

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Monday 26 September 2022 at The Golden Lion, Senhouse Street, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillor S Ashworth	Councillor B Carter
Councillor P Kendall (Chairman)	Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe
Councillor W Pegram	Council Ms C Slater

In Attendance

P Bramley, (Clerk)
Mrs L Douglas, (Clerk)

23/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A Kendall, P Mallyon, Mrs C McCarron Holmes, J Newton, Ms C Tindall, Mrs J Wood & M Wood.

24/22 Declaration of Interests

None received.

25/22 Requests for Dispensation

None received.

26/22 Maryport Community Governance Review

It was noted that a petition calling for the establishment of a separate parish council for the Flimby ward of the Maryport parish area had been submitted to Allerdale Borough Council on 30 July 2019. Allerdale Borough Council had reported that the petition carried 250 valid local government elector signatures, which was the minimum number required to trigger a review of the area. Under Section 83 of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Allerdale Borough Council was required to carry out such a review. The legislation requires that a review is concluded within twelve months following its commencement, & if the outcome of the review was that a new parish council should be established, then elections would be due as soon as the council was established.

The covid-19 pandemic impacted on the original timescale for the review & Allerdale decided in July 2022 that it was appropriate to resume the review, with the establishment of an updated Maryport Community Governance Review Working Group.

Allerdale officers had met with the Town Council on 8 August 2022 for what they advised was a 'preliminary consultation'. At the meeting, the process that the review was proposed to follow was outlined & members questions answered. A further series of questions was submitted for consideration following the meeting & a response to those had been received.

In the time since the submission of the petition, the local government review of Cumbria had been completed & a Cumberland Council & a Westmorland & Furness Council established which would replace the current district & county councils. The Cumberland Council was currently operating as a shadow authority & would come into full being in May 2023.

It was noted that the new councils had been advised that it would need to save some £40 million, which it was considered would be likely to necessitate a review of services provided leading to services being discontinued by the principal authorities & local councils perhaps taking them on. Given the potential financial impact of this on local councils, it was considered reasonable to assume that Cumberland Council, in this area, would be likely to carry out a community governance review of local council arrangements in the authority area.

Resolved that the Town Council recommend to the Maryport Community Governance Review Working Group that it recommends to Allerdale Borough Council that it recommends to the Cumberland Council Shadow Authority that any decision on the establishment of a Flimby Council be deferred until such time as Cumberland Council had determined which services would be curtailed & possibly transferred to local councils, so leading to the necessity for a community governance review of the whole council area.

The meeting finished at 7.30pm.

Signed
Chairman
Date