MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 2024 COMMENCING 07.00PM IN THE MILLOM COUNCIL OFFICES

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 MacDonald, Cllr E Ormesher, Cllr A Pratt (Cumberland Cllr), Clerk Mrs Cath Jopson and Assistant Clerk/RFO Mrs Gillian Hoyle. Two members of the public were present.

Prior to the start of the meeting Cllr Micklethwaite asked if the Council could have a minute's silence in remembrance of former mayor/councillor Christine Lovell. This was seconded and agreed by all. Cllr McGrath gave thanks for all the hard work Christine carried out while she was a member of the Millom Town Council.

Following the minutes silence the chair asked the council if he could bring forward item 15 on the agenda – Presentation on Haverigg Feasibility Study by Mr Des Metcalf of Hough Tullett Ltd prior to the opening of the meeting.

Everyone agreed that the presentation showed how Haverigg could re-develop into something to be proud of. The council acknowledged that proposals had had to be in conjunction with Natural England etc.

201//23: APOLOGIES:
Apologies were received from Cllr J Brown (Holiday commitments)

202/23: EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC:
The Chair asked the members of the council to be allowed to move item 19 on the agenda to the end of the meeting, thus allowing members of the public to leave the meeting. This was agreed by all present at the meeting.

203/23: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:
Chair:
The chair informed the meeting that it was being recorded for the purpose of the minutes. He also welcomed representative of Hough Tullett (who is going to give a presentation on the proposed Haverigg beach re-development and two members of the public. The chair reminded the councillors of the 7-Nolan Principles and to ensure that comments made via social media are in line with the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.

The Chair informed the meeting that things were moving on quite rapidly with the library building and at present they are trying to make it water tight. He remarked that it was going to cost around £1.5million to put the building back fit for purpose. The chair then went on to thank Mr Dean Myers for the work he had carried out in regard to the HMO issues.

204/23: MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:
The mayor gave a short presentation of the work that she had been carrying throughout the months of February (copy attached to the minutes). She went on to thank Cllr Kellett for all of her hard work in organising the Dedication at the Cenotaph to all fallen servicemen women since World War II.

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205/23: DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:
No declaration of interests were received.

206/23: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 28th FEBRUARY 2024 AS A CORRECT RECORD:
It was proposed by Cllr Faulkner that the minutes be signed as a true and correct record, this was seconded Cllr Gager-Leibhart and agreed.

207/23: ACTIONS UPDATE FROM LAST MEETING MINUTES:
The clerk informed the council that all the actions from the office had been carried out. Cllr McGrath reported that contact had been made with the Home Office in regard to the proposed HMO properties. Cllr Amos stated that he was still waiting for a second quotation for installing CCTV in the town area.

208/23 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:
Two members of the public informed the council that they had set up a Community Action Group and had replied to the Church leaders in regard to comments on the group and on social media which at the time had resulted from wrong information. They also informed the councillors that they were going to hold a meeting in the pensioners hall and would let the council know the date.

208/23: ACCOUNTS/FINANCE COMMITTEE:
Cllr Kelly proposed that all the accounts be signed as a true and correct record, this was seconded by Cllr McGrath and agreed. **Action: RFO to pay all outstanding invoices accordingly.**

209/23: SOCIAL/RENTED HOUSING:
Cllr Amos informed the council that a public group were in the process of setting up a CIC to look at social housing. Cllr Amos asked the council if any further information had come regarding the new housing on Queens Park. Cllr Amos proposed that Cumberland Planning be asked to withdraw their planning to ensure that a larger number of social housings would be made available. A lengthy discussion took place about lack of social housing etc. Cllr Barry had been informed that a housing group had been set up in Grasmere and wondered if it would be worthwhile contacting them to find out in more detail about social housing, the chair asked Cllr Barry if he would be willing to look into this and he agreed.

The Chair informed the council that at present this was something that a local council would not be able to do but if Cllr Amos wanted to sign up a CIC on his own with a group as an outside body he could but not as a councillor. The Chair voiced his concerns about going about this in a proper and legal manner and form a proper plan to go forward. The Chair proposed that a sub group be formed to try and look into the way to go forward with this. This was seconded by Cllr Amos. The following Cllrs Amos, Barry, Ormesher, Micklethwaite and McDonald all agreed to be members. **Action: Clerk to write to Homegroup in regard to Social Housing/ Clerk to check if planning for this development had timed out or not. Cllr Barry to contact Grasmere Social Housing team for more information.**

Cllr Barry reported he had been in touch with a vulnerable veteran member of the community who has been housed outside of the Millom area and his mental health was now starting to become an issue. Cllr Barry informed the councillors that he was looking into this to try and get him re-housed in Millom.

210/23: HMO/ ASYLUM PROPERTIES:

The Chair informed the council that following them receiving response from Home Office he wanted clarification from the Home Office as there was still a big question on how this town was identified and who takes responsibility for it and giving this information to a number of developers to be used for HMO/Asylum properties. This has caused undoubtedly anguish and heartache that has gone through this town over the last few weeks. The Chair was also concerned about the information and numbers we have been supplied with the plan supplied from Cumberland matches up properly with the information we have gained ourselves from the parliamentary library. If we do the numbers based on the guidance from the library then we should have 1300 beds in Cumberland not 166 and until the minister informs us of anything different that still seems to apply. The chair informed the council that he has written to the Minister for Illegal Immigration to come back to me and inform me what the actual number of dispersal beds for Cumberland to achieve. The Chair stated that he took this action upon himself as he did not have remit to do this but he felt that this was necessary as there was also a number of questions that did not add up with what has been fed back. The chair informed the council that he wants to know who actually recommended this town. Cllr Pratt informed the council that he has a scrutiny meeting and Asylum of all types is on the agenda and he will be asking what Cumberland Council's policy is on Asylum and if they don't have a policy to make one which deals with asylum seekers. If no policy has yet been made, he will be recommending that Article 4 is inserted to ensure that these issues do not happen again in any areas of Cumberland. Cllr Pratt stated that he would also be questioning where does the decision lie, is it director level, executive level or full council level as he has not seen it going through any committee as yet. Cllr Pratt that he would report back to Millom Town Council accordingly. Cllr McGrath proposed that we re-write to Serco this was seconded by Cllr Ormesher and agreed as we still have not had a response from them. The Chair stated that Cllr Kelly who has had a lot of backlashes being a Cumberland Councillor on the Executive Panel is attending the meeting tonight as a town councillor. Cllr Kelly informed the council that this topic has never been discussed at executive level. **Action: Clerk/Chair to write to Serco**

211/24: 80TH ANNIVERSARY D DAY:

The Clerk informed the council that flags have been ordered. Cllr Kellett informed the council that the Royal British Legion would be able to help with the clerk to arrange a celebration for this event. Cllr Barry informed the council that there had been an offer of a curry night for veterans attending this event. The clerk informed the council that to purchase a gas beacon would cost £540 exc VAT. Due to the timing of having to order these it was proposed by Cllr Faulkner that this be purchased, seconded by Cllr Barry and agreed. **Action: Clerk to order beacon and liaise with Events Group**

212/24: REVIEW OF COUNCIL LEADERSHIP:

The chair stated that this time last year wanting to change the structure of the council so that we had a chair and a mayor. Cllr McGrath stated that if the council wanted to change this structure back, we need to think about it as it changes Standing Orders to get everything ready for the AGM in May. He opened the discussion to the council. Cllr Amos felt that this had worked very well. Cllr Ormesher states that she agreed that things have worked well but would wish that the mayor could also have longer term than a year so that coincides with the chair so that things. Cllr Micklethwaite asked the question about a deputy mayor; the chair informed the council that no-one had wanted to do this. Cllr Kelly stated that this experiment must have at least another two years to see how this council reacts. The Chair stated that he wanted to give the council an opportunity to change this.

213/24: UPDATE ON HAVERIGG FEASIBILITY STUDY:

Following the presentation earlier Cllr McGrath asked the councillors what their thoughts were. Cllr Amos stated that he thought the presentation it was a great project for Haverigg. Cllr Billing asked what the timeline would be for this and where the funding would come from. Cllr McGrath informed the council that at first it has to go to public consultation followed and planning etc. The chair informed the council that it the project would have to be split in phases and asked if the council would be happy to move things forward for a public consultation. All agreed for this to be carried out. **Action: Chair/Mayor/Clerk to arrange for public consultation**

214/24: TOWN DEAL UPDATE:

Cllr Kelly reported that the whole thing has to be completed and this should be March 2026. With regard to Iron Line visitor building further investigation has to be carried out as to ground works compatibility. The group do acknowledge that they need to have better communication with the public.

With regard to the Community Health Centre the costs are looking feasible and go out to tender from April 8th.

Connecting Millom and Haverigg details on this will be discussed at the public consultation on 6th March. Cllr Amos asked if there could be additional date could be added due to it clashing with a full council meeting in Carlisle. Cllr McGrath proposed that he write to the chair of the town deal requesting a further date so that all councillors get the chance to see what is happening, this was seconded by Cllr Amos and agreed. **Action: Chair to write to Chair of Town Deal requesting further consultation dates.**

Heritage costs appear to be exceeding the budget, this will be an opportunity to ask any questions in regard to these projects ensure you ask any questions in regard to the whole of the town deal.

215/23: COASTAL ART PROGRAMME:

Cllr Billing asked if there have been any updates on these projects. Cllr Pratt stated that the art project to go Millom Station is now to be situated at Ravenglass. He stated that all the other projects that were changing. Cllr McGrath proposed that we write to Sarah Mitchell to outline what was left in the Coastal Art Programme, this was seconded by Cllr Faulkner. **Action: Letter to be written to Sarah Mitchell**

216/24: POLICIES TO ADOPT:

The Chair proposed that the following policies be adopted, these were seconded by Cllr Ormesher subject to the following amendments apart from IT Policy:

- Subject Access Request Policy – Policy adopted
- Editorial Policy – Policy adopted
- Privacy Policy for the Website – Cllr Amos stated that the host would have to be included in with this. Cllr Kelly commented on Page 6 Item 10 seemed irrelevant, after a short discussion it was agreed that this be policy be agreed.
- Information Technology Policy – Cllr Amos asked that this policy be agreed at the next meeting – **Action Clerk to defer until next meeting.**

- Gifts & Hospitality Protocol – adopted

217/24: CUMBERLAND AND COUNCILLOR UPDATES:

Bus Service:

Cllr Amos stated that at the present time there is a driver vacancy so in the middle of changing drivers so not able to progress at this present time.

Cllr Billing – Summary of work that he has been involved with, the clerk had distributed these for all councillors to look at.

Cllr Crellin – informed that the disability groups had in co-ordination with the MNC have received a grant of £180k to purchase a disabled bus for the community. There has also been disability access provided through the disability group at the MNC. **Action: Cllr Crellin to ask for a statement in regard to this from Millom Network Centre.**

Cllr Pratt informed the council of the road closures that are due to happen at Muncaster Bridge and over the River Esk. He also thanked the council and the community group for the work that had been carried out with regard to the HMO issue. Cllr Pratt informed the council that reports of dog fouling was becoming a large problem in both Millom and Haverigg, he informed the council that the enforcement team would be patrolling both Millom and Haverigg.

Cllr Barry gave information in regard to the protocol for helping veterans in distress. The chair asked that this information be shared with the Royal British Legion support officer Cllr Kellett who is the Branch Community Support officer for this region.

Cllr Kelly informed the Council that the Economic Summit which will be held on 1st March at Carlisle that he would be attending. He informed that the first draft of the Climate and Environment Strategy is going ahead. Cllr Kelly also informed that the budget has had to cut their budget by 5%. Cumberland was also driving a big campaign in regard to fostering.

Cllr Amos brought up the issue of extending the parking time to 2-hours, Cllr Kelly would raise this issue again with Cumberland. Cllr Faulkner asked Cllr Kelly to look also into the issue of parking fines for carers etc. **Action: Cllr Kelly to look into the extending of parking to 2-hours and follow up the Council's request in regard to the problem of parking for carers etc.**

218/24: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION:

Forest with Impact at HMP Haverigg:

The document in relation to the above had been circulated for councillor's information asking for a meeting. It was agreed

198/24: PLANNING:

4/24/2037/0F1 – Change of use from Agriculture to Commercial Storage, to make a storage yard to store aggregate and building equipment – Stoup Dub Cottage, Haws Lane. The chair proposed that this application be refused on the grounds of health and safety and concerns of whether the road is suitable to carry heavy wagons and machinery. The council have raised concerns and would like this application to be denied on the grounds of health and safety.

4/24/2056/0F1 – Erect Single Storey Extension to rear and side – 21 Town Head, Haverigg, the council have no objections to this application.

4/243/2344/0F1 – The Extension – reconfiguration, modernisation of an existing clubhouse to provide2 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 had no objections to this application. Cllr Brown, Cllr Faulkner and the Chair went to look at this some time ago and it was agreed that one of the gateways (there are currently 3 at present) would be closed. It was agreed that there were no objections to this application as long as the third gateway was closed.

4/24/2064/0F1 - Erect Single storey extension to front and rear of 26 Huddleston Road, Millom – the council had no objections in principle to this application.

4/24/2063/0F1 – Erect Single storey extension to front and rear of 28 Huddleston Road, Millom – the council had no objections in principle to this application

219/24: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:
Traffic calming measures Cllr Amos
Nomination for an award of 47 years voluntary service to the Coastguard

220/24: CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS:
The Council had copies of the applications for the two candidates Mr Dean Myers and Mr Paul Brown who had requested to join the town council. Following a short discussion a secret vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to ask the applicants to join the Town Council. **Action: Clerk to inform the applicants of their success to join the council and arrange an induction and to sign the relevant documents.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.30pm

Signed: …………………………….. Chair 27th March 2024