

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 27 June 2022 in the Meeting Room, Grasslot Club, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

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| Councillor S Ashworth (Chairman) | Councillor B Carter |
| Councillor Mrs A Kendall | Councillor P Kendall |
| Councillor W Pegram | Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe |
| Councillor Ms C Slater | Councillor M Wood |
| Councillor Mrs J Wood | |

In Attendance

L Douglas (Clerk)
P Bramley (Clerk)
V Patterson (Press)
3 Members of the public

1/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Hampson, P Mallyon, J Newton & Ms C Tindall.

2/22 Declarations of Interest

None Received

3/22 Requests for Dispensation

None received.

4/22 Minutes of Meeting held on 25 April 2022

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2022 be agreed & signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5/22 Correspondence

Resolved that the schedule of correspondence be received & noted & that:

- 1) No nominations be made to sit on the Allerdale District of Cumbria Association of Local Councils Executive.
- 2) A grant of £2,000 be awarded to Maryport Rotary Club in support of its Family Day & Classic Vintage Vehicle Show to be held on 13 August 2022 in conjunction with the Maryport Taste of the Sea Festival.
- 3) A grant of £1,000 be awarded to Maryport Amateur Football Club in contribution towards a new set of goal posts.

- 4) A grant of £500 be awarded to Maryport Primary School towards its update & installation of new equipment in its sensory room & to request information from the school regarding the extent of involvement of the local education authority in the project.
- 5) Noting that Riverside Care Home is privately operated, detailed information be requested on what enhancements of the outdoor area proposed for improvements are planned, together with a breakdown of estimated costs & information on how many residents would benefit from the proposals.
- 6) The following grant awards be made after the receipt of statements of application of 2021/22 grants:
 - Netherhall School Awards Evening, £500
 - Maryport Maritime Museum, £500
 - Senhouse Roman Museum, £1,000
- 7) The following grant awards be made after the receipt of applications for grant funding:
 - Owl Blue Children's Charity, £2,200
 - Maryport Sea Cadets, £1,680
 - Maryport Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society, £1,500
- 8) Provision of £1,000 be proposed in the 2023/24 Budget for Feel the Blues towards overhead costs for a PA System, fees & expenses.
- 9) Following the forwarding by Mark Jenkinson MP's office on 27 June of a complaint from Mrs D Robertson dated 31 May about the Town Council's failure to directly arrange a fun day in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, it be agreed to respond to the complainant directly, with a copy to the MP's office, noting the following:
 - The Council disagrees with the scurrilous assertion that the Council is lazy & asks the correspondent to provide evidence in support of her assertion
 - The Council is of the view that direct comparison with Workington Town Council's arrangements is unreasonable, noting that it employs nine staff, including its own Culture & Events Team Leader & Events & Projects Officer & has a precept some two thirds larger than Maryport Town Council, as well as a much larger tax base
 - The Council took the view that since the community would be organising street parties, it would be preferable not to duplicate this, & that an enhanced Family Fun Day in the Summer should be planned, (Minute 102/21 refers)
 - The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Civic Service held on 6 June was organised by the Council in conjunction with the Church, at the request of Archdeacon the Venerable Richard Pratt, whose primary objective was to involve Maryport schools in the service, hence it was arranged on a school day
 - The complainant is incorrect in her assertion that the Council did not provide her with the courtesy of a response to her suggestion that commemorative benches be placed on Shipping Brow, (a proposal which had already been discussed by officers); a response was provided on 21 January 2022 thanking her for her suggestion
 - The complainant is incorrect in her assertion that the Council made 'a catty remark on Maryport Past & Present', (facebook site); in

response to a picture of the commemorative bench installed by the Council on Shipping Brow, it was pointed out as an item of information for the public that there were similar benches located at Maryport Memorial Gardens & on Flimby Green

- The Council celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with the provision for Maryport & Flimby school children of a commemorative mug or spoon, commemorative trees for Maryport & Flimby schools, a commemorative tree at Maryport Memorial Gardens & Flimby Green, commemorative plaques for members of the community requesting one affixed to benches around Maryport Harbour & Marina, & is arranging a Royal Family Fun Day, as well as the commemorative benches.
- The Council takes exception to the disparaging remarks made about its decision to provide Maryport & Flimby school pupils with commemorative spoons & mugs. The provision of such mementos is traditional & was well received by both schools & pupils
- The Council disagrees that it is short-sighted, set in its ways, far too old & ineffective, & would suggest that the correspondent to provide evidence
- The Council note its lack of understanding as to why the correspondent chose to raise her complaint with Mark Jenkinson MP, who has no jurisdiction over the Town Council, when a direct approach could have been dealt with more efficiently.

6/22 Accounts for payment

Resolved that accounts for payment, in accordance with the schedule, totalling £117,315.98, be agreed.

7/22 Finance Report

Resolved that the Finance Report for the period 1 to 31 May 2022 be agreed.

8/22 Financial Reserves 2021/22

Resolved that the position of the Council's Financial Reserves at 31 March 2022 be noted & that additions to Reserves at 31 March 2022 be agreed as follows:

- 1) General Reserves: £18,562
- 2) Environmental Improvements Reserve: £20,000
- 3) Building Maintenance Reserve: £10,000
- 4) Festivals Reserve: £6,000
- 5) Allotments Improvements Reserve: £20,000
- 6) International Sports Reserve: £6,025.

9/22 Internal Audit Report

Resolved that the Internal Audit Report for the period 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 be agreed & the Clerks thanked for their continuing efforts.

10/22 Environmental Improvements

Resolved that the Council agree to seek interest from contractors in carrying out repainting works to railings at Shipping Brow, Maryport Harbour area & Market Steps,

with funding of up to £10,000, with variations to which delegated to the Chairman, made available from the Environmental Improvements Reserve.

11/22 Vehicle Speed Limits

Resolved that Cumberland Council interim Chief Executive Andrew Seeking be asked to have the new council, once operational, to review speed limits on the A596 from the southern end of Flimby to the northern end of Maryport.

12/22 Weeds

Resolved that, further to concerns with weed growth in the area, Allerdale Borough Council be requested to provide a schedule of works for weed control in the area, & that Allerdale be requested to provide signage warning of cyclists at the lower end of the 'Fairy Path' on Maryport Promenade.

13/22 Items for Next Agenda

None received.

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

Signed

Chairman

Date