

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
30th OCTOBER 2024 HELD IN THE METHODIST HALL, MILLOM**

PRESENT: Cllr G McGrath (in the Chair), Cllr S Faulkner (Mayor), Cllr J Brown, Cllr R Williamson, Cllr B Kelly (Cumberland and MTC Cllr), Cllr A Pratt (Cumberland Councillor) Cllr J Kellett, Cllr D Billing, Cllr D Myers, Cllr A Gager-Liebhart, Cllr A McDonald, Cllr P Brown, Clerk Cath Jopson, Cllr Gillian Hoyle RFO/Assistant Clerk and 3 members of the public were in attendance.

115/24: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr Chatterton

116/24: EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS:

There was nothing on the agenda to exclude the public or press from the meeting.

117/24: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

The chair began the meeting giving a short report on his trip with the South Copeland GDF Partnership Group, he was most interested in the small modular reactors that are currently being built.

118/24: MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The mayor's announcements for the months of October are appended to these minutes and have been placed on the MTC website for information.

The mayor gave a short presentation on power point with regard to the new Millom & Haverigg Together Non-profit CIC for the area that is currently being set up to help get funding for projects in and around the areas.

A short report of the bus routes being set up by Cumberland Authority was also included in this presentation.

The mayor went on to inform the council that groups are setting up Warm Hubs in and around the town for those who are most vulnerable.

119/24: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr McGrath declared an interest in the South Copeland GDF Partnership

120/24: APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON 30th OCTOBER 2024

It was proposed by Cllr J Brown, seconded by Cllr Williamson and agreed that the minutes be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting held on 30th October 2024.

121/24: ACTIONS UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

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

122/24: OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Two residents of Queens Park complained to the council regarding the lack of lighting on the back footpath adjacent to the main road going out of Millom towards Silecroft. Due to the darker nights, they were very concerned regarding their safety. They also complained about the junction from Horn Hill/New Road/Holborn Hill stating that the road signs are virtually invisible and that vehicles are parking on the grass verge and paved area making it impossible for traffic and pedestrians alike to see oncoming vehicles. **Action: Clerk to write to Cumberland Council asking for the junction to have a risk assessment carried out as it appears to be a safety hazard for both pedestrians and vehicles. Clerk to contact Cumberland Authority regarding the obtrusive trees overhanging the said footpath. Cllr Myers to investigate the environmental aspect of additional lighting for this area Cumberland Cllrs Kelly & Pratt to also contact Cumberland Authority in this regard. Clerk to write to Town Deal representatives asking if this junction**

had been taken into consideration for safety reasons.

123/24: ACCOUNTS/FINANCE:

It was proposed by Cllr McGrath to accept the accounts for payment along with the bank reconciliation as a correct and true record, this was seconded by Cllr McDonald and all agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr McGrath to accept the AGAR audit external report, this was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr McGrath that the latest Local Government Services Pay Agreement be accepted for both the clerk and the RFO/Deputy Clerk. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed.

124/24: TOWN DEAL UPDATE:

New leaflet information with updates had been circulated to all at the meeting.

125/24: MILLOM PARK DEVELOPMENT GRAND OPENING:

The clerk informed the council that this would be taking place on the 7th December at 1.30pm. should anything change the clerk will inform the council.

125/24: MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL TRAINING PROPOSAL:

Cllr McGrath asked the Clerk how it was going in regard to training. The clerk informed the council that as yet she had not been able to come up with definite dates.

Action: Cllr McGrath to look into this with CALC training officers

126/24: LAPSTONE HOUSE:

Cllr Myers had received some concerns from residents/carers etc as to if Lapstone House was going to close. The clerk had sent Cllr Myers the original reply from Cumberland regarding this and it was expressed in the letter that Lapstone House was up for a possible re-furb. Concern was also raised regarding the empty flats adjacent to the home. Cllr McGrath proposed that a letter be written to Cllr Mark Fryer asking to confirm what long-term plans they have for the building and residents, this was seconded by Cllr McDonald and agreed. **Action: Cllr Myers to draft a letter for the Clerk to write asking for an update on Lapstone House by Cumberland Authority.**

Cllr Faulkner reminded the councillors that there was a meeting to be held at Bootle with regard to the Abbeyfield property that closed last year.

127/24: HAVERIGG PRISON WORKFORCE:

Cllr P Brown asked the question as to the prison workforce within the town. Cllr McGrath informed the council that at a meeting with the prison authority in which he and the clerk had attended they were assured that the working parties in both Millom and Haverigg had been properly vetted and safe to be working within the community unsupervised.

128/24: CUMBERLAND AND COUNCILLOR UPDATES/WORKGROUPS:

Cllr McGrath proposed that Cllr Liebhart ask our host/service provider if a link could be directly downloaded from our website page. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed. **Action: Cllr Liebhart to investigate this link.**

Cumberland/Town Councillor Cllr B Kelly gave a short report of what was happening within the Cumberland Authority and stated that things were beginning to come together within the structure.

Cumberland Councillor Cllr A Pratt stated that he had been disappointed of late regarding the lack of events etc being held in our areas as it would appear nothing much comes

below Egremont and there appeared to be a lot of things going on around the Carlisle/Workington areas.

Cllr Crellin informed the council that the Salvation Army were closing at the end of December 2024. Cllr Crellin proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to them for all that they have done for the community over the years. This was seconded by Cllr J Brown and agreed. **Clerk to write to Salvation Army**

Cllr McDonald asked if MTC knew when the recycling bins would be placed back within Tesco Car Park. The clerk informed the council that Cumberland were waiting for new bins and wagons.

Cllr Williamson brought up the subject of the Queen's Park development stating that it was unsatisfactory that the council have not yet received any further information about the development. Cllr Williamson also made MTC aware that the harras fencing has not been re-erected since the last winds. **Action: Clerk to write to Home Group**

Cllr Billing informed the meeting that there is to be a South Copeland GDF Community Partnership meeting on Wednesday 20th November in the Lighthouse Centre, Haverigg at 6.30pm. He stated that it was important that councillors attend these meetings along with the parishioners to understand what is happening within the scope of the proposed project.

Cllr Billing also stated that he was concerned about the derelict buildings within the town such as the library, the old co-op building etc. Cllr Faulkner informed the meeting that money had already been allocated to make the library building watertight, as to the timeline she was not aware of what this was. Cllr Faulkner proposed that a letter be written from MTC asking for a timeline for the library, this was seconded by Cllr Billing and agreed. **Action: Clerk to write letter re Library building.**

Regarding the old co-operative building Cllr McGrath proposed that Cllr Billing work up and develop a strategy plan for the said building, this was seconded by Cllr Myers, Cllr Billing agreed to carry out this on behalf of the council and it was agreed by all. **Action: Cllr Billing to work up a strategy plan for said building**

Cllr Brown informed the meeting that she had received complaints from residents adjacent to an empty home on Town Head (approx. 10-years). Cllr Liebhart proposed that a letter be written to Cumberland Authority asking for them to look at this, this was seconded by Cllr Williamson and agreed. **Action: Clerk to write to Cumberland Authority**

127/24: POLICIES TO ADOPT:

- Dispensation Policy – Cllr Liebhart proposed that the council adopt this policy, it was seconded by Cllr Williamson and agreed.

128/24: CLERKS UPDATE/CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION:

- Updated information regarding the Queens Park development had been circulated within the working papers for information

129/24: HAVERIGG BEACH UPDATE:

Cllr Faulkner informed the meeting that a local group had been set up of parishioners to try and deal with the Haverigg beach pollution issues. Cllr Faulkner informed the meeting that all evidence that had been gathered had been forwarded to our local MP Michelle

Scrogham when she attended a meeting with the SOS Group.

130/24: MEMORIAL 100-YEAR CELEBRATION:

Cllr Kellett informed the meeting that things were starting to be put into place for the memorial 100-year celebrations. **Actions: Cllr Kellett, Cllr Faulkner and the Clerk to carry on with arranging this celebration**

131/24: MILLOM GREEN HUB/ALLOTMENT:

Cllr Faulkner gave an update on the above. Cllr Faulkner proposed that a skip be purchased as soon as possible to empty the disused allotment. This was seconded by Cllr Liebhart and agreed. **Action: Clerk to arrange for a skip**

132/24: PLANNING:

The following planning applications had been received for consideration by the council:

- **4/24/2326/0F1 – Erect bedroom extension to front elevation for disabled access – 25 Richmond Gardens, Haverigg** – The council had no objections in principle to this application
- **4/24/2331/0F1 – Replace whole of shop front single glazed wooden windows and door with double glazed UPVE – 31 Lapstone Road, Millom** – Whilst the council had no objections in principle to this application it was agreed that the planning authority be made aware of the property being within the conservation area
- **4/24/2348/0F1 – Retrospective application for consent for removal of existing signage and graphics and replace with new – 33-35 Lapstone Road, Millom** – The council had no objections in principle to this application.

Action: Clerk to inform planning authority of the town council comments.

133/24: ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO NOTE FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 09.08pm.

Signed: **Chair** Dated: 27th November 2024