

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 2 September 2013 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillor P Kendall (Chairman)	Councillor D King
Councillor A Long	Councillor Mrs C McCarron-Holmes
Councillor G Mitchell	Councillor A Moore
Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe	Councillor Mrs J Wood

In Attendance

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

47/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Carter, Councillor Ms D Charlton, Councillor Ms G Elliot, Councillor Mrs A Kendall, Councillor W Pegram, Councillor Ms C Tindall & Councillor M Wood.

48/13 Declarations of Interest

None received.

49/13 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

50/13 Minutes of Meeting held on 29 July 2013

Resolved that consideration of the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 29 July 2013 be deferred until the next meeting, pending clarification of a matter concerning the recording of Item 10(7).

51/13 Police Report

Sergeant Joe Stamper introduced PCSO Stuart Graham, who was responsible for the geographical area covering Maryport.

Sergeant Stamper reported a 68% reduction in burglaries over the previous month & gave thanks to the public for providing information for police to act on & statements. The burglary incidences had been tackled through a number of means, including a major crime initiative in the area, with personal visits to properties on the Hillside estate. A mix of a uniformed & non-uniformed police had operated to combat the spate of burglaries & a number of people had been imprisoned, (which was reflected in the crime reduction figures), with others awaiting charge. A particular property had been targeted, working with Allerdale Borough Council & using Housing legislative powers, the property, which had been used by drug users as a venue to operate from, had been condemned until the occupant undertook a rehabilitation course & rectified the damage to the property. Further support for the public was provided through crime prevention events held, such as bike marking, which were well attended.

Police had targeted anti-social behaviour around All Souls Church, Netherton, with some high-visibility operations & door knocking, requesting the public to notify them when people were on the premises. This led to the apprehension of three people. Anti-social behaviour in Flimby through intimidation of an elderly gentleman had been tackled & three main suspects identified & given an Anti-social behaviour contract, with their parents encouraged to work with the police to address the problem. There had been a recent increase in speeding & anti-social behaviour in Maryport town centre, which the police were addressing.

An Alcohol Reduction Strategy had been introduced recently, recognising the connection between crime & alcohol, & the police were making arrangements to publicise this, with an event planned at Netherhall School in November.

Sergeant Stamper responded to a number of questions from members:

- Those responsible for the burglaries had been imprisoned for varying lengths of sentence, with associated punishments, such as a regular shoplifter being banned from Maryport town centre shops. Plain clothes patrols would be kept in place & partnership work would be carried out to reduce crime capability.
- It was a government responsibility to determine the extent of PCSO powers, but PCSO's could quickly call for assistance from police officers when required.
- Sergeant Stamper agreed to investigate reports of damage to Ellenborough Methodist Church door & contact Councillor King directly.
- The Police Station on Eaglesfield was still operational & a number of options, including Maryport Town Hall, were being considered as an alternative base for the police in Maryport when that building closed. This was part of a phased operation across the county.
- Investigatory work on a centralised CCTV control was being undertaken & Maryport's requirements would be taken into account as a part of that development.
- With regard to the damage at All Souls Church, the police were looking to put anti-vandal arrangements in place, but information & assistance from the public was the main requirement.

- Sergeant Stamper agreed to speak to Allerdale Borough Council about the problem of bin bags being left in properties' letter boxes for several days indicating that the owners were away, but said that recent burglaries were in ineffectively secured properties.
- Police would increase vigilance in the Selina Terrace area of Maryport, following reports of potential drug misuse in a garden.
- It was noted that there had been talk of members of the public setting up vigilante groups to address the recent burglary problems, but the police efforts in dealing with the problem had & continued to be successful.

52/13 Correspondence

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

- 1) That Councillor Mrs C McCarron-Holmes & Councillor P Kendall meet with Maryport Town Team to discuss the Maryport attributes proposal, (minute 32/13 refers), further.
- 2) That the Council seek advice on the possibility for funding for the Christmas Lights Festival and other events in the town, such as the Blues Festival, through the Post Office Enterprise Fund.
- 3) That the response from Reverend Susan McKendrey, in respect of her legal adviser's comments regarding the possibility of registering Christ Church as a community asset, be noted.
- 4) That, in response to the expression of disappointment received regarding the level of grant offered in respect of the Asante Sana Fun Day, no additional grant be given & that the Council advise the organisers that funding applications were considered in line with the Council's policy on grant awards, & the Council was willing to consider support for such events in future but would require notification by the September of the year prior to the financial year in which the grant was requested for a large grant request such as had been submitted in the application under consideration.
- 5) That members contact the Clerks with proposals of subject areas for submission to Cumbria County Council for review by its Scrutiny Committee.
- 6) That it be noted that Allerdale Borough Council had arranged for Maryport Town Hall clock to be repaired & made operational, following the Council's request.
- 7) That the Coastal Access notice be noted.
- 8) That an award of £250 be made towards Cumbria County Council Chairman's appeal for defibrillator support.
- 9) That, taking into account matters raised in the Police & Crime Commissioner for Cumbria's response following attendance at the Council meeting held on 1 July, the Council contact Cumbria County Council & enquire about the possibility of designated parking places in the vicinity of the Town Hall.
- 10) That, following the response from Maryport Harbour Authority to the Council's request for detail on the proposed administration arrangements of the Harbour Authority in 2013/14, the Council contact Maryport Harbour Authority further & invite the Harbourmaster to attend a future meeting to address the matters of concern.
- 11) That the Council provide a copy of the letter dated 1 September 2013 received from its tree surgeon concerning the potential impact of coppicing

some of the trees on the bank below Sea Brows, adjacent to the promenade, to Allerdale Borough Council.

53/13 Meeting Extension

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

54/13 Accounts for Payment

Resolved that accounts for payment, in accordance with the schedule, totalling £11,244.12, be agreed.

55/13 Finance Report

Resolved that the Finance Report for the period 1 April to 31 July 2013 be agreed.

56/13 Water Supply to Cemeteries

Resolved that the Council contact Allerdale Borough Council & request the water supply to Maryport Cemetery to be reintroduced.

57/13 Overgrowing Foliage, Back Brow

Resolved that the Council contact Allerdale Borough Council & ask if the overgrowing foliage on Back Brow could be addressed.

58/13 Ward Notice Boards

Resolved that the Council investigate the implications & cost of providing a notice board in each of the Council's wards.

59/13 Items for the Next Agenda

None received.

The meeting finished at 9.05 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date