

# MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Assembly held on Thursday 24 April 2014 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.**

## Present

<b>Councillor S Ashworth</b>	<b>Councillor B Campbell</b>
<b>Councillor B Carter</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs A Kendall</b>
<b>Councillor P Kendall</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs C McCarron-Holmes</b>
<b>Councillor W Pegram</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe</b>
<b>Councillor Ms C Tindall (Chairman)</b>	<b>Councillor L Williamson</b>
<b>Councillor Mrs J Wood</b>	<b>Councillor M Wood</b>

## In Attendance

**Mr P Bramley (Clerk)**  
**Mrs V Patterson (Press)**  
**Member of the Public**

### **1/14 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms D Charlton, D King & A Moore.

### **2/14 Minutes of Annual Town Assembly held on 25 April 2013**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on 25 April 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **3/14 Annual Report of the Town Council**

The Mayor, Ms C Tindall, announced that her year in the Mayoral office had been a real honour & a great pleasure, with highlights too many to mention. Particular events which had stood out for her were the Christmas Choir Competition held at St Mary's Church, becoming a member of the Veterans' Air Force, the Maryport Christmas Lights Switch-on & the various events involving schools & school children.

It had been a successful year for Maryport, with a well- run Carnival & Blues Festival, national awards for the Maryport Sea Cadets & Maryport Rugby Club having won three out of three competitions it had entered. The Council had entered its floral displays in the Cumbria in Bloom competition & had won a silver medal. Ms Tindall anticipated a continuation in the partnership work with other local organisations to put pride back into the town.

The introduction of Clip n' Climb to the Wave & the Roman dig had both been big successes & the recent publication of a tourist guide pocket book by the Love Maryport team deserved praise.

The Mayor looked forward to events to be held later in 2014, including the Freedom of The Town award to the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, commemorating the outbreak of World War 1.

Thanks were given to the Council's Clerks for their official work & additional work with such events as the Christmas Festival & School councils' events, & to councillors who volunteered to assist with events, unpaid, & deserved a huge pat on the back for their efforts. Ms Tindall looked forward to the good work continuing in the following year & hoped more would become involved.

#### **4/14 Annual Report on the Council's Finances**

Councillor P Kendall, Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee, reported that, in setting its budget for 2013/14, which for most people was an increase in their Council Tax of 38 pence per year, the Council had been conscious of the difficulties being experienced by many Maryport people under the current government's austerity policies. As well as cutting back on public expenditure, which was so important for this area, with its background of major industry loss, funding provided by government to larger councils continued to be curtailed, leading to severe service cuts & leaving local councils such as Maryport Town Council to pick up the pieces. The Council had protested against the unfairness of the service cuts & written to the Secretary of State for Welfare & Pensions to protest against the impact of the Bedroom Tax on people in the area.

In the current climate, the Town Council had taken the view that it could make the best use of its resources through supporting community events which brought people together & helped them to set aside, for a time, their other difficulties. The Council provided financial support to the Maryport Family Fakefestival event in May, Maryport Carnival in July & Maryport Blues Festival in July, & was grateful to Maryport Rugby Club, the Solway Trust & the Festival Group for organising those events. It also supported local organisations that provided support to people in various ways throughout the year, such as Flimby Youth Club, Citizens' Advice Bureau, Maryport Inshore Rescue, Maryport Educational Settlement & West Cumbria Rape Crisis. In total the Council budgeted to spend over £45,000 in providing such support & was the principal funder for many organisations.

For the third year running, the Council had effectively managed all the routine and non-routine tasks of maintenance and upkeep on services where contractors had been appointed following a tendering process, ensuring that the Council not only received a good quality service for a competitive price, but also that local contractors were employed where possible. Towards the end of the year, an extension to those contracts was successfully negotiated & another three years of solid service was anticipated.

Following the successful reintroduction of hanging baskets to the town in 2012, the Council had managed to secure the addition of iron sculptured boats, complete with sails, in 2013, which were put on display on Netherhall Corner & decorated with flowers. Whilst one member of the public wrote into the Times & Star stating that the boats were an eyesore, full of weeds, the many, many positive comments which the Council & its contractors who maintained the boats had received suggest that that person was in a minority of one ! To

build on that success, arrangements were being made to introduce a lighthouse sculpture, similarly decorated with flowers, in 2014, again reflecting Maryport's nautical history.

The Council had worked with Schools' councils in 2013/14, finding this a very effective way of involving many people in children's & family events. Early in the year, the Council supported Egg Decorating competitions in Maryport Primary schools, providing a range of Easter Eggs for the best ones, which were selected & the winners presented with prizes by the Mayor. During the summer, the Council supported Schools' Sports Days, providing all children with a drink & a snack. A cold autumn day in October saw the Responsible Dog Ownership walk along the promenade, led by the Mayor & Oliver, an event organised by the Schools' councils & supported by the Town Council through well-earned people & doggy snacks & drinks. The end of the year saw the Schools' Bake-off, for which the Council provided baking materials, to fund the Easter Egg Hunt in April, an event for which the huge turnout entailed an urgent trip to the supermarket by the mayor to provide more prizes for the children taking part !

During September, the Cycle Tour of Britain passed through the town, & the Council was instrumental in organising safe viewing sites for the town's school children, who were each provided with a luminous wrist band commemorating the event. Following a long wait in the rain, the cyclists whizzed through in the blink of an eye, but it was well worth the wait to experience the excitement of the spectators witnessing such a unique event.

The Christmas Festival once again proved to be a fabulous event for all, but especially the children of the town. Christmas Lights switch-on day was held on a Saturday & proved highly successful, with over 2,000 people attending to watch local talent, both young & old, including Maryport Dance Centre, Flimby Cheerleaders, Maryport Junior School Choir, a juggling magician & fire artist & music from groups 'The Rucksacks' & 'Euphonics'. All in all, an excellent showpiece for local talent that was enjoyed by everyone. A competition for school children to design advertising posters for the event led to eight being selected to assist the Mayor with the switch-on, & with new lights on Shipping Brow, together with miniature Christmas Trees adorning Senhouse Street, & larger trees at Netherhall Corner & Flimby, the town was a winter wonderland for a few weeks. For a while, it looked as if Santa was going to be without a Ho Ho Home, but following a front page piece by Viv Patterson, ably supporting the Council once again, offers came flooding in & Santa's Grotto was set up next to the Town Hall. With presents provided by the Council & enthusiastic support from Glen McAlpine & others, over 300 children visited the grotto over the Christmas period.

The Council had continued to demonstrate strong & effective financial management & governance, the bedrock to all the successful operations & events in the public arena & had again received plaudits from its Internal Auditor, who had stated that, in respect of those areas, Maryport had become an exemplary Council. The challenge was to maintain those high standards, recognising the road that had been travelled to achieve them & continuing to ensure that resources were in place to provide the necessary support.

Later in 2014, the Council could look forward to supporting the Maryport Cider & Beer Festival, the Freedom of the Town ceremony & march by The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, in recognition of the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1, & the extension of Christmas Lights to the harbour area.

Special thanks were due to the Clerks, Lisa Douglas & Paul Bramley, for all their tireless work, which had helped to make the Council the successful operation it had become. Thanks were due to too many other people to mention, from both partners in operating services & events, to councillors themselves, & not least the general public for showing how welcome the work of the Council had been, which made up for all the difficult decisions that the Council had to make. At a cost of under £30 per year in Council Tax for the majority of people in the town, what the Council provided for the area was a service difficult to match !

#### **5/14 Observations of Allerdale Borough Councillors for each of the Town's Wards**

##### **Report from Councillors Mrs J Wood & M Wood, Allerdale Borough Councillors for Ewanrigg Ward**

The whole of our ward continues to slowly improve because of ongoing work being carried out by the social housing landlords. There has been concern in the recent past about pot-holes which County Highways are addressing on a rolling programme, but because of budget cuts everyone must wait their turn.

Drainage and flood alleviation works continue across our ward; also grit bins are to be refilled, though we hope that they will not be needed.

The provision of purple bags has been rolled out across the whole of the ward, allowing those who wish to make use of this great scheme to do so, and Allerdale's recycling scheme continues to improve.

The recent works to housing on Short Acres and Victory Crescent have led to great improvements and is an example we can be proud of showing what can result from good planning and residents working together.

Popularity of the play equipment on Ellenborough Moor continues to go from strength to strength and as the weather improves we can look toward further popularity.

##### **Report from Councillor Mrs A Kendall, Allerdale Borough Councillor for Netherhall Ward**

I wish to report that Maryport Harbour Authority & Maryport Developments Ltd have merged, the name for the new company being Maryport Harbour & Marine Ltd. There is still a lot to be done & I would like to put on record my thanks to the staff & committee for all the hard work & commitment they have put in. The new building for the Maryport Inshore Rescue Service is almost operational & is a welcome addition.

The housing development at Deer Park has finally received planning permission. It has been a long time coming & all I can do is add my agreement to what Councillor P Kendall stated in his letter on the subject published in the Times & Star last week. Members will recall the first time the matter came to the Town Council, & my comments at that time concerned the need for valid planning reasons to be submitted.

I continue to take a very active part in licensing issues across the borough as Chairman of Allerdale Borough Council Licensing Committee & would like to thank all the staff in the Licensing section at Allerdale for their support.

Finally, I would like to thank the people of Netherhall, of whom I hope I've been able to help with any issues which have been brought to my attention.

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

I wish to report that in the coming week I will be meeting with a representative from Northern Rail to look at improving the parking at Maryport Station & what improvements can be made at Flimby. We will also be looking at the Bus Service in the Town, as bus companies seem to have cut services in some areas and it is very important that services are retained.

I am fully supportive of a supermarket being built in Maryport.

Myself, along with fellow members, will be attending meetings with the New Health Trust with regards to the Cottage Hospital.

I also represent Allerdale on the Trades Hall Committee, and the Town Council has given grant funding to this organisation, which is an important voluntary service which many Maryport & Flimby people use.

I am looking forward to Flimby Carnival after a break of a couple of years. I am also looking forward to the Town Carnival, Beer Festival, Blues Festival & Trawler Race.

I have been working with the Maryport Town Team on their clean-up projects.

I would urge anyone in Maryport to come along and help, all help is welcomed.

I am passionate about Flimby and Maryport and am lucky to represent such a great area.

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

In the past year Allerdale has hosted the Rugby World Cup, bringing much to the area in visitors.

We have:

- 1) Set out a Living @Wage.
- 2) Supported Clip n' Climb at Maryport.
- 3) Introduced Reducing Poverty initiatives.
- 4) Set up Energy Switch and given the Credit Union Support.
- 5) Been successful with Apprentices within the Council.
- 6) Given financial support via contracts to CAB-ADA-Law Centre and Trades Hall.

There is a possibility that Allerdale could be asked to run the whole of Cumbria County Council's On-Street Car Parking Scheme.

Lastly, and by no means least, Allerdale has set up a Joint Venture Partnership Deal with a large company to market our spare land, thus bringing in profits for the Council and the taxpayer.

I am still keen on bringing another supermarket to the town to give our residents a choice and keep them shopping in town.

Finally I would like to thank the Town Council Clerks for their efforts in bringing significant improvements to the Council, in both the way it is run & the services it provides for the community.

**Report from Councillor G Kemp, Allerdale Borough Councillor for Netherhall Ward**

In my opinion, the last twelve months has been a mixture of positives and negatives for the Netherhall Ward.

On the positive side we have witnessed:

- 1) The fantastic success of both the Clip and Climb and Aquarium, attracting thousands of tourists and visitors to our town.
- 2) The opening of the new Allonby cycleway link that is already attracting a large increase in passing trade through the town.
- 3) The superb effort of all the festival groups delivering a wide range of music and entertainment. The Blues Festival, the Harbour Festival, the annual Trawler Race, Maryport Rugby Club's Fakefest, Glasson Ranger's Glassonbury and the return of our annual Carnival organised by the Solway Trust.
- 4) The fantastic efforts of many community groups & the Town Council delivering projects such as the Fleming Square floral displays, Netherhall Corner flower beds, street signage cleaning and the recent Promenade clean-up and seat refurbishment.
- 5) The construction of a superb, fit for purpose, Lifeboat Station for the Maryport Inshore Rescue Team.

On the negative side we have witnessed:

- 1) The closure of the unemployment exchange on Mealpot Road - yet another service transferred to Workington.
- 2) The increase in the number of business closures in the town and the huge increase in the number of charity shops.
- 3) The town's largest employer being encouraged to relocate to Lillyhall with the loss of over two hundred jobs to the community.
- 4) The increase to over 100 timber wagons per day travelling through our town to service the new biomass plant at Siddick.

- 5) The judicial review's final decision on the approval of the Story Development at Deer Park. This, in my opinion is the worst planning decision ever made by both the Allerdale Development Panel and Maryport Town Council.  
The Town, Borough and County Councillors in Maryport who were responsible for railroading this decision through have ignored the views of their electorate. Unfortunately, this decision has destroyed the beautiful green field entrance to our town forever.  
With other huge housing developments in Dearham already being built, our schools will not be able to cope with the increase in pupil numbers. Traffic chaos will undoubtedly cause extra risks to our children travelling to school.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the sad loss of Councillor Bill Cameron who recently passed away. Even though we sometimes disagreed, we eventually became good friends and I was honoured that he supported me in recent elections.

## **6/14 Observations of Cumbria County Councillors for each of the Town's Wards**

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

Since the last Town Assembly I have been elected to Cumbria county Council as the member for Maryport North Division.

In this capacity I represent Crosby/Birkby and Crosby Villa and attend their Parish Council meetings.

I am a member of the Scrutiny Board for Older Adults and currently sit on the Health and Social Care Task Group which is looking at the Integration of Health and Social Care (wrap around care provision).

The County Council has had to make cuts in all departments as a result of Central Government cuts imposed upon it.

The Local Area Committee, which has a budget to commit to local endeavours, is supporting community issues & to this end the County has established a Local Welfare Assistance Fund following the Welfare Reform Bill. Locally, grant funding has been given to Ewanrigg CDC to promote long term healthy lifestyle with starter food packs and advice on low cost recipes. Derwent & Solway Housing Association is also involved via recycling goods left in vacated properties for other deserving tenants setting up home.

### **Report from Councillor K Little, Cumbria County Councillor for Maryport South**

Since the County Council elections in May 2013, I have settled into my new division and the added responsibilities of Cabinet member with responsibility for Highways and Transport. Much of my time is spent in dealing with budget saving proposals which were agreed at full council in February this year.

Within the Maryport South Division, which includes Broughton Moor, Ewanrigg and Flimby, I continue to work on behalf of the communities, where housing and in particular housing repairs, continue to be a major issue.

I continue to work with colleagues from both the Districts and Parishes who have responsibilities within the Division and I have supported a number of constituents who have had cause to seek a meeting with the MP Sir Tony Cunningham and have helped them to prepare their cases.

I am well aware of the concerns raised re timber traffic and I am working through my portfolio to address those concerns which the County Council can influence.

I represent the County Council on Maryport Harbour and Marina Board, working alongside District, Parish and independent members to ensure continued improvement to this vital asset to Maryport. The new facility for the inshore rescue boat and crew is an excellent example of the improvements which can happen.

#### **7/14 Statements & Reports from representatives of Voluntary Organisations in the Town**

##### **Report from Councillor W Pegram, representative on Maryport Harbour Authority**

In my role as Town Council representative on the Harbour Authority, I would like to bring everyone up to date on the spending of the Council's grant to the Harbour Authority.

The entire grant is spent on harbour infrastructure & maintenance. The lighting upgrade on the fish landing quay is now completed & has made the area a lot safer, which has been well received by the fishermen. Sleepers for the safety rail have been purchased & are to be installed by a local firm.

Harbourmaster Richard Key has written to the Council stating how important the Council's funding is. There are plans to carry out work on ladders in the Elizabeth Dock & basin area, & a much needed painting of the lighthouse in the summer months. Richard is very dedicated to his work & is making a big difference. I believe it is money well spent & I hope the Council continues to provide grant support in the future.

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

The group made a number of payments, 15 of which were made to elderly recipients in the ward of Ellenborough. We shall shortly be distributing funds to a further 6 qualifying people in this ward.

##### **Report from Councillor Ms C Tindall on the Fawcett Johnson Charity**

The fund benefits retired seamen & their widows in the Maryport area who have fallen on hard times. This year we divided the available monies between 31 recipients, each getting around £70 just prior to Christmas. It would be appropriate at some point to review the basis of distribution, to ensure that there are sufficient beneficiaries.

#### **8/14 Resolutions for which Notice has been given**



None received.

**9/14 Questions from Parishioners**

None received.

**10/14 Members' 2013/14 Meeting Attendance Record**

Maryport Town Council members' attendance figures were noted.

The meeting finished at 7.40pm.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....