

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Assembly held on Monday 9 April 2018 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillor S Ashworth	Councillor B Carter
Councillor Mrs A Kendall	(Chairman) Councillor P Kendall
Councillor P McCarthy	Councillor Mrs C McCarron Holmes
Councillor W Pegram	Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe
Councillor I Tyson	Councillor Mrs J Wood
Councillor M Wood	

In Attendance

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

1/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Hampson, Ms S Stamper, Ms C Tindall, L Williamson & Ms N Shaw

2/17 Minutes of Annual Town Assembly held on 10 April 2017

Resolved that the Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on 10 April 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record, after correction of a typographical error on page 6, where a K was missing on the word 'thank'.

3/17 Annual Report of the Town Council

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs A Kendall, reported that 2017/18 had been a year of some wonderful things taking place in Maryport and for Maryport: the Easter Egg hunt, the free summer Gala Day for local children, and so much more that the Clerks continue to arrange & go above and work outside of office hours to promote.

Netherhall School under the directives of the Head Teacher, Mr David Tromans received a good Ofsted rating, the best they have ever had which is a great boost for the town. Councillor A Kendall thanked the Clerks for their hard work, and fellow Councillors.

4/17 Annual Report on the Council's Finances

In the absence of Councillor Ms C Tindall, the Town Clerks reported that the Council continued to manage its services with a budget of some £200,000 per annum. No Council Tax increase had been implemented for 2018/19 & the Council's Band A Council Tax level remained £48.79.

The Council had received positive reports on its governance & financial controls & procedures in 2017/18, continuing on from recent year's reports & no issues had been raised by the Council's external auditors.

Members thanked the Clerks for their continued diligence and hard work, without whose efforts, they believed, the improved services would not be possible.

5/17 Observations of Allerdale Borough Councillors for each of the Town's Wards

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 2017/18. Both Allerdale Borough Council & Cumbria County Council had undertaken significant partnership schemes, with the latter completing work on the Railway Hub.

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.

Councillor W Pegram added to this that as a director of Maryport Harbour Authority he would like to thank the TC for continued support as without it replacements & repairs would not be possible. The new caravan park is up and running and proving popular, a new female harbour master seems to be very knowledgeable and first impressions and encouraging, he also thanked fellow members & clerks for support.

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. 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 but in addition to this they had secured with the help of Maryport Town Council a container to store flood defence items which is now in place in Flimby.

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, 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 Mr M Wood reported on behalf of himself & Councillor J Wood. He 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. 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 had now formed a new housing association. Councillor McCarron Holmes, like all other authority's Allerdale has again had to slash its budget as a result of central government & austerity measures however they still run a weekly refuse collection which is a good resource for the town. She has regular meetings with registered providers to go through business plans and lettings with regarding to housing stock, which they are looking to upgrade. Sue Hayman MP has agreed to the motion that an economic summit be instigated and a report sent to the government, this however cannot take place until brexit is complete.

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

No report received.

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

Councillor K Little reported that the past Twelve months have been a busy time especially on the County highways, we have been fortunate to be allocated some extra funding from the Dept for Transport and this will be spent across the County to help repair the damage on the carriageway, however the County continues to suffer the effects of the Government's austerity with further saving required the coming year.

I have recently attended a meeting of the Maryport alliance to be informed of the work being proposed within the community following the removal of the Beds in the Community hospital, Six beds will go by the end of April with the remaining Eight overnight beds going by October this year, I am personal still extremely disappointed that these beds are going, but the CCG have made their final decision and it seems nothing will change their minds, Sue Hayman continues to take an active role in this matter.

The new transport hub at Maryport station is almost completed, the electricity still needs connection, but due to the lighter nights we are proposing to open and do the connection when North West electricity have the staff to complete the works, we are awaiting legal documentation from the Rugby league re the land transfer, I hope this project will bring the opportunity for more visitors to Maryport, the care parking will be Free.

I continue to represent the County on Maryport Harbour and Marina board, alongside Allerdale and Maryport town council, the new caravan site has opened and is attracting visitors to the town, the board has recently had new member join the board.

And finally, can I thank Town council member for their continued support and the Clerks to the council for keeping me fully informed of issues relating to the County

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

Councillor Mrs C McCarron Holme reported that since the last annual report the authority had again made further financial cuts, and the weather problems throughout the whole county has tested the highways depts budget to its limits. Maryport Transport Hub is now open & completed which is a boom for transport users. Netherhall School received a GOOD Ofsted report. The number of Childcare places is an expensive resource and a measure is in place to reduce the amount of residential care places, foster carers & strong initiatives are in place along with care plans to reduce this.

NWAS will be scrutinised due to the amount of private sector ambulances now being used throughout the country having an expensive effect.

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 Mrs A Kendall on the Fawcett Johnson Charity

Councillor Mrs A Kendall 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

No report received.

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 2018, a new Harbour Master had been in post, Councillor Pegram advised that he had recently helped carry out a ladder inspection, which had identified the need to continue with repair & replacement work. This work was now complete and would not have been able to be done if it were not for the support of the Town Council and the Harbour Authority are grateful for the continued support.

Report from Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe on the Senhouse Museum Trust

Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe reported that the highlight of 2017 was the Hadrian's Cavalry exhibition and events programme; this included a comprehensive museum partnering with other museums along the full length of Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, and the loaning of significant objects from museums in Germany and France, The British Museum and the National Museum in Scotland plus a number of objects from private collections. The exhibition including a learning programme for some 40 pupils of Maryport Junior School who took part in an 'Arts Award' by sculpting a life-size horse out of willow which remained in the Museum for the whole season. This exhibition drew in an extra 13% of visitors to Maryport, which has helped in the promotion of both the Museum and Maryport in general; as well as enhancing the learning programme of Maryport Junior School. A two-day event in Bitts Park, Carlisle saw a re-enactment event named 'Turma' entailing the arrival of the Romans in this area. This was informative and well received both nationally and internationally. I was privileged to be a 'guest' of the Roman Museum at that event and people had travelled from far and wide to witness the programme.

November saw the 10th Annual Literary Festival at the Museum. This year it featured 'travel writing' and the audiences included local inhabitants and others from further afield, who left 'singing the praises' of Maryport

Other events during 2017 included the museum (a partner in 'Children in the Arts' project) hosting events for several local schools including Netherhall, Flimby and Crosscanonby. 2018 will see the Museum planning a number of activities to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the UK. Specifically on 28th April the museum will host a conference inspired by the 100th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act 1918. A summer exhibition will look at the lives of women of Roman Maryport and a winter exhibition will look at the women of the Senhouse family, inclusive of a community consultation project.

Visitor numbers continue to grow and repeat visits are driven by the museums ability to offer both constancy and new ideas. There are early outline plans to refurbish the museum building, rethink the layout of the exhibits for a changing visiting population and expand both the programme and learning provisions; including the future of this significant asset for Maryport and its inhabitants.

8/17 Resolutions for which Notice has been given

None received.

9/17 Questions from Parishioners

None received.

10/17 Members' 2017/18 Meeting Attendance Record

Maryport Town Council members' attendance figures were noted.

The meeting finished at 7.50pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date