

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
29th JUNE 2022 COMMENCING 07.30PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES**

PRESENT: Cllr B Kelly (in the Chair), Cllr S Faulkner, Cllr G Brace, Cllr J Brown, Cllr D Billing, Cllr D Burness, Cllr G McGrath, Cllr T Lees, Cllr J Bridget, Cath Jopson Town Clerk and RFO/Assistant Clerk Liz North and 3 members of the public were also in attendance.

029/22: APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllr R Peter and Cllr B Crellin

030/22: EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC:

Item 9 on the agenda – To review any applications for the vacancies on the MTC Council –the chair informed the attendees that this item will be move near to the end of the agenda so that all press and public could be asked to leave the meeting.

031/22: MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prior to the mayor's report Cllr Kelly welcomed the three members of the public that were in attendance. He also asked that Item 9 on the agenda be moved down and that items 18 & 19 were moved up in between item 7 & 8 on the agenda. All councillors agreed to this motion.

Report: As I begin my time as your new Millom Town Mayor, I will give a short update of what I and the deputy Mayor have been doing recently.

Firstly, I attended the Ulverston Civic Sunday on the 12th July with Cllr Burness and will also be attending the Dalton in Furness Civic Service on 3rd July.

Following attending other Town/Parish Council Civic Sundays I am endeavouring to arrange one for Millom in perhaps August or maybe October of this year but I am hitting a few problems. Cllr Faulkner and myself will be attending a buffet supper organised by the Millom Rotary Club on Thursday evening and on this Thursday morning Deputy Mayor Cllr Faulkner and myself will be attending St George's Residential Home to congratulate one of their residents 100th birthday.

During my time as Mayor, I will be trying to organise some fund-raising events for the mayor's fund and any suggestions/offers of help will be most welcome. I am also asking the Councillors to help in moderating any conflicts over the Nuclear Depository and the Town's Fund Bid and encourage people to express their views but to be civil and respect the views of other.

032/22: DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

No Declarations of Pecuniary Interest were received.

033/22: ACTIONS UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES/TO REVIEW ANY INCOMPLETE ACTIONS:

The clerk informed the council that all actions had been completed by herself and the RFO.

034/22: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25th May 2022:

A draft copy of the minutes had been circulated to all councillors for their perusal and amendment if required. It was proposed that an amendment be made to Item 022/22 paragraph 3 as it was an incorrect record of events. This was seconded and agreed. **Action: Clerk to amend the minutes before publication as agreed.**

035/22: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

3 members of the public were present.

Two letters had been received by the clerk in regard to Millom Town Council's decision in joining the South Copeland GDF Partnership and a short discussion took place following questions that had been raised.

Market Square Planters

It was brought to the council's attention that the flowers in the market square looked beautiful but the road sight line was being obstructed as the planters were filled up. Unfortunately, it is too late to move them until such time as they are being re-planted for the winter, it was confirmed that they will be pushed back from the sight line when this is carried out. **Action: Clerk to ensure that when these planters are emptied for replanting she must ensure that they are moved back to enable a better sight line when vehicles are pulling out of St George's Terrace.**

Aggie's Lonning Entrance from Salthouse Road

The Clerk from Millom Without Parish Council (who was present as a member of the public) informed the council that the footpath leading from Salthouse Road to Green Road Station was becoming an issue as vehicles were constantly using this as a short cut and that it is for farm/property access only for vehicles and a footpath for the public. The Clerk asked if the council could write to Highways to requesting a sign to be placed at the beginning of this footpath stating that they should not follow the Sat Nav and that there was no through road. She informed the councillors that Millom Without Parish Council were going to ask for one at the other end of the footpath which comes under their parish. Cllr Faulkner proposed that the clerk write on behalf of Millom Town Council with this request, seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed. **Action: Clerk to write to CCC Highways in regard to signage at the end of Aggie's Lonning.**

036/22: (Was Item 18 on Agenda) – SOUTH COPELAND GDF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATES/CORRESPONDENCE:

Following on from item: 7 on the agenda a lengthy discussion took place in regard to Millom Town Council's role in the above partnership. It was explained to those present that although the title states partnership this in no way means that Millom Town Council have accepted the going ahead of the GDF Process. It was explained that MTC felt that it was better to be involved in the partnership so that they can have updated information of what was happening. Concern was raised about the legalities of the testing process and it was proposed by Cllr Faulkner, seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed that a letter be written by the clerk to Community Engagement Manager of the South Copeland Community Partnership seeking clarification the licencing process that RWM had to follow in order to gain the necessary permissions. **Action: Clerk to write to SCCP**

037/22: (Was item 19 on Agenda) – GDF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERSHIP:

Cllr Bridget read a statement out to the council and those present (copy attached to minutes) in regard to the decision that MTC made to join the South Copeland GDF (Geological Disposal Facility) without consultation with our constituents. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to attach this statement to the minutes as requested by Cllr Bridget to the minutes. **Action: Clerk to ensure statement is attached to June 22 minutes**

038/22: ACCOUNTS:

- To examine and approve accounts for payments – it was proposed, seconded and agreed that these payments be made. **Action: RFO to arrange payment of invoices etc**
- To examine and approve petty cash accounts - it was proposed, seconded and agreed that these were correct. **Action: RFO to arrange for these to be signed off**
- To receive and note the bank reconciliation – it was proposed, seconded and agreed that these be accepted as correct.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021-22

- To note the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2021-22 included as part of the AGAR 2021-22.
- To approve Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021-22 for Millom Town Council AGAR 2021-22.
- To approve the publication of documents required by Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
- To approve Finance Committee's recommendations.

It was proposed by Cllr McGrath that all the above be accepted as a correct and true record of Millom Town Council's finances for the year 2021-22. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed. **Action: RFO to submit AGAR and accompanying papers**

039/22: MILLOM TOWN VACANCY:

The clerk informed the council that as yet only one further application had been received which will be considered at the next Town Council meeting.

040/22: CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL:

No updates had been received.

041/22: COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:

Cllr McGrath informed the council that he had nothing to report.

042/22: CUMBERLAND SHADOW AUTHORITY:

Cllr Kelly gave a quick update in regard to the new Cumberland Shadow Authority.

043/22: CUMBRIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS:

A request had been circulated to all councils in the area of Copeland asking for representatives to sit on the board of the CALC. Cllr McGrath asked Millom Town Council if they would be prepared to nominate him for this position. It was proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed that Cllr McGrath's name be put forward. **Action: Clerk to inform CALC**

044/22: MILLOM TOWN COUNCILLOR AND CLERK'S UPDATE:

The clerk had circulated her updates via email with a list of all correspondence received that was not within the working papers.

045/22: TOWNS FUND BID UPDATE:

A short discussion took place following Cllr Kelly's update in regard to his attendance at the last town's fund bid meeting.

046/22: MILLOM TOWN PLAN UPDATE:

Cllr Burness reported that she had been going through the plan and amending/updating as necessary and that it is progressing.

047/22: UPDATE OF MEETINGS HELD PRIOR TO THE MEETING:

- Finance Committee held on 10.06.22 – It was noted in the working papers the draft copies of the Finance Committee meeting held on 10th July
- Ghyll Scaur Quarry Meeting – Cllr Burness had attended this meeting in place of Cllr Kelly. She stated that it was very informative and felt that MTC needed to be represented regularly at these meetings.

048/22: LOSS OF PODIATRY SERVICES:

Concern was raised in regard to the possibility of the future loss of podiatry services within the town and surrounding areas. It was proposed that a way forward may be to involve Millom Network Centre to hold such a service. **Action: Cllr Peter to liaise with Unit 3.**

049/22: ONE-WAY SYSTEM/SPEED BUMPS:

Once again, the issue of installing a one-way system through the town was raised. The speed bumps opposite the park near to the toilets also cause people to swerve/dodge them and concern was raised about this. It was proposed by Cllr Burness, seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed that the clerk write to CCC in regard to these two issues. **Action: Clerk to contact CCC**

050/22: ISSUES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE:

Cllr Bridget had raised the issue that there did not seem much for the teenagers in the town. The clerk did inform the council that Shackles Off were now dedicating sessions for the teenagers and the young adults.

051/22: HAVERIGG/HAVERIGG PARK ISSUES/UPDATE:

To receive any updates issues in relation to Haverigg and Haverigg Park Areas –

- To note the quotations for Haverigg park remedial works – the clerk informed the council that the costs for remedial works at Haverigg park from Playdale would be in the region of £12,500 - £13,500. – It was proposed by Cllr McGrath to go ahead with these works, this was seconded by Cllr Billing and agreed. **Action: Clerk to contact Playdale**
- Haverigg Park Annual Inspection by ROSPA – the clerk informed the council that unfortunately the repairs would not be completed before the ROSPA annual inspection and, therefore, cancelled them for Haverigg. Playdale after completing the works that are required will do the annual inspection. **Action: Clerk to liaise with Playdale**
- Dynamic Dunescape: A letter asking for MTC confirmation that they have no issues with the Dynamic Dunescape holding a Wild Yoga session on the banks at Haverigg on 19th August. All agreed for this to go ahead. **Action: Clerk to inform the group that this was acceptable.**

052/22: MILLOM/MILLOM PARK ISSUES:

- Millom Guide Hall:
The clerk had been approached by the committee of the Guide Hall asking if Millom Town Council would take over the asset transfer of the guide hall. A healthy discussion took place and it was proposed by Cllr McGrath, seconded by Cllr Faulkner that we go ahead and look further into accepting this transfer. The administration costs would be borne by the Town Council as it would be transferred at a peppercorn sum. **Action: Clerk to contact solicitor to possible going ahead.**
- Millom Park Annual Inspection:
The Millom Park inspection will take place during the month of August by ROSPA.
- Queen's Park Development Site:
The clerk had received a statement from Home Housing in regard to the Queen's Park redevelopment. The clerk informed the council that she had put the statement on MTC Facebook page for information.

053/22: MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL POLICIES:

- Staff Appraisal Policy – It was proposed by Cllr Brown seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed that this policy be accepted
- Financial Reserves Policy - It was proposed by Cllr McGrath seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed that this policy be accepted
- Financial Regulations Policy - It was proposed by Cllr Faulkner seconded by Cllr Brown and agreed that this policy be accepted

054/22: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR ACTION/INFORMATION:

All correspondence received had been circulated for Council's information.

055/22: PLANNING:

The following planning applications had been received for Councillor's information and comments:

The council had no objections in principle to any of the above planning applications. **Action: Clerk to inform CBC of Council's comments.**

- **4/22/2249/of1 – Change of use of Premises from Library to Office Hub with Ancillary Meeting Rooms and Car Parking – Millom Library, Millom Council Centre, St George's Road, Millom** – The Council had concerns in regard to this buildings use of the car park at the back of the property and ask that some parking spaces are available for the users of the guide hall, and also a disabled parking facility be made available also for users of the Guide Hall. The guide hall is currently used regularly by various groups during the week and weekends. People not able to park there will cause great difficulty for them especially the disabled.
- **4/22/2223/OF1 – Extension to Club House for use as a lounge and new associated disabled W.C facility – Millom Rugby League Club** – The council had no objections in principle to this application
- **4/22/2229/OF1 – Extensions to the Rear Elevation and Detached Garage – Sunnycroft, Boundary Lane, Millom**
- **4/22/2232/OF1 – The Removal/Demolition of the Structurally Unsafe, Cloak Room Porch and Replacing with an extension to the existing classroom porch and replacing with an extension onto the existing classroom to retain the internal space needed. The proposed extension also includes the provision of disability ramp to the nursery classrooms – St James's School, Lonsdale Road, Millom** – The council had no objections in principle to this application.
- **4/22/2248/OF1 – Erection of Detached Garage – 40 Church Hill Drive, Millom**
- **4/22/2242/OF1 – Part Two Storey and Part Single Storey Extension extending along Rear Elevation – 64 Lowther Road, Millom** - The council had no objections in principle to this application.
- **4/22/2239/OF1 – Construction of a Four-Bedroom (room in roof type) – Detached dwelling with Associated Landscaping – Land Adjacent to 93 Market Street Millom** - The council had no objections in principle to this application.
- **4/22/2247/OF1 – Outline Application with all matters reserved for a single storey dwelling – Land to the rear of Holborn Hill, Millom** - The council had no objections in principle to this application.
- **4/22/2268/OF1 – Removal of an Existing Single Storey Side Structure and the Construction of a 2-storey Side and Single Storey extension to an existing dwelling in internal and external alterations – 88 Queens Park** - The council had no objections in principle to this application.
- **4/22/2264/OF1 – Construction of a Single Storey Front and Rear Extension, new bay window to front elevation, internal and external alterations to an existing dwelling plus an increased dropped kerb and vehicle crossover to main access – 32 Mainsgate Road, Millom** - The council had no objections in principle to this application.

056/22: ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA:

None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm

Signed: (Mayor) Dated: 3rd August 2022

ACTIONS:

- 034/22:** Clerk to amend the minutes before publication as agreed.
- 035/22:** Clerk to ensure that when these planters are emptied for replanting, she must ensure that they are moved back to enable a better sight line when vehicles are pulling out of St George's Terrace.
Clerk to write to CCC Highways in regard to signage at the end of Aggie's Lonning.
- 036/22:** Clerk to write to SCCP
- 037/22:** Clerk to ensure statement is attached to June 22 minutes
- 038/22:** RFO to arrange payment of invoices etc
RFO to arrange for these to be signed off
RFO to submit AGAR and accompanying papers
- 043/22:** Clerk to inform CALC
- 048/22:** Cllr Peter to liaise with Unit 3.
- 049/22:** Clerk to contact CCC
- 051/22:** Clerk to contact Playdale
Clerk to inform the group that this was acceptable.

I would like to read out a short statement and have it attached to the minutes, please.

1. The Council made a unilateral decision to join the South Copeland GDF (Geological Disposal Facility i.e. Nuclear Dump) Community Partnership without consultation with our constituents.
2. I have been told by many of you that you, the Council, decided to join the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership so that you and organisations in Millom could access their funding. I truly believe you believed that. However, we have now discovered you do NOT have to be a member to apply for funding. So I can only assume, Millom Town Council were given incorrect information.
3. Our representatives on the GDF Partnership assured us at a previous meeting when we discussed seismic surveys that Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) were acquiring all the necessary licences and permissions to go ahead with the surveys. **This is not true.** There are stringent procedures to conduct these surveys, a process where expert academics scrutinise the proposals and relevant charities can have their say, i.e. marine wildlife agencies. NWS have tried to circumvent the system, in order to do the surveys without a licence. Nuclear Free Lakeland are trying to force NWS to comply with the regulations. But if they do not succeed, the surveys will go ahead in a few weeks time with the likelihood that marine life will be damaged. This clearly shows we CANNOT necessarily take at face value the information provided by NWS or the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership.
4. On a more personal note, I believe some of you are saying that I joined the Council with a personal agenda! I have never been an environmentalist until now. It was a fellow councillor, who has since resigned, who raised questions at that same council meeting, about seismic surveys and the dangers they pose to our marine life. I then went away and did research and have tried to encourage my fellow councillors to make themselves aware of the situation. I would also like it known that I was approached several times to put myself forward as a councillor. My agenda for joining the Council was and is to help make a positive contribution to Millom and in particular to celebrate its amazing history.
5. THE SITING OF A GDF ON OUR DOORSTEP IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS THE TOWN COUNCIL AND THE PEOPLE OF MILLOM AND HAVERIGG HAVE EVER BEEN ASKED TO MAKE. THE RAMIFICATIONS WILL OUTLIVE THE TOWN COUNCIL, OUR CHILDREN, OUR GRAND-CHILDREN AND GENERATIONS WAY INTO THE FUTURE. I GENUINELY BELIEVE THAT WE, AS MILLOM TOWN COUNCILLORS, HAVE A DUTY TO MAKE OURSELVES AWARE OF ALL THE RELEVANT INFORMATION AND TRUE IMPACT OF THESE PROPOSALS, TO ENSURE OUR CONSTITUENTS AND THIS SMALL AREA OF CUMBRIA, ARE ABLE TO MAKE A TRULY INFORMED CHOICE.
6. I propose that the Town Council agrees to holding a Public Meeting in the near future, where we can invite experts from both sides to speak about the seismic surveys and GDF and where town councillors and our constituents are able to ask questions and make their concerns known. It will then be up to the Town Council how to go forward, but hopefully some sort of proper consultation would be part of this process and I do not mean the so-called 'Test of Public Support.'

MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk
Mrs Cath Jopson
Telephone: 01229 772340
E-mail:
theclerk@millomtowncouncil.co.uk



Millom Council Centre
6 Newton Street
Millom
Cumbria
LA18 4DR

VIA EMAIL:

12th July 2022

For the Attention of:

Kelly Anderson
Community Engagement Manager
South Copeland Community Partnership

Dear Kelly

Seismic Surveys

I have been asked to write following our town council meeting which was held on 29th June 2022.

A number of residents have raised concerns with Millom Town Council about the legality of the licencing process with Marine Management Organisation for Nuclear Waste Services to carry out the proposed seismic surveys of the West Coast of Cumbria this summer.

We understand that RWM has an exemption from the full licencing process as it is for scientific research.

Please can you clarify the licencing process that RWM has to follow in order to gain the necessary permissions. We would appreciate a response so that we can post it on our website.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, can you also confirm receipt of this email.

Regards

Cath Jopson
Clerk to Millom Town Council

From: Gdinfo-southcopeland <gdinfo-southcopeland@nda.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 August 2022 15:12
To: theclerk@millomtowncouncil.co.uk
Subject: [OFFICIAL] Seismic Surveys

OFFICIAL

Thank you for your contact dated 12th July 2022. Your letter has been passed to us at Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) to respond.

In preparing our approach to secure permissions for the surveys we planned off the coast of West Cumbria this summer we have been guided by the regulators whose processes we are required to follow. These included the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), and their advisors Natural England. There's more information on their website here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-a-marine-licence-application>

We have had extensive pre-application discussions with Natural England (the statutory Nature Conservation Body who advise the MMO) to discuss all of their environmental requirements. They have explained to us how we should minimise and mitigate any impacts from our survey on marine ecology, the Marine Conservation Zones, and other wildlife covered by Habitats Regulations.

The legislation under which MMO issues licences for marine activities allows organisations such as NWS who are carrying out scientific studies using instruments in the water to be exempt from the requirement for a marine licence.

Due to the nature of our surveys, and because we have discussed and agreed our proposals with Natural England and the navigational authorities, the legislation is clear that we are exempt from the requirement for a marine licence in this case. Nor is a full Environmental Impact Assessment required, although we did carry out studies that showed that there will be no significant adverse effects on species of nature conservation interest, which were provided to the licencing authority.

To rely on the exemption, we have to satisfy ourselves, Natural England, and the navigational authorities that exemption requirements are met. These include making sure that all of Natural England's environmental requirements and obligations to minimise and mitigate impacts to marine ecology, the Marine Conservation Zones, and other wildlife covered by Habitats Regulations are met.

We must also satisfy Trinity House, who have a major role in UK maritime safety, that any navigational risk has been assessed and will be mitigated.

Only once these actions were completed did we notify the Marine Management Organisation of our intention to rely upon an exemption, and that has been published on their public register under reference EXE/2022/00048.

Our assessments showed that although there will be no significant adverse effects on harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, minke whale and marine turtles, they may be present in the survey area at the time of survey.

Whilst the surveys are shorter than the recognised length of survey thought to disturb marine wildlife (4-6 weeks, Joint Nature Conservation Committee guidance on protecting EPS), we have taken a precautionary approach and applied to the MMO and have been granted a European Protected Species licence. This licence is for potential disturbance to harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, minke whale and marine turtles.

Our assessments show that although there will be no significant adverse effects on these species, they may be present

in the survey area at the time of survey. We have designed the seismic surveys to minimise the area covered, size of sound source and duration of the survey.

During the survey we actively work to minimise any disturbance to any marine wildlife, for example onboard the survey vessel we have suitably qualified and experienced Marine Mammal Observers and Passive Acoustic Monitoring operators who can direct the progress of the survey or to minimise its impact.

Thank you again for contacting us.

Kind regards

 NWS, on behalf of South Copeland GDF Community Partnership 



OFFICIAL