

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28th JUNE
2025 COMMENCING 07.30PM
IN THE METHODIST HALL, MILLOM

PRESENT: Cllr R Williamson (Chair), Cllr S Faulkner (Mayor), Cllr J Kellett, MTC/Cumberland Cllr B Kelly, Cllr A Liebhart, Cllr D Billing, Cllr B Crellin, Cumberland Cllr A Pratt, Cath Jopson (Clerk), Gillian Hoyle (RFO/Assistant Clerk). 8 members of the public were also in attendance including members of Shackles Off.

Prior to the commencement the Chair informed the meeting that it would be recorded for minute taking only.

30/25: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllrs McDonald, Chatterton, Brown.

A letter of resignation had been received by the Clerk from Cllr D Myers (Clerk to inform Cumberland Authority and deal with the necessary paperwork following the resignation.

31/25: EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC:

Nothing to exclude.

32/25: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. The Chair then asked the meeting if they would agree to bring forward Item 9 – Presentation from Shackles Off. All agreed to do this. Following this agreement the Chair invited representatives from Shackles Off to give a short presentation of the work that they do with youths.

Following the Shackles Off presentation the Chair informed the meeting that it was hoped that the new Ninja Trail would be opening next Monday if the post inspection has been completed and signed off.

33/25: SHACKLES OFF PRESENTATION:

Representatives Mandy Taylor and Joanne Pears gave the meeting a very informed insight to the extensive services that they provide to the community. Cllr Billing thanked them for their excellent presentation and was impressed with the work that is currently being carried out within Millom and surrounding areas. The Chair thanked them both for coming and also giving a very in-depth insight to their work. (Shackles Off Annual Report attached to the minutes for information)

34/25: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No declarations of interest had been received.

35/25: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAYOR MAKING MEETING HELD ON 28TH MAY 2025 AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD:

Cllr Kelly proposed that these minutes be signed as a true and correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed.

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36/25: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 27TH MAY 2025 AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD:

Cllr Billing proposed that these minutes be signed as a true and correct record this was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed.

37/25: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28TH MAY 2025 AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD:

Cllr Kellett proposed that these be signed as a true and correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and agreed.

38/25: ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The only outstanding issue was with the Clerk trying to find out who the miner's statue in the market square belongs to. The clerk informed the meeting that she had been speaking to representatives from Cumberland and that they stated that it was put there with EU monies and it should be the responsibility of the MTC to get it repaired. **Action: The Clerk to write to Cumberland Legal Department seeking confirmation of this.**

39/25: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

A further question that came from a resident was about the proposed closing off one end of the market square, their concern was about the bus turnings. Cllr Faulkner informed the meeting that the Town Deal Committee were looking into this problem, and it may well be that the market square remains the same with one road in and one road out.

Ex Cllr McGrath took time to thank Cllrs Williamson, Faulkner and the Clerk for their hard work in getting the new park insitu in Haverigg before the school holidays. He also congratulated Cllr Williamson on his role of chair and Cllr Faulkner for her 3rd year in succession as the Town Mayor.

One resident brought to the attention of the council their thoughts on the proposed GDF Project stating the benefits should it come to fruition, these thoughts will be attached to the minutes for reference. Cllr Billing stated that he thought that MTC should be back involved with the partnership. The Chair thanked the member of the public and noted their comments. (attached to the minutes)

40/25: ACCOUNTS/FINANCE COMMITTEE:

It was proposed by Cllr Faulkner that the accounts be approved for payment/note the bank reconciliation, this was seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed.

The RFO asked the council to consider closing MTC Reserves Fund and the Mayor's Appeal Account in the Furness Building Society and merge with the Co-Op Bank. It was proposed by Cllr Faulkner to action this, seconded by Cllr Kellett and agreed. **Action: RFO to arrange for Furness Building Society Account to close and merge with current Co-Operative Bank.**

The RFO requested that she be able to change signatories of the current Co-operative Bank and update. It was proposed by Cllr Faulkner to do this, seconded by Cllr Kellett and agreed. **Action: RFO to update signatories on Co-operative Bank**

41/25: TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE FOLLOWING POLICIES

- Standing Orders – The draft copies had been circulated for councillors' perusal. Cllr Kelly stated that he thought that the word 'Chairman' should be replaced at the next review and be worded as 'chair'. This was noted for the next review. Cllr Billing proposed that the Standing Orders be accepted, Cllr Faulkner seconded this and all agreed. The Chair then duly signed the document.
- Financial Regulations – The clerk explained that these had been updated with the new procurement figures adopted within the policy. Cllr Liebhart proposed that these be accepted, it was seconded by Cllr Faulkner and all agreed. The Chair then duly signed the document.
- Volunteering Policy - Cllr Billing proposed that this policy be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Liebhart and all agreed. The Chair then duly signed the document.

42/25: REVIEW OF COUNCIL WEBSITE:

Cllr Faulkner requested that following the quotation to update the current MTC Website so that it would be more accessible, to have a gallery, promote events and videos of various celebrations etc that the council have carried out from Whamos at the cost of £3,000. Cllr Kelly stated that it would be good to have more insight and details of what exactly this cost would involve. **Action: Cllr Liebhart to request a more detailed quotation.**

43/25: CUMBERLAND AND COUNCILLOR UPDATES/WORKGROUPS:

Cllr Kelly began informing the meeting that following the recent flooding work was being carried out to help those that were recently flooded and that plans were being made to push forward the new water/sewerage system within the town and that a business plan was being put together in this regard and that Cumberland needed to update residents of the plan as it is being put together.

Cllr Kelly stated that, hopefully, the issues around the bin collections would be resolved and have passed on the complaints to the relevant authority.

Cllr Kelly also stated that people would not be able to sign on at the Millom Hub and not have to travel to Barrow to do this. The chair welcomed this news.

Cllr Kelly also asked the council to send their thoughts on the regulations for the town, ie 2-hour parking, one-way system, white lines etc and send them to the Highways by emailing

Martyn.taylor@cumbria.gov.uk

Cllr Pratt informed the meeting that he had attended the South Copeland Community Panel meeting where Cllr Kelly was now the designated interim chair and that funding had been granted to MTC for the solar lights to install in the Palladium Gardens following the clerk's application.

Cllr Pratt informed the meeting that a private meeting of the South Copeland GDF Partnership was due to be held on Thursday 26th June and that he has been voted as interim chair for the foreseeable future. Cllr Pratt indicated that Millom Town Council if they expressed an interest would be welcomed to re-join the group. Cllr Williamson requested that a workshop prior to any expression of interest be held to help the council understand the full extent of the GDF. **Action: Cllr Pratt to organise a workshop for Cllrs to attend.**

Cllr Faulkner thanked Cllr Liebhart for preparing a draft copy of a proposed newsletter. All agreed that this was a good idea and that Cllr Liebhart take this further. **Action: Cllr**

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Liebhart to look further into producing a newsletter.

Cllr Williamson stated that hopefully the safety checks etc will be carried out within the next few days at the Ninja Trail Park in Haverigg, the official opening date will be Tuesday 8th July at 1.30pm and that a class from Haverigg Primary School will be in attendance. Cllr Williamson stated that he was also due to have a further meeting with a resident from North Lane to discuss the impact on their properties etc with the proposed GDF.

Cllr Billing asked if the South Copeland Partnership was to withdraw from the siting of the proposed GDF would the funding still be available, Cllr Pratt informed him that it would not.

Cllr Liebhart asked councillors to forward anything they had or wanted to go into the newsletter. **Action: All cllrs to forward any information they want to be placed within the newsletter**

Cllr Kellett asked the meeting if Events could be included within the agenda for councillors input. **Action: Clerk to add this to the agenda**

44/25: CLERKS UPDATES/INFORMATION:

- The clerk informed the councillors that they all needed to have their DBS checks in place by the end of August. This can either be done by themselves or contact Cllr Liebhart to sort this out. The council will cover the costs for this to happen. **Action: All Cllrs to get their DBS check carried out.**
- The clerk reported that the funding for the Palladium Garden planting scheme was not successful
- The clerk reported that due to residents complaining about the prison workers working down the slag bank and play area they have not been completely pulled away from this area. It is noted that they did not go near the play area but this has been probably confused with Cumberland workers who have the same high vis jackets.
- The clerk informed the meeting that the ROSPA checks will be carried out during the month of August in both Millom and Haverigg (small area) parks.

45/25: HAVERIGG DUNE PARK:

The chair informed the council that additional costs had been incurred due to the extra wood needing replaced around the zip line at a cost of £1800. Cllr Kelly proposed that the sum of £800 be made towards this, this was seconded by Cllr Liebhart and agreed.

46/25: MILLOM TOILETS:

Cllr Faulkner proposed that the clerk look into funding and apply for new modular toilets with changing places for the disabled, this was seconded by Cllr Kellett and agreed.

Action: Clerk to look for funding and submit

47/25: UPDATE ON SALVATION ARMY BUILDING:

The clerk informed the meeting that the survey had been carried out on the building and was awaiting the report.

48/25: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION:

Nothing to discuss on any correspondence received.

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49/25: PLANNING:

The following applications had been received for comments:

- 4/25/2183/0F1 – Proposed introduction of four electric vehicle charging bays (2 chargers) and associated external works – Wharton Garage, 1 Duke Street, Millom
- 4/25/2209/0E1 – Lawful Development Certificate for the construction of a detached lodge providing annex accommodation to the existing building – Stoup Dub Farm, Haverigg

The council had no objections in principle to either of the above applications but did want a letter of support for the 4/25/2183/0F1 sending. **Action: Clerk to inform planning department of decision.**

50/25: ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO NOTE FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

The following to be added on the next agenda:

- Community Plan
- South Copeland Partnership update
- Website Update
- Events

There being no further business the meeting closed at 08.50pm

Signed: Vice-Chair Dated: 30th July 2025