

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
26th MARCH 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 A Gager-Liebhart, Cllr D Myers, Cllr D Billing, Cllr A McDonald, Cllr B Crellin, Clerk Cath Jopson, and Mr Paul Shearsby- Cumberland Council Neighbourhoods | Interim Lead Manager – Education and Enforcement | IOSH & Dog Legislation Officer (DLO), Mr Neil Dixon - Interim Service Manager for Public Places | Neighbourhoods Place, Sustainable Growth & Transport | Cumberland Council

24 members of the public signed that they were in attendance.

206/24: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr R Williamson.

207/24: EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS:

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

208/24: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Opening the meeting the chair thanked everyone for their attendance. The Chair asked if Item 8 of the agenda could be moved to the start of the meeting prior to item 5 being discussed. All agreed to this, and it was, therefore, agreed.

209/24: ENVIRONMENTAL/ENFORCEMENT ISSUES:

Mr Paul Shearsby Cumberland officer gave a short summary of what he and his team were doing to try and deal with the constant problems with dog fouling and fly tipping within Cumberland areas. He informed the meeting that he and his colleague Mr Neil Dixon had walked around the area during the day prior to the meeting and identified areas which have issues with fly tipping and dog fouling. He stated that he was working with his work teams to address these problems and work with Millom Town Council when issues arise. Mr Neil Dixon gave a short summary of his work within Cumberland Authority, and he also agreed that work needed to be carried out to alleviate these issues. Both officers stated that they would going forward putting in place some Action Plans which will, hopefully, educate members of the public to be proud of the area that they live in. The Chairman thanked both officers for taking the time to attend the meeting and all councillors felt that it had been a useful exercise. Following this both officers left the meeting.

210/24: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The chair informed the meeting that he had attended the new Drop Zone Centre in Barrow and found it very interesting and most helpful with ideas of how to run a youth centre. The chair stated that we were waiting for a valuation regarding the Salvation Army building before commencing with any further action. Regarding the CAB office in Wellington Street the chair informed the councillors that the building will now be sold. He has been reassured that the CAB will still have a service in Millom and are looking into office space somewhere within the town. He was also informed that they are short of volunteers, and they were looking for volunteers in the area.

211/24: MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Cllr Faulkner informed the councillors that there was to be a workshop for all to attend regarding the Town Deal. Cllr Faulkner asked that as many that could attend this and it will be held in the Lighthouse Centre, Haverigg from 6.00pm on 1st April. Further report from the mayor added to these minutes.

212/24: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Billing and Cllr Kelly declared an interest in correspondence received from Millom Bowling Club.

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213/24: APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON 26th FEBRUARY 2025

Councillor Brown proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 26th February 2025 be signed as a true and correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Kellett and agreed.

214/24: ACTIONS UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Cllr Pratt informed the council that he had investigated the housing survey and asked Cumberland what the plans were for Queens Park. Cumberland authority stated that they were not aware of any changes/plans for new houses on this estate within the new housing survey. **Action: Clerk to contact Home Housing asking for an update.**

The clerk informed the council that further information has been requested for the proposed pump track, as soon as this is available it will be sent to councillors for their information.

Cllr Crellin informed the meeting that the Millom Disability Group had now disbanded and that the funds held were given to local charities.

215/24: OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Following issues raised by members of the public Cllr Brown proposed that MTC hold a public meeting to discuss the pros and cons of the GDF development. This was seconded by Cllr Liebhart and all agreed. **Action: MTC to arrange for a public meeting.**

216/24: MOTION TO COUNCIL FROM BANK HEAD RESIDENTS:

Cllr Faulkner proposed that the following motion from Bank Head Residents be accepted '**We Millom Town Council, reject the area of focus being beneficial to Bank Head**'. This was seconded by Cllr Brown and all agreed. Cllr McGrath proposed that a letter be sent to NWS in order to protect the property values for the residents of Bank Head as the current property protection scheme does not compensate for loss of value, and an additional query in regard to the area of focus which includes the area surrounding the estate. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and all agreed. **Action: Clerk to write letter to NWS regarding Bank Head Estate**

217/24: ACCOUNTS/FINANCE:

Cllr Faulkner proposed that the accounts for payment and the bank reconciliation be accepted as a true and correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Liebhart and agreed.

Cllr Crellin proposed that Vicky Bradley carry out the internal audit for the years 24/25. This was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed. **Action: RFO to inform Vicky Bradley as being agreed to the post of internal auditor.**

Cllr Liebhart proposed that a donation of £200 be given to Millom Bowling League, this was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed. **Action: RFO to send out donation**

218/24: MILLOM & HAVERIGG TOGETHER CIC UPDATE:

Cllr Liebhart gave a short talk about the Millom & Haverigg Together CIC stating that the group were waiting for a reply to their application for funding for the Resilience Group.

Cllr Liebhart also informed the council that the funding for the Cancer Alliance Group had been received and forwarded to begin the cancer screening events. Nothing more to report.

219/24: TOWN DEAL UPDATE:

Cllr Faulkner reminded councillors of the meeting to be held on 1st April to discuss the forthcoming projects of the town deal.

220/24: PALLADIUM GARDENS UPDATE:

The clerk informed the meeting that work should be commencing the week of 7th April in the

Palladium Gardens.

221/24: LARGE ITEM COLLECTION OFFER:

Cllr McDonald informed the meeting that he was willing should anyone need to take large items of household goods to the refuse collection for a small fee. The chair said that Cllr McDonald would need to advertise this himself as it was not something that MTC could embark on.

222/24: CUMBERLAND AND COUNCILLOR UPDATES/WORKGROUPS:

Cllr Kelly (Cumberland Councillor and MTC Councillor for Millom) reported to the meeting that funding was now available for the proposed drainage renovation within Millom which is hoped to alleviate the threat of flooding for residents. It was reported that work should begin next year.

Cllr Kelly stated that he had repeatedly reported the lack of road lines and signs within Haverigg and Millom to Cumberland Authority.

Cllr Pratt (Cumberland Councillor for Haverigg) reported that a meeting with United Utilities and Cumberland was being arranged to investigate the issues around Haverigg beach.

Cllr Billing asked the two Cumberland Councillors if there were any updates on the present bus service. To date nothing has been reported but they did state that the current funds were for 2-years.

Cllr Liebhart informed the meeting that the new South Cumbria Skills Exchange had recently had a visit from the High Sherrif, and it has been awarded an accreditation for Health and Safety and First Aid Courses.

Cllr Crellin informed the meeting that the Millom Disability Group had now disbanded and stated that Stuart Pickering will be the contact for Adult Services for Blind.

Cllr Brown informed the meeting that confirmation of St Luke's being re-opened as a festival church had been received. An Easter Festival will be held within the church on Saturday 19th April 2025 commencing 3.00pm to help raise funds to keep the church open.

Cllr Myers thanked the mayor for her support when Andy's Mans Club had its public event.

223/24: CLERKS UPDATE:

The clerk informed the meeting that £100k had been awarded for the new Ninja Trail on Haverigg Dune play area. **Action: Clerk to order play equipment.**

224/24: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION:

- Email regarding Bank Head Haverigg – circulated prior to meeting
- Email with notes from meeting held regarding Bank Head, Haverigg – circulated prior to meeting
- Cumbria Devolution Priority Programme Consultation – circulated prior to meeting

225/24: PLANNING:

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

- **4/25/2068/0F1 – Retrospective Planning to seek approval for removing the previously approved passageway to increase the kitchen and garage areas, plus part conversion of existing garage to form utility area – 2 Lowther Road, Millom**
- **4/25/2081/0F1 – Variation of Condition 2 (External Changes) of Planning Approval 4/23/2120/0F1 – Raise the roof height, erect three storey side and rear extension. Two storey rear extension and provide a first-floor rear facing terrace – 2 Church Walk, Millom**
- **4/25/2083/0E1 – Application for lawful development certificate for internal alterations**

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and a new external wall and window will replace an existing garage door; new external door to side elevation – 14 Windermere Gardens, Millom

- 4/25/2086/0F1 – Change of use from vacant shop and dwelling to 2 x No bedroom dwellings, including new entrance door to one property and raising section to roof to rear outshot on one property – 1 Egremont Street, Millom
- 4/25/2087/0F1 – Removal of existing conservatory and garage and construction of a single storey front side and rear extension with a two-storey side extension to an existing dwelling with internal and external alterations – 64 Lowther Road, Millom

The council had no objections to any of the above planning applications. **Action: Clerk to write to Cumberland Authority.**

226/24: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr McGrath informed the council that Whartons Garage were going to put EV charge points in and that they would like a letter of support from the Council. Cllr McGrath proposed that the clerk write a letter of support, this was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and all agreed.

A letter had been received by the Clerk from the Millom Bowling Club asking if they could site a container in the park to store their equipment (mowers etc). Cllr McGrath suggested that two councillors meet with the club to discuss this ensuring it will not interfere with the proposed pump track in the park.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.45pm

Signed: Chair dated: 26th April 2025

ACTION:

- 214/24: Clerk to contact Home Housing in relation to Queens Park Development**
- 215/24: MTC to make arrangements for a public meeting**
- 216/24: Clerk to write letter to NWS regarding Bank Head Estate area of Focus**
- 217/24: RFO to inform Vicky Bradley as being agreed to the post of internal auditor**
- 223/24: Clerk to order play equipment**
- 225/24: Clerk to write to Cumberland Planning Authority**