

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 25 March 2024 at the Town Hall, Senhouse Street, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

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| Councillor S Ashworth, (Chairman) | Councillor B Copeland |
| Councillor V Cuthbert | Councillor J Cuthell |
| Councillor I Greaney | Councillor G Hampson |
| Councillor J Hastewell | Councillor S Merrin |
| Councillor G Mitchell | Councillor D Peggs |
| Councillor L Radcliffe | Councillor C Slater |

In Attendance

P Bramley (Clerk)
Mrs L Douglas (Clerk)

126/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Bell, P Hetherington, G Kemp, J Newton & W Pegram.

127/23 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Councillor I Greaney, Item 7(1), Personal as a Governor of Grasslot School & Councillor G Mitchell, Item 7(2), Personal as a contractor to Netherton Infant School.

128/23 Requests for Dispensation

None received.

129/23 Minutes of Meeting held on 26 February 2024

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2024 be agreed & signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

130/23 Public Participation

No questions received.

131/23 Presentation from Cumberland Council Officer Paul Shearsby

A presentation was received from Cumberland Council Neighbourhoods Interim Education & Enforcement Lead Manager Paul Shearsby on how Cumberland Council was dealing with the ongoing problem with dog fouling in the Maryport area. He advised that a new policy was being developed based on a zero-tolerance approach, with on-the-spot fines issued for those transgressing. A campaign was currently being conducted in the Maryport area, involving twelve enforcement officers, which to date had resulted in two dog owners receiving a court summons & some eighty people spoken to. Mr Shearsby was investigating the introduction of dog-on-lead & dog exclusion areas, together with a camera system for identifying culprits. Signage was being developed which would be displayed at appropriate sites. It was proposed that details of perpetrators would be publicised.

Members asked a number of questions & Mr Shearsby advised that:

- He considered that the roles of Environmental Enforcement & Traffic Warden could not be combined, since a trial in Carlisle had not proved successful
- The introduction of new arrangements would receive wide publicity
- Cumberland Council would base the denomination of dog control areas on official complaints received from the public
- Schools would be involved in promoting the scheme

Resolved that Mr Shearsby be thanked for his report.

132/23 Correspondence

Resolved that the schedule of correspondence be received & noted, & that:

- 1) Grasslot School be awarded a grant of £1,000 towards the development of a cross-school science project.
- 2) Consideration of an application for funding from the Maryport Education Group be deferred pending the receipt of further information, including details of how the proposed project on pollution in oceans & on beaches would operate, the overall cost of the proposed scheme & a breakdown of the budget.
- 3) Further to Minute 122/23 & following the receipt of further information, it be agreed to provide further funding of £2,700 towards the Taste of the Sea Festival operated by Cumberland Council, making a total contribution of £20,000 from the Town Council.

133/23 Accounts for Payment

Resolved that accounts for payment, in accordance with the schedule, totalling £19,129.97, be agreed.

134/23 Finance Report

Resolved that the report for the period 1 April 2023 to 29 February 2024 be agreed, including a virement of £2,000 from Grants & Donations to Employees.

135/23 Dog Fouling Issues in Maryport

Resolved that the item be deferred.

136/23 Dog Fouling Sub-Group Update

Councillor J Cuthell provided an update on matters addressed by a Dog Fouling Sub Group operated through the Maryport Business Group. The Council was asked to provide funding for the acquisition of additional litter bins for identified sites in the Maryport harbour & promenade area.

Resolved that the Council seek information on costs of providing new bins from Cumberland Council.

137/23 Items for the next agenda

None Received.

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

Signed

Chairman

Date