

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
26th FEBRUARY 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 D Myers, Cllr D Billing, Clerk Cath Jopson, and 3 members of the public were in attendance.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chair asked for a minute's silence to remember ex Cllr Stephen Peter who recently passed.

187/24: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr A McDonald and Cllr Crellin both apologies for their absence.

188/24: EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS:

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

189/24: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Opening the meeting the chair thanked everyone for their attendance. He stated that work on the old library building was due to start making it wind and waterproof. Remedial work had already begun on the proposed Norman Nicholson Museum in St Georges Terrace and that work was proposed to start on the Nat West bank within the next month.

Cllr McGrath congratulated to South Cumbria Skills Centre which had recently opened to provide training etc which are helping people to get back into work. He also thanked Cllr Myers for the setting up of Andy's Man Club within the town.

190/24: MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Cllr Faulkner gave a short presentation of the work that she had recently carried out during the month of February (the mayor's announcements will be attached to the end of these minutes). Further information was given in relation to the celebrations for the 100-year of the Millom Memorial. Cllr Faulkner also informed the meeting that work was due to start on the old Nat West bank in the next few weeks. Cllr Faulkner stated that £215 had been raised at the recent coffee morning towards the mayor's appeal.

Cllr Faulkner thanked Cllr Kellett for organising the coffee morning and thanks were also conveyed to Cllr Kellett for the setting up of Breakfast Club for veterans.

191/24: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No declarations of interest had been received. The clerk reminded all the councillors should their circumstances change in any way they must update their DOI's.

192/24: APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON 29th JANUARY 2025

Cllr Williamson proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 29th January 2025 be signed as a true and correct record. This was seconded by Cllr Kellett and all agreed.

193/24: ACTIONS UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Cllr McGrath reminded councillors that there was an open invitation for all to go along to the Methodist Hall on a Wednesday morning for the warm hub.

Cllr McGrath stated that a further quotation from our regular contractor had been received at the Finance Meeting prior to the current meeting and it was agreed by them to put before the council a recommendation that a new contract for 3-years be made with a clause of a yearly review. Cllr Myers proposed that we accept this contract, this was seconded by Cllr Williamson and agreed.

Action: Clerk to inform contractor of council decision

194/24: OPEN TO PUBLIC:

A member of the public who had recently held a public meeting for residents of Bank head, Haverigg and Kirksanton. It was asked if MTC would consider putting forward the following to Cumberland Authority “(the notes of the public meeting were shared with the council and the council agreed to allocate sometime in the next meeting to discuss this more fully and the motion request of the council The Chair informed the public that this will be placed on the agenda next month and that NWS was arranging a further pop in event in Haverigg. **Action: Clerk to place on agenda for March.**

195/24: ACCOUNTS/FINANCE:

The RFO informed the meeting that we were on budget for the year to date. Cllr Faulkner proposed that the accounts be signed off as a true and correct record this was seconded by Cllr Brown and agreed.

196/24: MILLOM PUMP TRACK UPDATE:

Cllr Williamson gave a quick update on the proposed pump track for the Millom Park. Cllr Williamson proposed that a planning application be made once all the drawings and information have been received, this was seconded by Cllr Myers and agreed. **Action: Clerk to submit planning application once all information available.**

197/24: HAVERIGG PLAY AREA UPDATE:

Cllr Williamson gave updates on the 2 quotations for the Dune area of Haverigg, this will replace all existing play equipment. Cllr Williamson proposed that we accept the Proludic quotation over the Playdale, although it was more expensive it fits better in the environment and also more for the older youths and young adults, the younger play area will be updated in the next phase and proposed that the clerk apply for funding. This was seconded by Cllr McGrath and agreed. **Action: Clerk to apply for funding**

198/24: TOWN DEAL UPDATE:

Cllr Kelly informed the meeting that the planning for the new Leisure complex was going through Planning Control and awaiting permission, he also stated that work on the old Nat West Bank should commence around the end of March. Cllr Faulkner had already touched on the updates for the town deal and informed the council that a workshop will be held (clerk to notify once date agreed) for all the councillors to attend ensuring they know all the updates. **Clerk to publish date as soon as received for workshop**

199/24: PALLADIUM GARDEN UPDATE:

The clerk informed the meeting that the 20-year lease from Cumberland was now in place and that work is to commence on the proposed new Nicholson Park as soon as the weather dries up. The clerk also informed the council that the £48k grant was still available for the project.

200/24: CUMBERLAND AND COUNCILLOR UPDATES/WORKGROUPS:

Cllr Kelly gave a short update regarding the proposed devolution debate for an elected mayor of Cumbria. Cllr Kelly also informed that meeting that the number of councillors for Cumberland Authority was increasing from 46 to 55 from May 2027.

Cllr Pratt informed the meeting that he had spoken to Home Group in regard to Queens Park Development, he was told that a new planning application was to be submitted for planning with less numbers that had originally been agreed. Cllr Pratt stated that at present no plans were in the pipeline for Lapstone House and, hopefully, more information would be made available around July 2025. Cllr Pratt informed the meeting that the South Cumberland Panel meeting is to be held on 26th March in the Pensioners Hall commencing 10.30am for any members of the public to attend. Cllr Pratt stated that the boundaries for electoral purposes were being looked at and may change. Cllr Pratt also stated that at present no major road works schemes for new year had been listed.

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Cllr Pratt informed the council that information from the House Build Summit the Carlisle Development had taken up all of the Cumberland 'new build' figures. It showed that there were no social housing needs within the parish of Millom and surrounding areas. Cllr Myers challenged these figures and asked if it would be possible to see where these figures came from. **Action: Cllr Pratt to investigate the housing survey figures**

Cllr Brown informed the meeting that a public meeting would be held on Friday 29th March in St Luke's institute to get the public's reaction to the St Lukes church proposed closing. Cllr Brown is wanting to keep the church as a festive church.

Cllr Myers stated that a new Andy Man's Club was being started in the Millom area to provide help with Mental Health and the open day would be on March 10th commencing at .07.00pm at the Millom Network Centre.

Cllr Liebhart informed everyone one that the new Skills Centre was now open on Devonshire Road enabling local people to be trained with qualifications enabling them to get back into work.

Cllr Williamson informed the meeting that the car park at Haverigg beach has had the sink hole filled in and the barriers will be removed this week. He reported that the fence line against the beach hut path is now in a state of disrepair. He proposed that the clerk get prices to renew and get the work carried out as soon as is possible. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed. **Action: Clerk to arrange for fence to be renewed asap**

Cllr Williamson also brought to the meeting complaints from residents who have not had their recycling bins emptied. This appears to be an occurring issue around the town. Cllr Williamson also commented on the amount of dog excrement around the town and wondered how we could educate the persons who are leaving it more accountable. Cllr Kelly informed the meeting that Paul Shearsby (Cumberland representative) would attend the next council meeting to try and address these issues and how to try and resolve them. **Action: Clerk to put on agenda for next month**

Cllr Williamson asked the council if he could propose to look into solar lighting for the back pathway onto Queens Park, this was seconded by Cllr Myers and agreed. **Action: Cllr Williamson to investigate Solar lighting**

Cllr Williamson also brought to the attention of the meeting the vehicles parked by PPM by the park, these take up nearly all the parking along this road and as Millom has not got a lot of parking spaces Cllr

Williamson proposed that a letter be sent to PPM Ltd asking them to park in their own yard and not on the highway. This was seconded by Cllr Myers and agreed. **Action: Clerk to write to PPM Ltd**

Cllr Crellin informed the meeting that the Millom Branch of the Disability Group may close due to lack of members and that they were also looking for a new secretary to help run the group. The chair asked how to help advertise this and Cllr Crellin stated that it might be helpful if it went on social media asking for a secretary and members. **Action: Cllr Crellin to liaise with the current Disability secretary and ask how they would want the advertisement to be sent out**

201/24: CLERKS UPDATE:

The clerk asked the councillors if they would be willing for their town council email addresses be made available on the Town Council website, all councillors agreed to this. **Action: Clerk to ensure all email addresses are added to website**

The clerk also asked if the councillors could give a small biography about themselves to go under their photos on the website. No decision was made.

202/24: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION:

- A reply from Ministry of Justice regarding HMP and the proposed GDF had been received, the clerk informed the meeting that it had been circulated to all parties involved and was on the website.
- A report on the proposed Devolution government consultation, the clerk informed the meeting that this had been circulated to all councillors for information

203/24: MILLOM & HAVERIGG TOGETHER CIC UPDATE:

Cllr Liebhart stated that the group was up and running now and just waiting for funding for the projects that are currently being run.

204/24: PLANNING:

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

- **4/25/2005/0F1** – Amendment – Removal of existing chimney and flat roof garage and the construction of a 1.5 storey side extension to an existing dwelling with internal and external alterations – including a replacement roof covering – Cross House Bungalow, Millom – **The council had no objections in principle to this application.**
- **4/25/2038/0F1** – Conversion and change of use of part of the existing restaurant to provide 1 x 1 bedroom & 1 x 2-bedroom flats with internal and external alterations – Restaurante Da Vinci, Market Square, Millom – **The council had no objections in principle to this application although they did feel it was a loss to the community should the restaurant in the future close.**
- **4/245/2045/0F1** – Application for lawful development certificate to install new bi-folding door to the rear – 16 Hodgson Gardens, Millom – **The council had no objections in principle to this application**

205/24: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

To go onto next months agenda: Dog fouling, Fly tipping

There being no further business the meeting closed at 08.40pm

Signed: Chair dated: 26th March 2025