

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
29th JANUARY 2025 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 R Williamson, Cllr A Gager-Liebhart, Cllr P Brown, Cllr A McDonald, Clerk Cath Jopson, and 3 members of the public were in attendance.

158/24: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllrs Chatterton, Myers and Crellin. Sergeant D McDonald also gave apologies.

159/24: EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS:

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

160/24: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Opening the meeting the chair thanked everyone for their attendance. He stated that there was a lot going to go on in this current year, he reported that work on the old library making it wind and watertight will begin around 24th February 2025. He also reported that work had commenced on the Millom Town Deal 3G Pitch being resurfaced. The Chairman also stated that this coming year was going to be a special year with events due for the VJ Day and the celebration for the War Memorial 100-years. Notifications of these celebrations will be posted nearer to the time.

The Chair said that he had attended the Salvation Army Christmas Carol Service and that it was a shame it was the last one before the Fort closed. He also informed the meeting that after a 73-years the Rotary Club of Millom had now disbanded.

The methodist church has invited all councillors who would like to drop in at the Methodist for the warm hub on a Wednesday morning of their choice to see and speak to those that attend from 11.00 to 12.00 noon that they would be most welcome.

The chair informed the meeting that tomorrow an announcement that the areas of focus will be published.

161/24: MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The mayor gave a short report on the missed appointments at Millom Surgery there were 220 in November and 201 for December of last year. Cllr Faulkner asked that a flyer be put on our website and FB page to inform the public and, hopefully, people would start to cancel when they couldn't attend. The mayor asked that councillors try and influence people to try and encourage the community to keep their appointments. A4 posters highlighting these missed appointments have been issued in and around the town for information.

Just before Christmas the opening of the new area in the park was held following the Christmas Coffee Morning, her disappointment in the lack of councillors attending. It was a very wet day at the opening and a pod cast will be done to let people know who and why the park design had originated.

The mayor stated that over Christmas she had had numerous complaints about the rubbish prior to the storm, her concerns that rubbish that is fly tipped etc does not make the area look good. The Chair stated that now Cumberland cannot take soft furnishings etc is one of the causes why people are fly tipping these items. The nearest place to take these he believed was in Ulverston (Westmorland and Furness region) and yet nothing in the Cumberland area was available. The chair asked the Cumberland Councillors who were in the meeting if at certain times the authority could have an amnesty for people to put all soft furnishings etc into a skip that they provide, this would save perhaps a lot of time may ensure that all fly tipping could be alleviated.

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The council were also made aware that a meeting is to be held on 4th February at 7.00pm in the Council offices for the Community Plan Group. **Action: All Cllrs to let Mayor know if they can attend prior to the meeting**

162/24: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllrs Faulkner, Williamson and Liebhart declared an interest in Item 11 on the agenda

163/24: APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON 30th OCTOBER 2024

Cllr Kellett proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 30th October 2024 be signed as a true and correct record, this was seconded by Cllr McDonald and agreed

164/24: ACTIONS UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Cllr McGrath had spoken to the church wardens regarding the proposed hedge on the outer fence line of the new churchyard. He stated that the church could see no reason as to why a hedge could not be planted. Cllr McGrath proposed that the clerk go ahead and investigate the purchase of the hedge plants. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed. **Action: Clerk to investigate the purchase of hedge plants**

Regarding the grass cutting, the clerk informed the meeting that further quotes had been requested to include the new park area, cenotaph and palladium gardens from the current contractor. Once received these will go before the finance committee for their consideration.

165/24: OPEN TO PUBLIC:

A member of the public asked the council what the issue of dog fouling. MTC have followed this question up and are working with Shackles Off to highlight the issue in the town.

The member of public then presented a fact sheet from when they had attended one of the GDF SC Forum in September 2023 and they showed the results of her table from questions that had been asked. Following the report, they stated that there would be independent impact report, to date nothing has been received. The chair responded reiterating the reasons why MTC had withdrawn from the partnership.

Another member of the public asked why a deputy mayor had now been put in place. The chair responded stating that at the beginning of the new year no-one had at the time volunteered to do this post. Cllr Kellett later in the year agreed to be the deputy.

Another member of the public who was in attendance asked if MTC could encourage people to take more pride in the areas of the town and encourage them to help brighten the areas up. The chair proposed that the Clerk put this on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss.

166/24: ACCOUNTS/FINANCE:

Due to the absence of the RFO there was nothing to discuss in the accounting finance section of the meeting.

167/24: POLICY TO ADOPT:

A draft policy had been circulated for councillors to peruse prior to the meeting. Cllr Liebhart proposed that this policy be adopted by the town council, this was seconded by Cllr J Brown and agreed.

168/24: MILLOM & HAVERIGG TOGETHER CIC:

Cllr Faulkner gave a short presentation of the recently formed group of Millom and Haverigg Together CIC. Cllr Faulkner reported that a Resilience Group had been formed within the CIC and that they were working alongside Cancer Alliance raising funding for early detection programmes to be made available in the area. Cllr Faulkner stated that they would like to work in collaboration with Millom Town Council to enable them to help with various issues in and around the parish. Cllr McGrath thought that this was a good idea and proposed that Millom Town Council work alongside

this CIC group, this was seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed. **Action: Clerk to write to CIC informing them of their approval to work in collaboration with the group. This to be placed on a regular agenda for information**

169/24: MILLOM PUMP TRACK:

Cllr Williamson gave a short presentation on the proposed development of a pump track for the Millom Park. Cllrs Faulkner and Williamson to go into the secondary school to show the children the proposal and get their feedback. Cllr McGrath asked that the design in landscaped to fit in with the park. Following this Cllr McGrath proposed that the council support this and that the clerk should apply for funding for the new pump track in the Millom Park and the refurbishment of the pavilion building. This was seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed.

Action: Cllrs Faulkner/Williamson to give presentation to secondary school in Millom, following this Clerk to submit application for funding.

170/24: HAVERIGG PLAY AREA:

Cllrs Williamson and Faulkner gave a short presentation in regard to the first phase of Haverigg park area. Cllr Williamson waiting for further details from Proludic and costs. Cllr McGrath proposed that once the proposals are to hand to bring back to council for approval to apply for funding. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed. **Action: Cllrs Williamson/Faulkner to get further information for next meeting.**

171/24: YOUTH CENTRE:

Cllr McGrath informed the meeting that the Salvation Army building would be coming up for possible lease/sale. Cllr McGrath proposed that we pursue this with the possibility of a youth centre which could be used for other amenities in the parish. This was seconded by Cllr Kelly.

Action: Clerk to get further information on the possibility of leasing this building with a view to a possible purchase.

172/24: TOWN DEAL UPDATE:

Cllr Faulkner gave a short report on the update of the town deal and was pleased to inform the meeting that works are starting to come to fruition with work to commence on the old Westminster Bank early March.

Cllr Faulkner informed the meeting that the Town Deal were holding a drop-in centre and will be using the empty shop within the market square in Millom so that members of the public will be able to go in and ask questions in regard to the Town Deal.

173/24: NALC – CONSULTATION/STRENGTHENING THE STANDARDS AND CONDUCT FRAMEWORK:

Cllr McGrath explained the proposals from NALC who are trying to strengthen the standards and conduct framework and encouraged councillors to have a look at the proposals and respond individually. **Action: Councillors to look at email and respond as individuals**

174/24: PALLADIUM GARDENS:

The clerk gave a short update regarding the Palladium Gardens. The clerk is awaiting further information in relation to access.

175/24: CUMBERLAND & COUNCILLORS UPDATES:

Cumberland Councillor Bob Kelly gave a short update on what was happening within the Cumberland Authority. Within this update was informing the meeting that the sinkhole within the running track was now being repaired. Cllr Kelly also said that he would get in touch with St George's church regarding the wall that is deteriorating on Church Walk. Cllr Kelly stated that he was looking into the issues around the town and Haverigg regarding non-collection of bins etc.

Cumberland Councillor Andy Pratt gave a short update on what was happening within his

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constituency. Cllr Pratt informed the meeting that major road works on the A595 have now been completed. With regard to the bus arrangements, he informed the meeting that the bus survey was still live on the Cumberland website so asked all to look and log anything that needs to be raised.

Cllr Crellin remarked that at present the current bus timetable was not really working especially as the last bus to Barrow was not ideal as there was none available to come back.

Cllr Billing informed the meeting that he had attended the last Active Travel Routes meeting who are looking at a possible cycle way from Millom to Silecroft.

176/24: CLERKS UPDATE:

The clerk had nothing further to update the meeting

177/24: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

Millom CAB

Following the letter received by the town council regarding the Millom CAB office closing concern was raised about losing this provision. Cllr Faulkner proposed that a letter be written asking for assurance that they will not take this provision from Millom and ask if they were confident that they and deliver this provision going forward, this was seconded by Cllr Billing and agreed. **Action:**

Clerk to write letter to CAB

St Luke's Church, Haverigg

A letter had been received and circulated regarding the possible closing of St Luke's Church. Cllr Brown proposed that a letter be handed to all parishioners in Haverigg asking them to support keeping the church open as a festival church. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed.

Action: Clerk to prepare letter for Cllr Brown to distribute to all residents.

Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Pledge:

A letter received in regard to the above had been received and circulated. This letter asked from two council representatives who the council would like to attend a local virtual meeting. Cllr McDonald and Cllr Faulkner put their names forward for this. **Action: Clerk to inform CALC of the two representatives.**

178/24: PLANNING:

- **4/24/2415/0F1** – Installation of an additional 7-solar lights to complete coverage of the Millom Community track, Millom School, Salhouse Road
- **4/24/2421/0F1** – First Floor Extension over Existing Garage with Internal and External Alterations to an existing Dwelling – 28 Mainsgate Road, Millom
- **4/24/2427/0B1** – Variation of Condition 2(Plans) to amend the external materials and layout to create fire escape of planning approval 4/23/2246/0F1 – Change of use of property from Former Commercial (Bank) & Residential use to proposed Millom Arts & Enterprise Centre including demolition of existing outrigger extensions and bank vault, refurbishment and landscaping and proposed extension to accommodate a ground floor café – 5 St George's Road, Millom
- **4/24/2355/0F1** – Construction of Community Leisure Centre & Associated parking & Landscaping including demolition of existing buildings & formation of temporary construction compound. – Millom School, Salhouse Road, Millom
- **4/25/2001/0B1** – Variation of Condition 2 (Plans – Amendment), Condition 3 (Drainage Details) & Condition 4 (External Wall Details) of Planning Application 4/24/2103/0F1 – Demolition of Existing Garage & Erection of a two-storey detached dwelling – Plot 8, Calderfield, Salhouse Road, Millom
- **4/25/2005/0F1** – Removal of existing chimney & flat roof garage & the construction of a single storey side extension not an existing dwelling with internal and external alterations – including a replacement roof covering – Cross House Bungalow, Millom

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The council had no objections in principle to any of the above planning applications:

Action: Clerk to write to Cumberland Planning with comments.

179.24: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The following to be added onto the next agenda:

- Millom & Haverigg Together CIC
- Haverigg Play Area

There being no further business the meeting closed at 08.55pm

Signed: Dated: 26th February 2025

ACTIONS:

- 161/24: All Cllrs to let Mayor know if they can attend prior to the meeting**
- 164/24: Clerk to investigate the purchase of hedge plants**
- 168/24: Clerk to write to CIC informing them of their approval to work in collaboration with the group. This to be placed on a regular agenda for information**
- 169/24: Cllrs Faulkner/Williamson to give presentation to secondary school in Millom, following this Clerk to submit application for funding**
- 170/24: Cllrs Faulkner/Williamson to get further information for next meeting**
- 171/24: Clerk to get further information on the possibility of leasing this building with a view to a possible purchase**
- 173/24: Councillors to look at email and respond as individuals**
- 177/24: Clerk to write to CAB**
- 177/24: Clerk to write to CALC with names of representatives**
- 178/24: Clerk to write to Planning with council's comments**