

PRESENT: Cllr B Kelly (in the Chair), Cllr S Faulkner, Cllr G Brace, Cllr J Brown, Cllr B Crellin, Cllr D Billing, Cllr D Burness and Cath Jopson Town Clerk, Gillian Hoyle RFO/Assistant Clerk

186/23: APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs R & S Peter due to ill health

Apologies received from Cllr McGrath – meeting clashed with another meeting of which he is chair.

187/23: EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC:

No members of the press or public were in attendance

188/23: MAYOR'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor's Report – Cllr B Kelly

This has been a period when long-standing issues have come to the fore again – complaints about dog-poop, request to change traffic regulations in town, anger at enforcement officers charging people with parking over-stays etc. To me this all reflects the way many areas, not just Millom and Haverigg, have suffered from local government cut-backs and being ignored by those with the powers to make a difference. Hopefully, we can begin to remedy some of this in the near future. What we do need though is for more residents to come forward and help the Town Council do what it itself can and to put pressure on wider powers to assist us – so please encourage anyone who might be considering it to put their name forward for the May Town Council elections.

On a much happier and more positive note Denise and myself attended the pantomime Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Palladium at the invitation of the organisers and it really was an excellent evening which displayed the acting and singing talent of many of Millom's youngsters and some slightly more mature people. The result was a great success with all the participants and the audience contributing to it.

Cllr Kelly also informed the council that his Mayor's Annual Fund-Raising Event will be held on April 15th 2023 in Millom Cricket Club at a cost of £10/head. It is hoped that this will be well supported and help raise funds for the chosen charities.

189/23: DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

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

190/23: 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.

191/23: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 25th JANUARY 2023:

Cllr Billing proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 25th January 2023 be signed as a true and correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed.

192/23: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No members of the public were present.

Deep time Coastal Art Project in Millom:

Eric Barker, Coastal Programme Officer gave a short presentation on the proposed Deep Time Coastal Art Project for the Millom Area. At present he stated that he could not let us know which project had been successful for the Millom area and stated that an open presentation would be

held in the near future in the Millom and surrounding areas.

193/23: 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

Cllr Faulkner proposed that all the above be signed as a true and correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Brown and agreed. **Action: RFO to make payments**

194/23: CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL:

The clerk informed the council that she had been informed that there was nothing to report this month for councillors' information.

195/23: COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:

The clerk informed the council that there was nothing to report due to the forthcoming new Unitary Authority taking place

196/23: CUMBERLAND SHADOW AUTHORITY:

Cllr Kelly reported to the council that the Cumberland budget has now been set but is subject to changes as sources of finance have not yet all been confirmed. The basic information is that most residents in this area will have a 4.9% rise in their council tax as a result of government setting a 2% rise for social care and 2.9% increase in what councils can charge. Allowance schemes for the lowest income households have been set so they can gain total exemption from the tax.

In terms of localisation, Cumberland is to be divided into 8 separate areas for local planning and delivery of some services. Cumberland councillors will form local panels to devise plans in consultation with people from other sections of local communities. At the outset Millom will be linked with wards up to and including Cleator and Egremont but there is scope for the southern part of this area to develop their own plans. More details should be forthcoming soon.

197/23: TO REVIEW/ADOPT THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:

The clerk had circulated a draft copy of the proposed Training & Development Policy. Cllr Brace proposed that the town council adopt this policy, it was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed. Cllr Kelly then proceeded to sign the original document on behalf of MTC.

198/23: MILLOM TOWN COUNCILLOR AND CLERKS UPDATE:

The clerk had circulated all correspondence received to the councillors for their information and had nothing more to report/update.

199/23: TOWNS FUND BID:

Cllr Kelly informed the council that a new chair of the board had been elected with timescales. The clerk informed the council that she was waiting for the new chair of the Millom Town Bid to get in contact in regard to arranging a meeting with the councillors. **Action: Clerk to chase up date**

200/23: MILLOM TOWN PLAN UPDATE:

Cllr Burness informed the council that this was still ongoing and that the working party had met again and were working through the action plans etc.

201/23: FORTHCOMING COUNCIL ELECTIONS:

Cllr Brace informed the council of the proposed dates etc for the forthcoming local council elections. He reminded fellow councillors that it was important that the candidate nomination process for the May 4th local elections should be started as soon as the Notification of Election was declared by Copeland BC. Nomination papers had to be returned by 4pm on April 4th and the Clerk would probably need to make an appointment to take the papers up to Whitehaven in advance to be checked. It was agreed that sitting councillors would inform the Clerk by Monday 6th March as to whether or not they were going to stand and, following that, the Clerk would arrange a session in which papers could be completed and any queries answered. **Action: Clerk to arrange session to complete forms.**

Cllr Kelly proposed that he have a meet the Mayor event to see if there was anything anyone wished to ask regarding being a councillor and also to answer any questions in regard to the new Cumberland Authority. This was seconded by Cllr Billing and agreed. **Action: Clerk to arrange a date and put posters out.**

202/23: UPDATE OF GROUP MEETINGS HELD PRIOR TO THE MEETING:

All working group papers (if meetings had been held) were circulated in the working papers.

203/23: GDF SOUTH COPELAND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATES & CORRESPONDENCE:

Cllr Kelly informed the council that Cllr McGrath had been re-elected for the next 2-years as chair of the South Copeland Community Partnership.

204/23: HAVERIGG/HAVERIGG PARK ISSUES:

Haverigg Feasibility Study:

Nothing at present to report

Tannery Road

Cllr Falkner informed the council that the hedgerow had been cut back but has left a large amount of soil/debris growing out on the road area. **Action: Clerk to inform CCC and ask them to cut it back.**

205/23: MILLOM/MILLOM PARK ISSUES:

- Pavilion: The Clerk informed the council that there was nothing further at this stage to report.
- Footpaths: The clerk informed the council that the application for GDF Funding had been successful to replace the footpaths in the Millom Park. It was proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr R Peter that the documentation be signed accordingly by Cllr Kelly, Cllrs Faulkner and Clerk Cath Jopson as acceptance and agreed. 3 quotations to carry out the works had been received and it was proposed by Cllr Faulkner that Gowan Construction be awarded the contract, this was seconded by Cllr Brown and agreed. Cllr Burness did raise the question as to if the could use permeable, composite materials on the paths instead of tarmac as it would be more environmentally friendly. **Action: Cllrs Kelly, Faulkner and Clerk to accept and sign document and clerk to return accordingly. Clerk to arrange for works to be awarded to selected contractor.**
- Road markings in and around the Town: Cllr Burness was concerned about the lack of line markings around areas in the town as drivers were not always aware of who had the right of way etc especially at the junction of Queen Street and Wellington Street where the markings are exceptionally poor. The clerk informed the council that she had already been

in touch with CCC Highways in this regard and that they had informed her they would be carrying out works in the near future. No confirmed date had been received as yet for these works to be carried out.

- **Allotments:**

Cllr Faulkner asked the Council to consider membership of the National Allotment Society and also to agree a draft letter (circulated in the working papers) to be sent to all allotment holders. A draft Allotment Policy had also been circulated for consideration by the council. It was agreed to make slight amendments to the policy that had been suggested and present again for before adoption. Cllr Kelly proposed that the clerk make arrangements for the council to join the National Allotment Society, this was seconded by Cllr Brace and all agreed.

Cllr Burness had prepared a draft letter (enclosed with the working papers) to send out to all the Lincoln Street allotment holders regarding concerns the council have regarding the keeping of fowl as it would appear that some of these are running wild in the area adjacent to the allotment. **Action: Clerk to arrange for membership of National Allotment Society. Cllr Faulkner to make agreed amendments to Allotment Policy.**

- **Fly tipping/Dog fouling:**

It had been reported to the clerk that since the closure of Red Hills Recycling Centre for certain items left in back street areas of the town had increased and the amount of dog fouling in the streets had also increased. Cllr Burness informed the council that she was going to attend the Talk and Tidy event which is being held in Millom. **Action: Cllr Burness to contact CBC Enforcement to seek what could be done about these issues.**

206/23: MILLOM SURGERY: Cllr Peter had placed this item on the agenda but had asked Cllr Faulkner to speak to the council on her behalf of her concerns due to her non-attendance. A short discussion took place about the issues that are concerning residents regarding face-to-face appointments etc. It was proposed by Cllr Brown that Cllr Faulkner make an appointment to discuss issues with the practice manager of the Millom surgery. This was seconded by Cllr Crellin and agreed. **Action: Cllr Faulkner to contact Millom Surgery to discuss issues with Practice Manager.**

207/23: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR ACTION/INFORMATION:

All correspondence received for action/information had been forwarded either via email or placed within the working papers.

208/23: PLANNING:

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

- **4/22/2478/OF1 – Change of Use to Mixed B2 (General Industrial) and B8 Storage or Distribution) use (Retrospective) – Former Gas Board, Land off Millom Road, Millom** – The Council had no objections in principle to this application. **Action: Clerk to respond to CBC Planning**

209/23: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The following to be added to the next agenda:

- Millom Castle Conservation

There being no further business the meeting closed at 08.50pm

Signed: (Mayor) Dated: 29th March 2023

ACTIONS:

- 193/23:** RFO to make payments
- 199/23:** Clerk to chase up date for a meeting
- 201/23:** Clerk to arrange session to complete forms.
Clerk to arrange a date and put posters out.
- 204/23:** Clerk to inform CCC and ask them to cut it back.
- 205/23:** Cllrs Kelly, Faulkner and Clerk to accept and sign document and clerk to return accordingly. Clerk to arrange for works to be awarded to selected contractor.
Clerk to arrange for membership of National Allotment Society.
Cllr Faulkner to make agreed amendments to Allotment Policy
Cllr Burness to contact CBC Enforcement to seek what could be done about these issues.
- 206/23:** Cllr Faulkner to contact Millom Surgery to discuss issues with Practice Manager.
- 208/23:** Clerk to respond to CBC Planning