

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Assembly held on Monday 10 April 2017 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillor S Ashworth	Councillor Mrs A Kendall
Councillor P Kendall	Councillor Mrs C McCarron Holmes
Councillor W Pegram	Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs J Wood	

In Attendance

Mr P Bramley (Clerk)
Mrs V Patterson (Press)

1/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Hampson, Ms S Stamper, Ms C Tindall, L Williamson & M Wood.

2/17 Minutes of Annual Town Assembly held on 14 April 2016

Resolved that the Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on 14 April 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

3/17 Annual Report of the Town Council

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe, reported that 2016/17 had been a year of some wonderful things taking place in Maryport and for Maryport. She stated that she was delighted to have been Mayor when so much had been going on. She advised that Maryport Town Centre Manager had been instrumental in promoting the refurbishment of the outside of town centre properties with the incentive of financial assistance from Allerdale Borough Council. The uplift of many properties had caused people who lived in the area to comment on how much better things looked in the shopping areas. The arrival of Lidl in the town had been another positive advent and the people from all over the area who chose to come and shop in Maryport were being attracted into the town centre, so it was up to all, together with traders, to make sure they could access goods they wished to buy.

Councillor Radcliffe suggested that the Council owed a huge debt of gratitude to its Town Clerks, who worked tirelessly & with goodwill to arrange events in the town on an annual basis for the benefit of the residents, including the very successful Christmas Lights event, the Easter Egg hunt, the free summer Gala Day for local children, and so much more, such as, in conjunction with local churches, the promotion of a very successful Remembrance Day Parade and Service, (which unfortunately had led to Clerk Lisa Douglas being on point duty as the Police had been called to an incident elsewhere!).

Councillor Radcliffe reported that the highlight of the year for her was the Simon Lawson tribute, as the community welcomed him home. She & Lisa had had very little time to prepare, she advised, but in her usual calm and controlled way, Lisa had ensured that all the preparations fell into place so smoothly, which was unbelievable. She said that she knew Simon treasured both the accolades he received and the gifts from the Town Council. She again paid tribute to the Joint Schools' Council, which the Clerks were heavily involved in; the local schools which joined in with much energy; the revival of Netherhall School under the directives of the Head Teacher, Mr David Tromans; and all the gardeners who had joined in so enthusiastically in the Council's annual Best Kept Garden & Container competition. Councillor Radcliffe reported that the Council had a sound base for building another successful year on.

4/17 Annual Report on the Council's Finances

Councillor Ms C Tindall, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, reported that 2016/17 had been another good year for Maryport. The Council had had a challenging time financially to stay within budget, but with hard work from the Town Clerks and the Council's contractors, the Council had managed to get everything done and stay within budget.

Allerdale Borough Council continued to reduce the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant paid to the Town Council, whilst also reducing the services it provided. Councillor Tindall advised that the Council would endeavour to pick such areas up as were appropriate to ensure the town was displayed at its best.

The Town Council continued to work with a variety of partners to ensure best value and best practice while serving the people of Maryport and Flimby. Such partnership working not only included other councils but Cumbria County Council Countryside Ranger, Maryport and District Schools' Council and more recently, Flood Groups in the area. Over the next year, Councillor Tindall advised that the Council would continue to work in partnership wherever possible. In addition, the Council would continue to financially support as many events and charities which served communities in the area, all the time seeking out and using local businesses and trades where possible.

Councillor Tindall reported that, in the current and future financial and political climate, local government would be expected to be run like a business and show that, wherever possible, it was making every effort to become self-sustaining. With that in mind, the Council had embarked on a five year programme to bring allotment rents into line with other councils. It was hoped that by 2023 the allotment service would be self-sustaining, allowing the Council to use its resources in other more needy public areas.

Councillor Tindall advised that the Town Council precept had remained unchanged in 2017/18 from that in 2016/17, which meant that, for 2017/18, the majority of households paid some 94p per week to maintain the town, provide events and support charities.

Councillor Tindall ended by thanking the diligence and hard work of both Town Clerks, without whose efforts, she believed, none of the improved services would be possible.

Report from Councillors Mrs A Kendall & W Pegram, Allerdale Borough Councillors for Netherhall Ward

Councillor Mrs A Kendall reported on behalf of herself & Councillor W Pegram, & advised that partnership seemed to be the key word for 2016/17. Both Allerdale Borough Council & Cumbria County Council had undertaken significant partnership schemes, with the latter commencing work on the Railway Hub, long requested by the Town Council, & the former, through Allerdale Investment Partnership, after some twenty years of Town Council pushing, facilitating the development of the Lidl store in Maryport, making it a reality at last. Allerdale Borough Council had also introduced the Town Centre Shop & Residential Front Improvement Scheme in Maryport, a partnership with property owners, which had led to big improvements to the outlook of the town. In addition, Maryport Town Council, along with Maryport Harbour & Marina, Allerdale Borough Council & Cumbria County Council was working hard to improve the area, with the aim of attracting more visitors to the town.

Councillor Kendall advised that working for the people of the ward & the town was what it was all about, & that she promised to try to help any residents when contacted.

Councillor Kendall advised that she had been re-elected as Chairman of Allerdale Borough Council Licensing Committee, & re-elected to the board of Maryport Harbour & Marina. She thanked the Town Clerks for their help & support over the previous year.

Report from Councillor P Kendall, Allerdale Borough Councillor for Flimby Ward

Councillor P Kendall reported that the ward & village were still getting over the aftermath of the results of Storm Desmond in December 2015. The Village Resilience Group, made up of residents & Councillors Stephen Ashworth, Carol Tindall, Keith Little & himself, were all working hard with Allerdale Borough Council Champion for the area, Paul Wood, Allerdale staff, County Council officers, the Environment Agency & staff from Home Group, to prepare a resilience package of measures, including emergency road closure signage, sand bags & storage containers in the centre of the village, to help with future flood events. Flood sacks were also available from Maryport Town Hall.

Councillor Kendall reported that he continued to deal with social housing issues brought to him by residents, & continued to administer the Flimby Windfarm fund, along with Councillors Ashworth & Tindall, & resident Mary Bainbridge. The fund, he reported, gave tremendous support to numerous organisations in the village, without fear or favour.

Councillor Kendall advised that he was once again honoured to have been involved with a successful carnival, which had been further enhanced in its content through a £5,000 donation obtained through Allerdale Borough Council in recognition of the impact of flooding in the village. He congratulated the Carnival Committee on their hard work.

Councillor Kendall advised that he had attended various flood resilience meetings across the county to ensure that the needs of Flimby were not overlooked. Some one thousand letters were distributed in the village for completion by residents prior to submission to Allerdale Borough Council Planning Services, objecting to further housing & industrial development taking place, as outlined in the draft Allerdale Local Plan

Report from Councillors Mrs J Wood & M Wood, Allerdale Borough Councillors for Ellenborough Ward

Councillor Mrs J Wood reported on behalf of herself & Councillor M Wood. She advised that their health problems had affected their ability to carry out their public role to the full over the previous twelve months. She noted that two new shops had opened but that one had disappointingly closed after a few months; she welcomed the new shop at Hillside & expressed residents' satisfaction with the arrival of a Lidl store in town. Councillor Wood welcomed the provision by the Town council of a new bus shelter outside The Dales, Ellenborough & reported on the commencement of work at Scott's Brow. She advised that Councillor M Wood sat on Allerdale Borough Council Corporate & Community Scrutiny Committees, & Licensing Committee, whilst she sat on the Standards Board.

Report from Councillor Mrs C McCarron Holmes, Allerdale Borough Councillor for Ewanrigg Ward

Councillor Mrs C McCarron Holmes reported on her pride with the development of Lidl in Maryport, & on developments in social housing improvements in the area, in her role as Allerdale Executive Portfolio Holder for Health & Housing. She commented in particular on the availability of disabled facilities grants which were a valuable resource to help people who so wished to continue to occupy their homes. She also advised that Two Castles & Derwent & Solway Housing Associations were on the verge of forming a new housing association which would ensure control of some four thousand homes remained in local hands. Councillor McCarron Holmes, in her role as Allerdale Armed Forces Champion, reported that Cumbria had received a reward for the role.

Report from Councillor L Williamson, Allerdale Borough Councillor for Ewanrigg Ward

No report received.

6/17 Observations of Cumbria County Councillors for each of the Town's Wards Report from Councillor K Little, Cumbria County Councillor for Maryport South

Councillor K Little reported that over the previous twelve months he had continued to be busy with many issues raised by residents in his division of Maryport South. As always, he reported, housing issues had been one of the difficulties many people were experiencing, with repairs & allocations of properties being the main issues.

Councillor Little reported that the situation regarding health provision in the town's community hospital had been at the forefront of many people's minds over the previous twelve months, & there had been a number of meetings and protest marches which he had attended in support of the concerns raised. He had also worked within the County Council to raise those concerns and had been able to advise on what the residents of Maryport were mainly concerned with in the proposals. The County Council had been at the forefront of raising the issues with the Health Authorities and the Secretary of State.

Councillor Little reported that the County Council had recently started work on the new Railway Station car park on Mealpot Road. The work was being carried out by local contractors, Thomas Armstrong Ltd of Flimby, & was due to be completed by the end of June. He stated that the developments would be a great asset to those travelling on the railway and for visitors to the town.

Councillor Little reported that he had continued to represent the County Council on the Maryport Harbour and Marina Board, alongside colleagues from Allerdale Borough Council and Maryport Town Council. He stated that there was a lot happening in and around the harbour, with the new caravan park soon to become available to accept visitors, & a number of other opportunities for further development were also being discussed.

Councillor Little stated that he would like to take the opportunity to thank members of the Town Council for their support and to thank the Town Council's two clerks for keeping him informed of issues raised which required input or actions by the County Council.

Report from Councillor Mrs C McCarron Holmes, Cumbria County Council for Maryport North

Councillor Mrs C McCarron Holme reported on the changing status of Netherhall School to an Academy, which she considered would be beneficial to the staff & pupils in turning the school around. She said that she had instigated a town centre parking review, which had been completed, & that she was hoping that the bus stop on Senhouse Street could be moved to a site which addressed the problems of backed-up traffic when a bus had stopped. Councillor McCarron Holmes reported that she had instigated a train trip at Christmas time for vulnerable children, which involved many partners. The event had given her immense pleasure & she hoped it would become an annual event. She reported that by the end of the year, she expected the Maryport transport hub to be complete.

7/17 Statements & Reports from representatives on Voluntary Organisations

Report from Councillor Ms S Stamper on the Citizens' Advice Bureau

No report received.

Report from Councillor Ms C Tindall on the Fawcett Johnson Charity

Councillor Ms C Tindall reported that the Trust continued to support ex-naval personnel and their widows. She advised that whilst it was a small trust with approximately 35 recipients, it gave a bursary yearly to each recipient. The amount varied as it was dependent on the previous year's interest earned, and was usually around the £70 mark. She advised that cheques were issued to recipients during the first week in December and were welcomed as a help towards Christmas costs.

Report from Councillor Ms C Tindall on Flimby Wind Farm Community Fund

Councillor Ms C Tindall reported that 2016/17 had been the third year during which grants had been distributed from the Flimby Wind Farm Community Fund. She advised that the fund managed approximately £9,000 annually on behalf of the operators and the people of Flimby. She reported that the Council and directors absorbed all the administration costs, so that the entire amount received each year was able to be paid out, unlike Broughton Moor Parish Council, the other beneficiary of the fund, which had handed over management of their allowance to Cumbria Community Foundation and so paid a percentage on management fees.

Councillor Tindall reported that recipients of grants in 2016/17 had been:

- The Pensioners Christmas Party and Summer Trip
- The Over Sixties Club
- Flimby Girls Brigade
- Flimby Allotment Society's Annual Show
- Flimby Carnival
- Flimby Scarecrow Competition
- The Craft Club
- Both Pigeon Societies in Flimby
- Flimby Youth Club's final Christmas Parties
- Flimby Flood Action Group.

Report from Councillors Mrs J Wood & M Wood on the John Collins Charity

Councillor Mrs J Wood reported on behalf of herself & Councillor M Wood. She advised that the John Collins Charity was doing well. It had resources available for qualifying recipients & each committee member had been tasked with identifying a possible recipient. Councillor Wood advised that she had been trying to locate widows in Ellenborough as a part of this task.

Report from Councillor W Pegram, representative on Maryport Harbour Authority

Councillor W Pegram advised that the director of Maryport Harbour & Marina would like to thank the Town Council for its continued support. He reported that from 1 March 2017, a new Harbour Master had been in post, who had previously held a similar role at Silloth. Councillor Pegram advised that he had recently helped carry out a ladder inspection, which had identified the need to continue with repair & replacement work. The safety of users was being given priority in this work, in common with the footbridge.

Report from Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe on the Senhouse Museum Trust

Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe reported that Trustees, staff & volunteers were working towards the future development of the Museum, which continued to grow and thrive. Since 2000, they had commissioned archaeological research into the Roman fort and civil settlement adjacent to the Museum, from which the majority of the Museum collections had been discovered. She advised that the previous five years of excavation, (2011-15), had resulted in significant advances in the understanding both of the site and the collection. The excavation had attracted significant numbers of visitors to the Museum and to Maryport, & had featured in a series of BBC's programme 'Coast'.

Councillor Radcliffe reported that recently the Museum leaders had been in discussion with the North of England Civic Trust, which was the new owner of Camp Farm. Those discussions had been towards developing a collaboration which would enable the development of both the Museum and Camp Farm. Initial developments, she advised, included the instigation of public access to the Roman fort by guided tours led by Museum volunteers.

Councillor Radcliffe reported that the future for the Museum was anticipated to include a complete refurbishment of the museum building and its facilities, and the reinterpretation of

the collections. The objectives included enhancing access to the collections and the stories they told to a wider audience, raising awareness of the Roman heritage of Maryport and its place in the frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site.

Councillor Radcliffe advised that from Saturday 8th April to Sunday 10th September 17, the main focus for the Museum would be the Hadrian's Cavalry Exhibition. The unique exhibition stretched the full 150 miles from Maryport in the west to South Shields in the North-East, and encompassed at least ten museums. She advised that the total exhibition of unique objects from the Roman cavalry included objects from across the world which had never been displayed in public before. In Maryport, pupils from the Church of England Junior School had built a full size horse from willow and tissue paper as an arts project, which had resulted in them gaining an Arts Discover Award and they were the stars of the exhibition launch on Friday 7th April.

It was anticipated that over the next two to three years, representatives would be very busy planning the next stage of the development of the Museum.

8/17 Resolutions for which Notice has been given

None received.

9/17 Questions from Parishioners

None received.

10/17 Members' 2016/17 Meeting Attendance Record

Maryport Town Council members' attendance figures were noted.

The meeting finished at 7.40pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date