wreaths, since the land was owned by Allerdale Borough Council, & there were no operational CCTV cameras in the vicinity. Councillor Charlton stated that she had asked what could be done to protect the wreaths in her letter & was not offering suggestions. Inspector Hunter advised that he was unable to provide on-going surveillance by police officers. Councillor Tindall asked Councillor Charlton if she was saying that she knew who had taken the wreaths, to which Councillor Charlton replied that she had heard a rumour & that the police had not been to see her. Councillor Tindall advised Councillor Charlton that if she had information on the alleged theft, she should report it to the police, & that she was concerned that the matter was being pursued through supposition & innuendo. Councillor Charlton stated that on Remembrance Day 2012, she had received poor treatment throughout the day from three Labour councillors, & that 'someone had seen someone do something.' Councillor Radcliffe commented that the police could only act on evidence & not hearsay, that she was concerned as to why the Royal Naval Association should have been contacted some nine months after the event, that it needed to be recognised that the police could not stand guard over the wreaths, & that trust should be placed in the citizens of the town. Both councillors & Inspector Hunter reiterated their requests that anyone with any information on the matter of the missing wreaths should report it to the police.

Inspector Hunter responded to a number of questions from members:

- In response to a request for the establishment in the area of a concordat between the police & housing providers, similar to that established in Greater Manchester through the Anti-Social Behaviour & Crime & Policing Bill, Inspector Hunter agreed to look into the matter & requested further information.
- Inspector Hunter agreed to investigate reports of a matter reported to Cumbria Highways in 2012, (Planning & Economic Development Committee minute 64/12 refers), concerning the frequent actions of drivers whose vehicles were behind buses stopped at bus stops near traffic islands, which was considered dangerous.
- Inspector Hunter agreed to investigate further reports of drug dealing, which had apparently been reported but not addressed, on Ewanrigg Road.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **71/13 Correspondence**

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

- 1) That Maryport Model Club be awarded a grant of £250 towards the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryport Model Show.
- 2) That the response from Allerdale Borough Council regarding the need for trees on the top promenade to be addressed be noted & that the Town Council give consideration, subject to Allerdale Borough Council's agreement, to including the works the Town Council deems necessary in the schedule of environmental works proposed to be undertaken by Cumbria County Council, with joint funding from the Town Council, in 2014/15, at the beginning of 2014/15.
- 3) That Allerdale Borough Council's response to a request for connecting back the water supply to Maryport Cemetery, stating that a water butt had been supplied, be noted, & that it be noted that this had become a standard practice.
- 4) That Cumbria County Council's response to the provision of lighting maintenance on Roper Street, Maryport, be noted.
- 5) That the Council express its disappointment at the response from Cumbria County Council towards its concerns regarding Bus Route 56, & that the Council write to Reays, as operators, enquiring why bus fares had increased by so much in price since they took over certain routes.
- 6) That Maryport Infant School Reception class be thanked for the commendable citizenship approach adopted on their visit to Maryport Harbour, advising that the Council would notify Allerdale Borough Council & Maryport Harbour Authority of the pupil's concerns.
- 7) That Netherhall School's invitation to councillors to participate in an intervention package scheme be noted.

- 8) That the opportunity from Allerdale Borough Council to nominate areas in need of footway lighting improvement, with improvements to be funded by a grant received from Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner, be welcomed, & that the following areas, including those suggested by schools, be proposed:
  - a) Ellenborough Place, Grasslot
  - b) Top of Church Terrace, Ellenborough
  - c) Jonny's Lonning, Ellenborough
  - d) Church Street, Maryport
  - e) Flimby Brow, Flimby, especially Beckside
  - f) Maryport Infant School site, including access to Pigeon Well Lonning.
  - g) St Patrick's School car park
- 9) That the letter from Dr C L Murray of Waverton, Wigton, regarding Allerdale Borough Council's proposals for a new leisure centre in Workington be noted.
- 10) That the benefits offered by the CALC training session, 'The Good Councillor', be noted & that members interested in attending contact the Clerks for details.
- 11) That the Council offer no response to the Department of Energy & Climate Change' consultation on the site selection process for a geological disposal facility for higher activity radioactive waste as a part of the managing radioactive waste safely programme.
- 12) That no response be submitted in respect of Allerdale Borough Council's consultation on a new leisure centre for Workington.
- 13) That Council members notify the Clerks of any areas suitable for a 'No Dog Fouling' stencil, for notification to Allerdale Borough Council.
- 14) That a grant of £50 be awarded to Workington Transport Heritage Trust in respect of the provision of a free Boxing Day bus service connecting Maryport to Workington & Cockermouth.
- 15) That the proposed response from CALC towards the government's consultation on the site selection process for a geological disposal facility for higher activity radioactive waste as a part of the managing radioactive waste safely programme, MRWS 2, be noted.
- 16) That the Council investigate the possibility of developing a new Town Council Business Plan.

### **72/13 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved** that accounts for payment, in accordance with the schedule, totalling £17,098.87, be agreed.

### **73/13 Finance Report**

**Resolved** that the Finance Report for the period 1 April to 30 September 2013, together with a transfer of £1,650 from the Festivals Reserve to fund the cost of wrist bands provided to school pupils to commemorate the Tour of Britain Cycle Race passing through the town, be agreed.

### **74/13 Ward Notice Boards**

**Resolved** that the costs of acquiring & fitting notice boards to bus shelters, on which Council information could be displayed, be investigated & reported back to the committee.

### **75/13 Freedom of the Town**

**Resolved** that the potential arrangements for an event to honour the area's armed forces, through presenting the Freedom of the town to the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, be investigated & reported back to the committee, & that a Working Party be established to deal with the event.

### **76/13 Cycle Racks**

**Resolved** that, in recognition of the increased number of cyclists visiting the town, the Council seek potential sites for cycle racks, & Allerdale Borough Council be approached regarding the potential of the Town Council siting racks outside the Middle Tap Inn, Senhouse Street, & on ground at the corner of John Street & Crosby Street.

### **77/13 Maryport Harbour Authority Annual Grant**

**Resolved** that, following a presentation given to the Council on 30 September by Harbourmaster Richard Key, (Council minute 29/13 refers), it be agreed that the committee's concerns regarding on-going arrangements for the operation of Maryport Harbour, through the Harbour Authority, had been addressed, & that the annual grant payment of £7,500 be made.

### **78/13 Receptions to celebrate Maryport successes**

**Resolved** that, in recognition of significant achievements in 2013 by the Maryport Sea Cadets & Maryport Rugby Club, the Mayor host two civic receptions in their honour.

### **79/13 Environmental Works**

**Resolved** that, in support of environmental works proposed for the coastal footpath from Fothergill to the Long & Small garage, (estimated at £400) & for the Eagle Gill walk, (Council contribution £3,000), in 2013/14, maps detailing the proposals be sought from Cumbria County Council & distributed to members, & the matter considered further at the next meeting.

### **80/13 Remembrance Day Provisions & Arrangements**

**Resolved** that the proposed arrangements for the organisation of 2013 Remembrance Day activities be agreed.

### **81/13 Items for the Next Agenda**

None received.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, a meeting of the Allotment Committee commenced.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....