

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
31st JANUARY 2024 COMMENCING 07.00PM IN THE METHODIST MEETING
ROOM, QUEEN STREET, MILLOM**

PRESENT: Cllr G McGrath (Chair), Cllr S Faulkner (Mayor), Cllr R Kelly (MTC & Cumberland Authority), Cllr B Crellin, Cllr D Billing, Cllr B Amos, Cllr A Gager-Leibhart, Cllr D Barry, Cllr J Kellett, Cllr J Micklethwaite, Cllr A Pratt (Cumberland Cllr), Sergeant McDonald, PCSO Shevonne Bradley, Clerk Mrs Cath Jopson and Assistant Clerk/RFO Mrs Gillian Hoyle. Six members of the public were present.

158//23: APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllr A McDonald (ill health) and Cllr E Ormesher (work commitments)

159/23: EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC:

No items on the agenda needed the exclusion of the press or public.

160/23: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Chair:

The Chair informed the council that he and the mayor had attended the `50th year celebrations of Millom Rugby League Football Club and had a lovely evening. There were great speeches made and presentations to local members. The club had also received letters from the King and current Prime Minister.

161/23: MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The mayor gave a short presentation of the work that she had been carrying throughout the months of December and January (copy attached to the minutes)

162/23: DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

Cllr Crellin declared an interest in item 9 on the agenda – donation to Slag Bank Play Area.

163/23: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 29th NOVEMBER 2023 AS A CORRECT RECORD:

Cllr Micklethwaite stated that she had given her apologies for the November meeting but these had not been recorded on the minutes. Subject to this amendment Cllr Kelly proposed that the minutes from the 29th November be signed as a true and correct record. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and Agreed/

164/23: ACTIONS UPDATE FROM LAST MEETING MINUTES:

The clerk informed the council that all the office actions had been completed.

- CCTV - Cllr Amos stated that he was still waiting for the quotation to be returned to him. **Action: Cllr Amos to chase up quotation**
- Response to WSSAG – **Action: Cllr Billing to co-ordinate response from Cllrs and reply**

165/23 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Members of the public who attended raised their concerns in regard to the possible HMO houses in Millom for Asylum Seekers. The Chair explained to the public that Millom Town Council had had no information in regard to this, but on investigation, it looked like Millom had been targeted for these HMO Properties. The Chair assured the public who were in

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attendance that Millom Town Council were going to look into these projects to get answers of what is exactly being proposed and assured them that the town council would do everything that they could to try and stop them going ahead. **Action: Chair to look further into this and report back**

166/23: ACCOUNTS/FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- Examine and approve accounts for payment – proposed by Cllr Brown to agree to approve these, this was seconded by Cllr Amos and agreed
- Receive and note the bank reconciliation – proposed by Cllr Kelly to agree to the bank reconciliation, seconded by Cllr Brown and agreed
- Donation to pay insurance costs for Slag Bank Play Area – Cllr Billing proposed that we cut the amount requested, this was not seconded and not agreed. Cllr Kelly proposed that the full amount be paid, this was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed.
- Donation to South Cumbria Musical Festival – Cllr Kelly proposed that the sum of £200 be paid, this was seconded by Cllr Micklethwaite and agreed.

167/23: EMERGENCY PLAN:

Cllr Faulkner informed the councillors that the emergency plan which had been sent out to all councils from CALC had now been completed and returned by the clerk.

Cllr Faulkner also informed the council that a Resilience Group has been set up with members of the public and councillors to address all issues that might arise and that this group will not be town council led.

168/23: HAVERIGG FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE:

The Clerk informed the council that this was still ongoing and that the draft project should be ready to discuss at the next meeting in February.

169/23: TOWN DEAL UPDATE:

Cllr Faulkner reported that 3 of the 4 stages of the town deal projects are in the final planning stages, the last one going to planning hopefully within the next couple of months.

170/23: POLICIES TO ADOPT:

The following policies had been circulated to all councillors for their approval/comments/amendment.

- **Equal Opportunities Policy** – Cllr McGrath proposed that this be approved and adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Barry and agreed.
- **Vexatious Complaints Policy** – Cllr Micklethwaite proposed that this be approved and adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Barry and agreed
- **Grant Funded Projects** – Ratification Process – Cllr Amos proposed that this be approved and adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed
- **Data Protection Policy** – Cllr Barry proposed that this be approved and adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed
- **Disciplinary and Grievance Arrangements/Policy and Procedures** - This was discussed and further amendments were proposed by Cllr Micklethwaite, this was seconded by Cllr McGrath and agreed to bring it back for council's consideration when amendments had been made. **Action: Clerk to amend policy and bring**

back for council's approval.

- **Public Participation at Meetings** – Cllr Kelly proposed that this be approved and adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Gager-Liebhart and agreed.
- **Non-Compliance with the Code of Conduct** – Cllr McGrath proposed that this be approved and adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Billing and agreed.
- **Dispensation Procedure** – Cllr McGrath proposed that this be approved and adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Barry and agreed
- **Safeguarding Policy** – Cllr Kelly proposed that this be approved and adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Amos and agreed.

171/23: COUNCILLOR UPDATES:

- Cllr Pratt informed the council that the Whicham Valley road works should be completed by the end of the week. He also informed the council that following talks about the Corney Fell Road it has now been agreed to renew the bridge which has caused the road to be closed. Work to start around March 2024
- Cllr Kelly informed the council that enforcement officers would be patrolling Millom and areas in relation to the dog fouling. Anyone found to be letting their dog foul will be prosecuted.
- Cllr Billing informed the council that Re-boot consultant had been in touch asking about the pavilion project. A short report of the meetings he had attended was also given

172/23: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR ACTION/INFORMATION:

- A letter had been received from Nuclear Free Authorities asking the council if they would commit to a community survey regarding the GDF programme. Before this was discussed the Chair informed council that an anonymous complaint had been received asking for the Chair not to be involved in this discussion as he also chairs the South Copeland GDF Partnership and reported a conflict of interest. The chair asked councillors for their opinions and offered to stand down from the discussion. and a council did not support the anonymous complaint and the chair continued with the discussion regarding the council's response to the request from Nuclear Free Authorities. It was agreed to send a response outlining the reasons why the council did not feel that it was appropriate to carry out a survey these being:
 - MTC has always declared its neutral position in the debate as ultimately it will be the community who will have the final say should the possibility of the area becoming the host community become more likely
 - There needs to be much more credible information available to enable the community to balance both the positive and negative effects of such a development to make an informed decision that will impact on the community future generations
 - Currently the community has not made an application or voiced an opinion requesting MTC to carry out such a survey
 - The results of such a survey could only be taken as a snapshot in time on a process that will take many years to complete and could not be considered a definitive decision of the community

Millom Striders:

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A letter had been received from Millom Striders asking if the council had any objections to them holding again Run the Edge on the 19th May. All councillors had no objections to this. **Action: Clerk to inform Millom Striders that it was ok by the Council to hold this.**

Standing Stone:

The clerk informed the council that a price had been received to install the stone down by the slag bank at a cost of £850 exc vat. It was proposed by Cllr McGrath that the council get this installed asap as the owner of where it is currently stored is wanting it moving. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed. **Clerk to arrange mtg with Cllr McGrath and Irene Rogan (artist)**

173/24: LACK OF SOCIAL HOUSING IN THE PARISH:

Cllr Amos raised his concern in regard to the lack of social housing in the town where local people are having to travel out of the area to be housed. He stated that the issues of having HMO properties to house non-local people was going to add to the social housing problem. Cllr Amos proposed that a letter be sent to Cumberland Authority asking them to invoke Article 4 direction for Millom and surrounding areas. This was seconded by Cllr Billing and agreed. **Action: Clerk to write to Cumberland Authority.**

Cllr Amos then asked the council if any information had been received in relation to the Queen's Park development. The clerk informed the council that no further progress or information had been received. Cllr McGrath proposed that a letter be sent to Home Group asking for an update on the Queens Park Development. **Action: Clerk to contact Home Group**

174/23: COASTAL ART PROGRAMME:

Cllr Billing asked the question as to where and when the art projects will be in place. Cllr Pratt informed the council that the Corney Fell project had been withdrawn and as yet no further information was available.

175/23: MINERS STATUE IN MARKET SQUARE:

The clerk informed the council that she had made enquiries regarding the restoration of the statue in the market square. A quotation of around 6-7k had been received (this was a ball-park figure until actually statue had been investigated). Cllr McGrath proposed that we wait until we see what Cumberland Authority and the Town Deal were proposing for the market square before any restoration work is carried out. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed.

176/23: EVENTS:

- **D-Day 80th Anniversary Beacon** – Correspondence has been received asking if Millom Town Council are going to erect a beacon to celebrate this occasion. Cllr McGrath asked if prices could be obtained for a gas beacon. **Action: Clerk to look for prices.**
- **Unveiling of Remembrance Plaque** – The clerk informed all the council that a remembrance plaque for all fallen servicemen and women would be unveiled at the cenotaph on Saturday 24th February 2024 at 11.00am.
- **50-Year Anniversary for Millom Town Council** – A short discussion took place as to what the council could do to celebrate 50-years of being a council. It was

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unanimously agreed that something should take place and this has been referred back to the events working group to arrange.

177/23: PLANNING:

- 4/23/2344/0F1 – The extension, reconfiguration and modernisation of an existing clubhouse to provide 2 x RFU Compliant Changing Facilities, 4 x Additional changing facilities, new gym; and the demolition of an existing detached storage building. – Millom Rugby Union Football Club, Wilson Park, Haverigg – **The Council in principle had no objections to this application**
- Creation of a new vehicular access including the installation of gate and posts, landscaping, and 9 additional car parking spaces (part retrospective) – Millom Rugby Union Football Club – Wilson Park, Haverigg – **The Council had no objections in principle to this application**
- 4/23/2390/0F1 – Proposed new two storey dwelling and erection of detached garden room within front garden – Land to the side of Whitriggs Cottage, Haverigg Road, Haverigg – **The council had no objections in principle to this application**
Action: Clerk to write to Planning regarding these applications

The following planning permissions were asked for comments and as the closing date was prior to the meeting date this was carried out by email. No objections were received:

- 4/23/2359/0F1 – Single Storey Rear Extension to an existing dwelling with internal and external alterations including new rooflights and rear facing first floor windows – Stoup Dub Farm, Haws Lane, Haverigg – **The council had no objections in principle to this application**
- 4/23/2376/0F1 – Application for a lawful Development Certificate for a proposed 164m2 extension to existing warehouse with matching eaves and ridge height – Slacks, Millom Ltd, Borwick Rails, Millom – **The council had no objections in principle to this application.**

178/23: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None

Following the closure of the meeting at 08.57pm Police Sergeant MacDonald asked to speak to the council and all those members of the public who had attended. He proceeded to give an update as to what work the police have and were carrying out around the Millom and Haverigg areas.

The Chair thanked Sergeant MacDonald for his information and thanked all the members of the public for attending.

Signed: Chair 28th February 2024

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ACTIONS:

- 164/23: Cllr Amos to chase up second quotation for CCTV**
Cllr Billing to coordinate response from Cllrs and reply to WSSAG
- 165/23: Chair to look further into this matter and report back**
- 172/23: Clerk to write to Millom Striders**
Clerk to arrange meeting with Irene Rogan and Chair
- 173/23: Clerk to write to Cumberland Authority**
Clerk to write to Homegroup
- 176/23: Clerk to obtain quotations**
- 177/23: Clerk to write to Planning with council's comments**