

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 7 November 2022 at the Town Hall, Senhouse Street, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillor S Ashworth, (Chairman)	Councillor B Carter
Councillor Mrs A Kendall	Councillor P Kendall
Councillor Mrs C McCarron Holmes	Councillor W Pegram
Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe	Councillor Ms C Slater

In Attendance

L Douglas, (Clerk)
P Bramley, (Clerk)
Mrs V Patterson, (Press)

64/22 Apologies for Absence

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

65/22 Declarations of Interest

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe, Item 6(1), Personal as a member of the Reflections Community Group.

66/22 Requests for Dispensation

A request for dispensation to speak on Item 6(1) was received from Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe.

Resolved that the request be granted.

67/22 Minutes of Meeting held on 10 October 2022

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2022 be agreed & signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

68/22 Minutes of Meeting held on 31 October 2022

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2022 be agreed & signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

69/22 Correspondence

Resolved that the schedule of correspondence be received & noted & that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to Reflections Community Group to enable it to provide food & a warm space to residents struggling financially during the Winter months.

70/22 Finance Report

Resolved that the Finance Report for the period 1 April to 30 September 2022 be agreed.

71/22 Police Report

Resolved that the forwarded reports be noted.

72/22 Play Area Improvements

Resolved that the recommendations of the Working Party be agreed & that:

- 1) Arrangements be made for the immediate removal of the graffiti, given its unsavoury subject matter where young children are present.
- 2) Arrangements be made for the replacement of safety matting as necessary with good quality material.
- 3) Arrangements be made for an access track suitable for pushchair & wheelchair use, to run from the corner of the south eastern side of the Play Area, together with suitable hard standing at the Play Area itself, to support family accessibility.
- 4) Arrangements be made for suitable seating for adults supervising children using the Play Area.
- 5) Appropriate signage be put in place to direct users of the facilities to use the access track to the Play Area.
- 6) Cumbria County Council be requested to install signage warning road users of the presence of a Playing Field at suitable sites to the Maryport & Derham sides of the area.

73/22 Maryport Town Hall Opening and Customer Service

The committee received a report from Councillor P Kendall on the condition of the Town Hall following its recent re-opening. It was noted that there was evidence of the re-emergence of the effects of damp in the building on the refurbished ground floor, including in the kitchen, the former store cupboard, the rear hallway, the former front door & new front door areas. It was reported that aside from works to windows & the external walls, no works had taken place above the ground floor during the recent refurbishment & that, despite being reported to Allerdale by the Town Council, problems with damp had not been addressed, with continuing evidence of its presence evident in the form of damp patches, damaged decorations & fungal growth.

There was concern that relatively new furniture on the ground floor had been destroyed during the reconfiguration of the ground floor & that Allerdale Borough

Council was not providing a satisfactory public service to the people of Maryport through its introduction of an appointments only system & lack of staff presence at the Town Hall. It was noted that Allerdale continued to provide a walk-in service for customers at its offices in Wigton, as a result of demands from Allerdale Borough Council members in that area.

Resolved that:

- 1) The Council contact Allerdale Borough Council, as landlord, & request a meeting with the Property Services Manager to enable the Town Council's concerns to be discussed.
- 2) Councillor P Kendall contact Allerdale Borough Council members for the Wigton area to ascertain the reasons for Allerdale continuing to provide a walk-in service at its Wigton offices.

74/22 BBC Radio Cumbria

Resolved that the Council view with absolute dismay the decision to reduce the news coverage from Radio Cumbria by 50% & that it contacts the appropriate Government department to express its concerns at yet another service being eroded.

75/22 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