

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
27TH NOVEMBER 2024 HELD IN THE METHODIST HALL, MILLOM**

PRESENT: Cllr G McGrath (in the Chair), Cllr S Faulkner (Mayor), Cllr J Brown, Cllr B Kelly (Cumberland and MTC Cllr), Cllr A Pratt (Cumberland Councillor) Cllr J Kellett, Cllr D Myers, Cllr A Gager-Liebhart, Cllr P Brown, Cllr B Crellin, Clerk Cath Jopson, Cllr Gillian Hoyle RFO/Assistant Clerk and 10 members of the public were in attendance.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chair informed all present that the meeting and any future meetings would be recorded for the purpose of the minutes and then deleted after the minutes had been agreed. All councillors agreed with this.

140/24: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllrs Chatterton, Williamson, McDonald and Billing. Sergeant D McDonald also gave apologies.

141/24: EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS:

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

142/24: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the last meeting of the current year and thanked members of the public for also attending. The chair continued with a short update regarding the palladium gardens lease from Cumberland Authority and the documents that had been received. Cllr Myers proposed that we go ahead and agree to the terms and conditions and the clerk sign on behalf of the council, this was seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed. **Action: Clerk to arrange for necessary paperwork to be completed and sent back to Cumberland Council.**

The Chair also informed the meeting that several parishioners had requested that some form of hedging be installed around the fence line to the new part of the cemetery. This making it more private when visiting their loved ones from areas of the Millom Park. It is approximately 150m of hedging that would be required. In the first instance contact would have to be made with the Church wardens informing them of this request. Cllr Myers proposed that the clerk look further into this and come back to the council with prices etc. This was seconded by Cllr McDonald and agreed. **Action: Clerk to look at costings etc for hedging.**

The Chair informed the meeting that the lease for the Palladium take over from Cumberland Authority to Millom Town Council had now been received. Having read this document through the chair proposed that we accept the terms and conditions. This was seconded by Cllr P Brown and agreed. **Action: Clerk to respond to Cumberland Authority and get the relevant paperwork agreed and signed off.**

143/24: MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The mayor informed the council of what work she had carried out during the busy month of November. The mayor then gave a short presentation of her visit to Maryport and the work that has been carried out mainly by a group working alongside the town council.

Cllr Faulkner gave a short presentation following the Maryport visit about the new group that has been set up to help revitalise our parish of Millom and Haverigg. This group is to be known as Millom and Haverigg Together CIC. This will enable this ambitious group to apply for funding for the various groups within the CIC and, hopefully, revitalise our areas.

144/24: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr McGrath, Cllr Kelly and Cllr Pratt all declared an interest in item 11 of the agenda "South Copeland GDF Partnership".

145/24: APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON 30th OCTOBER 2024

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

146/24: ACTIONS UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The clerk informed the meeting that replies from Home Group regarding the work on Queens Park had been received along with a reply from Cumberland Authority regarding the Lapstone House query in last month's notes and that they stated that there were no immediate plans to refurbish the home at the present time. Copies of these replies were given to councillors for their information.

Cllr J Brown proposed that a monitoring group be set up to keep up the pressure on Lapstone House's position, Cllr Brown stated that she was not very happy about the lack of information, this proposal was seconded by Cllr Myers and agreed. **Action: Clerk to monitor this and to keep requesting answers in relation to their position**

Cllr Faulkner informed the meeting that things were starting to move regarding the library building but at a very slow pace, this is mainly due to it being within the conservation area of Millom.

The clerk informed the meeting that in response to the request for Cumberland authority to investigate the empty building on Town Head, it had been confirmed that environment had been and spoke to the owner who is going to tidy it up and cut the grass etc.

147/24: OPEN TO PUBLIC:

The following were asked by members of the public present:

- Where will residents of Lapstone House go while they renovate the home? **At this stage MTC do not have any further information but the clerk will continue to chase up the authority for answers as well as Cumberland Councillors Kelly and Pratt**
- Queens Park – who will be residing in these properties, will it be for local occupancy in the first instance? – **Action: MTC Clerk will keep the public up to date when any information is received, Cllr P Brown to approach Home Housing to ask how homes are allocated.**

148/24: ACCOUNTS/FINANCE:

It was proposed by Cllr Faulkner, seconded by Cllr Kelly that the accounts be approved for payment and that they also acknowledge the bank reconciliation as correct, this was agreed by all.

Budget/Precept:

Cllr McGrath gave a short update following the Finance meeting which was held prior to this meeting regarding the proposed budget/precept figures. After a short discussion Cllr Liebhart proposed that the forecast for the precept be accepted at a rise of 5.59% (£182,150.00) this was seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed. **Action: RFO to go ahead and submit the form for the forthcoming precept based on the figures that had been agreed at the meeting/**

Repairs to Haverigg and Millom Play Areas:

Two quotations from Playdale had been received for both the Haverigg (£2134) and Millom (£1101) Playgrounds following the ROSPA site inspections. Cllr Faulkner proposed that these quotations be accepted, Cllr J Brown seconded this, and it was agreed. **Action: Clerk to contact Playdale to go ahead and carry out the repairs to both the Haverigg and Millom play areas.**

Grass Cutting:

A quotation had been received from the current grass maintenance contractor. Unfortunately, this is not including the new park area, the palladium garden and the cenotaph. Cllr McGrath proposed that this matter be left until next year as the current contractor has been paid up and until the end of March 2025. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed. **Action: Clerk to look into outsourcing quotations for grass cutting in February of next year**

149/24: TOWN DEAL UPDATE:

Cllr Faulkner informed the meeting that a recent pop-up session of the Town Deal where information would be available for all the projects was poorly attended by only 4 members of the

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public. Cllr Faulkner gave a short update of where the town deal projects were up to and advised if anyone wished to look further into these, they should go the Town Deal website where questions and answers were on there. Cllr Faulkner stated that the first project regarding the 3G all-weather pitch is due to commence early January 2025. Cllr Faulkner also informed the meeting that the contractor for the Iron Line had now been appointed.

150/24: SOUTH COPELAND GDF PARTNERSHIP:

Cllr Faulkner raised concerns following the latest South Copeland GDF Partnership meeting where she had attended on behalf of Millom Town Council.

Cllr Falkner's main concerns were as follows:

- MTC have always declared itself neutral in the GDF process and supports the principle set out in the Policy that ultimately it will be the people that decide if they are willing to provide a local solution to a national problem by becoming the host community for a nuclear waste Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).
- MTC has a responsibility to over 7300 residents in Millom & Haverigg to ensure that they are kept informed on the progress of the project and are educated to the potential risks and economic benefits that hosting a GDF could bring to the town. However Public engagement in Millom & Haverigg is currently non existent
- There is no evidence of engagement with our young people who ultimately will be the generations that will deliver the project if it goes ahead.
- The makeup of the partnership does not reflect the community of Millom & Haverigg as the voices that dominate it are from outside of the town.
- The poor behaviours of members in meetings have been witnessed by several councillors who have reported back on an obsession with minutes & documents rather than focusing on actions that benefit the community.
- It has been observed that members of the partnership are pushing an agenda of not trusting the developer which undermines the principle of putting the decision making in the hands of the public.

On these grounds of concern Cllr Faulkner proposed a motion that Millom Town Council withdraw from its seat on the South Copeland GDF Partnership, but that Millom Town Council would continue to support the principle of a policy that gives the final decision to the community and will work with NWS to identify how best to engage and educate the people of Millom and Haverigg as the project develops. Cllr Faulkner proposed that a letter to be sent to NWS confirming this withdrawal. A debate followed with councillors expressing their individual opinions and concerns about withdrawing from the partnership. Cllr McDonald seconded Cllr Faulkner's motion and the Chair then asked the councillors for a vote, it this was agreed by all councillors to do this: The following vote result was as follows: 9 members voted to withdraw, 1 vote to remain and 1 abstention. Therefore, the motion was unanimously carried. **Action: Clerk to write letter to NWS to withdraw Millom Town Council from the South Copeland GDF Partnership on the above grounds.**

151/24: MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL TRAINING PROPOSAL:

Dates for the councillors training on had been circulated and it was agreed that the 12th of December at 6.30pm would be the date and time when all councillors would gather in the office for

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a team meeting title being “effective councillor modules 1 and 2” over a 3-hour period.

Action: Clerk to book training

152/24: MILLOM PARK DEVELOPMENT GRAND OPENING:

The clerk confirmed the council that this would be taking place on the 14th of December 2024 at 1.30pm following the Christmas Coffee Morning in the Pensioners Hall at 10.00am.

153/24: CUMBERLAND AND COUNCILLOR UPDATES/WORKGROUPS:

Cllr Kelly (Cumberland Cllr) gave a short update of what has been going on within the Cumberland Authority. He stated that he has been involved working with the Forest Within Impact Project which is running within the HMP Haverigg to enable teaching in the forestry business for inmates.

Cllr Kelly informed the meeting that Cumberland Authority are looking at providing extra family/children centres etc in Cumbria and was positive that one would be allocated in the Millom area. He then went on to explain the possibility of a devolution for the Cumberland/Westmorland and Furness areas and what this would entail.

Cllr Pratt (Cumberland Cllr) gave a short summary of what has been happening within his constituency and the issues that had arisen. His main concern was the lack of joined up thinking in regard to possible flooding of areas within Cumberland. Cllr Pratt also informed the meeting that there had been an upturn in regard to cold callers and advised everyone to be on medial alert especially on social media.

Cllr Crellin stated that the current bus service which is running from Millom to Barrow was not working as although a bus was going back to Barrow from Millom there was no return bus available. Cllr Crellin proposed that a letter be written to Stagecoach asking for clarification on the timetable. **Action: Clerk to write to Stagecoach**

Cllr P Brown raised concerns about illegal parking on junctions and proposed that a letter be written to Cumberland Enforcement and the Police Authority to have these vehicles removed.

Action: Clerk to write to Enforcement and Police Authority

Cllr P Brown also wanted to know what is happening to the houses that were earmarked for HMO Residency but were still lying dormant. At this present time no further information has been received to the town council in this regard.

Cllr J Brown stated that she would like to give her thanks to HMP Haverigg workers for the work that they are carrying out on behalf of the community.

Cllr Liebhart informed the council that a new group called Millom & Haverigg Together CIC had recently been formed and that they look forward to working alongside MTC for funding etc.

154/24: ARTICLE 4 – CUMBERLAND COUNCIL:

A briefing report had been received from Cumberland Council to Cllr Pratt who was happy to give to the councillors regarding the question of Article 4. (appended to the minutes). Cllr Myers stated that he was still concerned that several questions had not been addressed within this reply.

Action: Cumberland Cllrs to seek further advice.

155/24: CLERKS UPDATE:

The clerk gave an update regarding the forthcoming Coffee Morning which is to be held on Saturday 14th December in the Pensioners Hall. This will be followed at 1.30pm to open the new area in the Millom Park.

The clerk asked what help the two Cumberland officers could do about the issue with waste bags of rubbish, plants etc that the prison workforce is picking up and not able to remove. A request had been made to the info at Cumberland authority to remove these and a reply of them not being able to pick them up as the bags could be contaminated if they had soil within them. Both Cumberland Cllrs were going to investigate this matter and report back to the clerk.

Action: Cllr Kelly and Cllr Pratt to investigate this matter

156/24: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION:

All relevant correspondence for the meeting had been sent out via email prior to the meeting for councillors' information.

157/24: PLANNING:

The following planning applications had been received for council's comments:

- **4/24/2376/0F`** - Removal of existing garage flat roof and temporary roof to the rear – New infill extension and rear extension to garage plus new pitched roof with 4 x rooflights with internal and external alterations to an existing dwelling – 17 Pannatt Hill, Millom – **The council had no objections in principle to this application**
- **4/24/2384/0F1** – Prior approval application for the installation of 20m monopole supporting 6 no antennas, 1 no transmission dish, 2 no equipment cabinets, 1 no meter cabinet and ancillary development thereto including remove radio units (RRUS) – Grass Verge at Horn Hill, Millom – **The council had no objections in principle to this application.**

Action: Clerk to write with council's comments on these applications.

158/24: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.15pm

Signed: Dated: 29th January 2025