

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 22 January 2024 at the Town Hall, Senhouse Street, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillor S Ashworth, (Chairman)	Councillor B Copeland
Councillor J Cuthell	Councillor I Greaney
Councillor P Hetherington	Councillor C McCarron Holmes
Councillor J Newton	Councillor D Peggs
Councillor W Pegram	Councillor L Radcliffe

In Attendance

P Bramley (Clerk)
Mrs L Douglas (Clerk)
Ellie Jones, Cumberland Council
PC Sam Steele
Two members of public

92/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Bell, V Cuthbert, G Hampson, J Hastewell, G Kemp, S Merrin, G Mitchell & C Slater.

93/23 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Councillor W Pegram, Items 10 (7) & 10(8), Personal as a member of the Maryport Harbour & Marina Board.

94/23 Requests for Dispensation

None received.

95/23 Minutes of Meeting held on 11 December 2023

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2023 be agreed & signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

96/23 Public Participation

No matters raised.

97/23 Presentation from Ellie Jones, Cumberland Council Events Specialist, Taste of the Sea Festival

Ms Jones explained that plans were well underway for the upcoming event for August 2024 & apologised for issues that were raised concerning the operation of the previous year's event, particularly organisational & communication problems. She apologised for Cumberland Council not having provided an analysis of the application of the funding awarded by the Town Council for the 2023 event & advised that she was experiencing difficulty in obtaining that information, given the ineffective record keeping by staff managing the event. She reported that according to survey work carried out, the both residents & visitors had had an enjoyable time. The management of the 2023 event had been impacted by members of the team leaving the Council or being tasked with other jobs, leading to many of the reported problems, but she was confident that with her leading the event organisation & with a good steering group, plans for 2024 would be met.

With the regeneration works currently ongoing in the town, it was proposed that they space around the harbour only would be used in 2024, but normal provisions would return for 2025. The Friday night launch night would once again be held in Her citi, local chefs and schools had been contacted and would play a big part in the 2024 event, & more children-based activities would also be introduced. A comedy evening, or bingo loco would also take place. Members asked a number of questions & it was again requested that more fish & sea themed food and gifts be included within the stalls in 2024, rather than the usual food festival stalls that could be purchased elsewhere in the county. It was seen as essential that the festival content matched its title. Ms Jones advised that Cumberland Council would be requesting the same level of funding for the 2024 event as received in 2023, & that she would provide a detailed request setting out what it was proposed that the funding be used for in 2024.

98/23 Correspondence

Resolved that the schedule of correspondence be received & noted & that an offer of local historical information gathered by the former Ellenborough History Group be accepted & the Council notify relevant organisations of its availability.

99/23 Accounts for Payment

Resolved that accounts for payment, in accordance with the schedule, totalling £21,778.36, be agreed.

100/23 Police Report

PC Sam Steele explained that crime on a whole in Maryport had reduced compared to the previous year, Furnace Lane had been a big issue but no calls regarding that area had been received in the last three months. The Police had secured a temporary camera which would be put up in the Spring when the lighter nights returned. Youth anti-social behaviour had dropped; some youths carrying out anti-social behaviour had been caught and had been punished through carrying out work in the community. A new shop watch scheme was due to be introduced, involving a local security company acting voluntarily, which would allow shop owners to communicate with each other and the Police through an app.

A couple of properties in the Maryport and Flimby area were currently under surveillance and PC Steele was working with the relevant housing associations in that matter. He advised that a significant amount of drugs had been seized over recent weeks, which seemed to deter new dealers from coming to the area. A new Police Constable had been appointed to the Maryport area, so along with PC Steele & a PCSO, Maryport would have a team of three on the ground, currently being supported by a mix of other specialised officers. Members asked a number of questions which were duly answered.

Resolved that PC Steele be thanked for his work, and the report noted.

101/23 Finance Report

Resolved that the report for the period 1 April to 31 December 2023 be agreed, including transfers from the following reserves:

- Environmental Improvements Reserve to Property Maintenance: £5,900
- Elections Reserve to Election Expenses: £2,400
- Office Equipment Replacement Reserve to Postages, Stationery & General Office Expenses: £350

102/23 Community Champion Awards

Resolved that it be noted that nominations were being sought from the community of suitable candidates for the annual Community Champion Award & that Councillors S Ashworth, B Copeland & Mrs L Radcliffe represent the Council on a Selection Panel to be established.

103/23 Furnace Lane

Resolved that the item be deferred until a future meeting.

104/23 Service Contracts

Resolved that arrangements be made for the extension of contracts with the Council's current contractors for Ground Maintenance, Bus Shelter Cleaning & Statues & Memorials Cleaning, covering the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

105/23 Dog Fouling

Resolved that the significant extent of dog fouling in the area be noted as completely unsatisfactory, that Cumberland Council be contacted to request more patrols in the area, together with information on convicted parties which could be shared on social media

106/23 Maryport Harbour & Marina Boat Cradle

Resolved that it be noted that the Maryport Harbour Board had decided not to repair the Boat Cradle, citing the cost as being considered excessive, that the cradle had been removed & that local fishermen and boat owners would now have to travel to alternative sites to have boats serviced & repaired.

107/23 Elizabeth Dock Bridge

Resolved that the Council contact the Maryport Harbour & Marina Authority to ascertain the organisation’s intensions concerning the bridge.

108/23 Items for the next agenda

None Received

Following the meeting, a meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee took place.

Signed

Chairman

Date