

PRESENT: Cllr B Kelly (in the Chair), Cllr S Faulkner, Cllr G Brace, Cllr J Brown, Cllr G McGrath, Cllr B Crellin, Cllrs R & S Peter, Cllr D Billing, Cllr D Burness and Cath Jopson Town Clerk

135/22: APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from the following:

- Cllr Lees – family commitments

136/22: EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC:

No members of the press or public were in attendance

Prior to the commencement of the mayor's report Cllr McGrath asked to give a vote of thanks to the clerk for organising the poppy display in the market square for remembrance Sunday. He also made thanks to all those who had contributed to this especially their time and effort in enabling this display to be constructed. Cllr McGrath also thanked the clerk and volunteers from the parish to organise the Christmas market, without the help of these volunteers this would not have been possible, grateful thanks also to Millom Rugby League Club for allowing their grounds to be the venue for this.

137/22: MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor's Report – Cllr B Kelly

On Sunday 6th Denise and I attended the Remembrance Service at Rusland and renewed our acquaintance with the Mayors of Ulverston and Dalton. We were well-received and do think it is important to maintain such connections with our neighbouring towns.

On Thursday 10th I had a meeting with Matt Savage the Head of Millom School which was also useful in establishing links that can enhance future cooperation. On Friday 11th I attended a meeting in Workington on Cumbria's Flood Resilience and was able to view the current knowledge held by Cumbria County Council on Millom's potential flood situation – I was generally happy with the information they had but made a couple of comments which I hope added to what they held.

On Wednesday 16th the Deputy Mayor and myself accepted an invitation to present awards to members of Millom Army Cadets. This was a really enjoyable evening with parents taking pride in the real achievements that many of the cadets had attained – the organisation is really doing some wonderful work in giving young people useful skills and positive things to do.

Details have been published about the proposed constituency boundary changes which link Millom and Haverigg with Barrow and Ulverston. This is bound to cause some confusion for local people, given that from April 2023 we are divide from these towns by the division of Cumbria into Cumberland (of which we are a part) and Westmorland & Furness (of which the other towns are part). I do have concerns that this could have adverse effects, with health services and our MP having a different organisation and focus from our provision of local council services. I do think this will place a great obligation on the Town Council in future to help local residents understand this and also to ensure that our town does not get forgotten or ignored by the competing centres

Deputy Mayor's Report

Cllr Faulkner informed the council that she was in the process of liaising with various other bodies to implement a timetable for the Warm Hub Groups situated within the Millom and

Haverigg Areas. This will be published on MTC Social Media site and on the website.

138/22: DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

Cllr McGrath declared an interest in item 17 on the agenda being the Chairman of the South Copeland CDF Community Partnership.

Cllr B Kelly declared an interest in items 11 and 14 as being member of both committees

139/22: 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.

140/22: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 26th October 2022:

Cllr McGrath proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2022 be signed as a true and correct record of the above meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Billing and all agreed.

141/22: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No members of the public were present

142/22: ACCOUNTS:

The RFO presented the following to the council for approval:

- Examine and approve accounts for payment
- Examine and Approve Income received
- Receive and note the bank reconciliation
- Receive audit opinion
- Received copies of the draft finance meeting minutes held on 28th November 2022 – Cllr McGrath informed the council that more work had yet to be done to complete the draft proposals for the forthcoming precept, at present Cllr McGrath proposed that a 10.5% increase be looked at. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed by all. If costs could be cut further this would be of benefit.

Cllr McGrath proposed a vote of thanks to Liz North be noted on her work throughout her time at the Council and wished her well for the future. All agreed to this. **Action: RFO to pay all invoices received**

143/22: CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL:

The clerk informed the council that nothing had been reported this month for councillors' information. Cllrs stated that they were disappointed that no feedback had been received from CCC representatives. Cllr McGrath proposed that all CCC Councillors be sent agendas and minutes for all the Town Council meetings. This was seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed. **Action: Clerk to ensure all agendas and minutes are circulated to CCC representatives**

144/22: COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:

Councillor McGrath informed the council that there was nothing much to report due to the forthcoming new Unitary Authority taking place. He did, however, mention that there were now only 4 senior managers at CBC due to re-staffing issues within the authority and the take over by Cumberland Unitary Authority. Cllr McGrath also requested that agendas and minutes were circulated direct to other CBC Councillors for their information. This was seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed. **Action: Clerk to ensure all agendas and minutes are circulated to CBC representatives**

Cllr Billing asked what the roles of the Parish/Town Councils would be when we were taken over. Cllr Kelly informed the council that these areas would be consulted before anything was decided.

145/22: CUMBERLAND SHADOW AUTHORITY:

Cllr Kelly informed the councillors once again that all being well things were on track to take over the running of the new Cumberland Shadow Authority. He reported that there was a re-shuffling of various departments.

146/22: BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND 2023 BOUNDARY REVIEW:

Cllr Kelly informed the council about the boundary changes for England. He stated that it would create issues when it comes into effect as the boundary changes for elections would then be set to equal out the number of the population voters, ie, Millom would probably be voting for the Ravenglass/Ulverston/Broughton/Barrow constituencies. He envisaged a number of issues in this regard.

147/22: MILLOM TOWN COUNCILLOR AND CLERKS UPDATE:

The clerk had circulated all correspondence received to the councillors for their information.

The clerk informed the council that she had received a letter in regard to asking for support to improve services at West Cumberland Hospital Stroke & Heart Care Units. Concern had arisen following a number of stories recently within the local press about residents having to travel to Carlisle for treatment connected to stroke and heart conditions. Cllr Brown proposed that the Clerk write a letter of support from Millom Town Council, this was seconded by Cllr Burness and agreed.

Action: Clerk to write letter of support

Office Closure:

Firstly, the clerk asked the council if they would approve the office to close on 20th December and re-open again on 3rd January 2023. Cllr Brown proposed that this happen, this was seconded by Cllr Burness to support this and agreed. **Clerk to arrange for notices regarding closure.**

Secondly the question of face-to-face contact with the public going forward now that CBC office had re-opened was what times would the MTC Offices be open to the public. Cllr McGrath informed the council that the Town Council had provided for the better part of 2-years since CBC office closed a service and that there had been no alternative service available but stated that it was already being paid for at an additional cost to the Town Council. After a short discussion Cllrs McGrath and Faulkner proposed that the office for face-to-face service would cease when the office re-opens for business on 3rd January 2023. Notices to be placed on social media site and website with reasons for the closure. Appointments would be made via phone or email. This was seconded by Cllr Billing and all agreed. **Action: Clerk to arrange for posters, signage etc to be circulated.**

Christmas Lights:

Westlakes Electrical informed the clerk that most of the electrical points were now getting to the state of disrepair. They had made repairs so that this year's lights could be put up but stated that new wiring and boxes would need to be carried out before next years could be erected. They have sent in a quotation to re-new their contract up to the year 2027 at the current price. Cllr McGrath proposed that this be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Faulkner. **Action: Clerk to arrange for this to go on the agenda for the next Finance Mtg.**

148/22: TOWNS FUND BID:

Nothing to report. Cllr Kelly proposed that the Chair of the Towns Fund Bid come and give an update to the council. This was seconded by Cllr Burness and agreed. **Action: Clerk to contact Chair to arrange a meeting in the new year.**

149/22: MILLOM TOWN PLAN UPDATE:

Cllr Burness gave a short update to the councillors and stated that she it was still work in progress.

150/22: UPDATE OF GROUP MEETINGS HELD PRIOR TO THE MEETING:

All working group papers (if meetings had been held) were circulated in the working papers these included:

Environment Working Group:

The clerk informed the council that a meeting of the above group was due to be held on Thursday 1st December 2022.

151/22: GDF SOUTH COPELAND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

UPDATES/CORRESPONDENCE:

An email had been received from the Clerk from a parishioner to our representative on the GDF South Copeland Community Partnership. This email was circulated to all councillors and a short discussion took place to answer the three questions raised. Cllr Kelly proposed that a response be made referring to the letter sent to her dated 27th October 2022, this was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed. **Action: Clerk to respond to email with copy of previous letter.**

Millom MUGA:

The Clerk informed the council that the application for the resurfacing of the Millom MUGA had been successful from South Copeland GDF Partnership. A document was then presented to Cllrs asking for them to accept the award. Cllr Brown proposed that this document be signed, seconded by Cllr Ormesher and agreed. Cllrs Kelly and Faulkner then duly signed the acceptance document.

Action: Clerk to return form.

Cllr Billing asked about the contractor who should be awarded the contract, after a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr Billing to award the contract to J Chaplow & Sons, this was seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed. **Action: Clerk to liaise with preferred contractor.**

152/22: HAVERIGG/HAVERIGG PARK ISSUES:

Haverigg Feasibility Study:

The Clerk informed the council that an application had been submitted to South Copeland GDF Community Partnership for a Feasibility Study for the Haverigg beach area.

Tennis Courts

The Clerk informed the council that an application had been submitted to South Copeland GDF Partnership for funding to re-fence and resurface the tennis court/MUGA at Haverigg.

Tannery Road

Councillor Brown reported that the hedgerows were so overgrown down this road on both sides that it was causing congestion with traffic and dangerous to walkers. Councillor Brown proposed that the clerk contact CCC and report this. This was seconded by Councillor Ormesher and agreed. **Action: Clerk to contact CCC regarding hedgerows**

153/22: MILLOM/MILLOM PARK ISSUES:

Millom Park Pavilion:

This project ongoing – application not yet submitted for funding

Millom Park Play

The clerk had received correspondence from the Park Play asking where to approach for funding for the forthcoming year. It was proposed by Cllr Faulkner that the clerk inform them of the funding available from the CGP Trust Fund and the South Copeland GDF Community Fund. This was seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed. **Action: Clerk to liaise with Park Play representative.**

South Cumbria Musical Festival

A request had been received from South Cumbria Musical Festival asking for support. Councillor Kelly stated that he had enjoyed attending the recent festival which was held in Millom and proposed that we support this again. This was seconded by Councillor Crellin and agreed to give the same as last year. **Action: RFO to arrange donation**

Christmas Market/Fayre:

The Clerk informed the Council that volunteers had taken over the running of the Christmas Market and were in liaison with herself and Deputy Mayor Councillor Faulkner. The market/fayre will be held on 3rd December with kind permission from Millom Rugby League Club offering their ground to hold it on. Councillor McGrath gave a vote of thanks to the clerk for instigating this move enabling the market to be held.

154/22: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR ACTION/INFORMATION:

Correspondence received not in the working papers had been circulated via email to all councillors for their perusal/comments if needed. Correspondence received for discussion as follows:

Home Group – Office - Proposed Purchase:

The clerk had received confirmation that Home Group wished to sell the current offices to Millom Town Council. Cllr McGrath proposed that the council go ahead and purchase 6 Newton Street looking to pay for this out of the current reserves subject to normal diligence legal/survey procedures. He proposed that what the council would pay in rent should be accounted for when doing the budgets to put back into the reserves. This was seconded by Cllr R Peter and a show of hands was asked for. All but Cllr Burness (who abstained) agreed to go ahead with the purchase.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Home Group and MTC Solicitor

155/22: PLANNING:

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

- **4/22/2239/OF1 – Construction of a four bedroomed detached dwelling with associated landscaping – Land Adjacent to 93 Market Street, Millom**
- **4/22/2388/0B1 – Consultation on Additional and Amended Information – Application to vary condition 2 (Plans) & Condition 8 (Materials) of Planning Application 4/21/209/OR1 – Reserved matters application for detached dwelling with details of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping following outline approval 4/19/2208/0O1 – Land adjacent to Poolside/Whitriggs Drive, Poolside, Haverigg.**
- **4/22/2437/OF1 – Proposed new build vehicle body repair workshop for use by existing business – Foundry Road Garage, King Street, Millom**

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

156/22: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The following to be added to the next agenda:

- Meeting timings – Requested by Cllr R Peter
- Proposed Community Art Project – Requested by Cllr D Billing

Action: Clerk to arrange for these to be placed on January agenda

There being no further business the meeting closed at 09.00pm.

Signed: (Mayor) Dated: 25th January 2022

ACTIONS:

- 142/22:** RFO to pay all invoices received
- 143/22:** Clerk to ensure all agendas and minutes are circulated to CCC representatives
- 144/22:** Clerk to ensure all agendas and minutes are circulated to CBC representatives
- 147/22:** Clerk to write letter of support
Clerk to arrange for notices regarding closure.
Clerk to arrange for posters, signage etc to be circulated.
Clerk to arrange for this to go on the agenda for the next Finance Mtg.
- 148/22:** Clerk to contact Chair to arrange a meeting in the new year.
- 151/22:** Clerk to respond to email with copy of previous letter
Clerk to return form
Clerk to liaise with preferred contractor.
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- 153/22:** Clerk to liaise with Park Play representative.
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- 154/22:** Clerk to liaise with Home Group and MTC Solicitor
- 155/22:** Clerk to inform CBC of Council's decisions.
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