

**MINUTES OF A ZOOM MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 29th JULY 2020 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT: Cllr A Dixon (Mayor), Cllr T Dixon, Cllr S Carter, Cllr R Pattinson, Cllr J Brown, Cllr T Fitzwilliam, Cllr R Cummings, Cllr R Kelly, Cllr D Billing, Cllr G Brace, Cllr J Jakubowski, Cllr D Billing, Cllr S Donnelly, Cllr S Faulkner, Clerk V Bradley and Assistant Clerk C Jopson

Members of the Public: Mr R Morris-Eyton (chair of the Towns Fund Bid) and two others

013/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr B Crellin, Cllr R Peter

014/20 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The mayor began her address to the Council. She stated that there were around 200 empty houses in the Millom area and she felt that this was unacceptable and needed to be looked into further with perhaps a councillor taking on this task. The Mayor has been informed by ACT that we cannot legally stop houses been purchased for holiday homes. **Action: Cllr Billing/Clerk – to forward CBC contact to Cllr Billing**

The Town Plan has been revisited by Cllr A Dixon and Cllr S Faulkner. They noted that a few things needed updating. Another household survey would be beneficial to update this and it was proposed to carry out this survey along with Around the Combe Group. **Action: Cllr Jakubowski/Cllr A Dixon**

Planning permission needs to be submitted for the stone work that was given to the Council for siting down the bottom of Lancashire Road. **Action: Clerk**

It was suggested that it might be a good idea to plant wild flowers in and around the areas of Millom and Haverigg. **Action: Cllr R Pattinson**

It was reported that the Millom & Haverigg Civic Society have requested that the large boulders on the dunes be removed. **Action: Cllr S Faulkner/Haverigg Inshore Rescue**

Inspection of Millom Park is to be carried out Thursday 30th July at 9.00am. **Action: Cllr Cummings & Cllr Kelly**

015/20 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest

016/20 ACTIONS UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Ward Inspections - Cllr T Dixon and Cllr G Brace are yet to co-ordinate a date to carry out ward inspections. Cllr Billing was also asked if he would be able to help with this. **Action: Cllr T Dixon, Cllr G Brace, Cllr D Billing, Cllr S Carter, Cllr R Pattinson and Cllr R Kelly**

Millom Park Inspection – Due to unforeseen circumstances this has not been carried out. A new date has been arranged (see above). **Action: Cllr R Kelly & Cllr R Cummings**

017/20 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH JUNE 2020:

Cllr T Dixon proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 24th June 2020 be signed as

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a true and correct record. This was seconded by Cllr T Fitzwilliam

018/20 TO NOTE THE MINUTES FROM THE A&R MEETING HELD ON 17TH JULY 2020

- **Pavilion** – Cllr Cummings gave an update on the Pavilion and had written up a business plan which was ready to go. Copies will be sent out to all councillors for their consideration when the clerk receives it.
- **Park Funding Bid** - Cllr Jakubowski gave an update following the distribution of her business plan which had been circulated to all councillors for their information prior to the meeting. She informed the Councillors that it would be possible to split the works into phases. Phase 1 being the largest project costing in the region of £100k. Cllr Jakubowski informed the councillors that there was grant money available from FCC Communities Foundation and the park fell within the areas applicable for grants. One criteria for this funding was that we need to match fund approx. £10750, it was confirmed that there was money in the budget for this. There was a short discussion and it was unanimously agreed to go ahead and submit the proposal for grant aid.
Action: Cllr Jakubowski
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019/20 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Item 27 Stronger Towns Bid – This item was forwarded on the agenda to enable Mr Morris-Eyton to update the Council.

Robert Morris-Eyton, Chairman for Millom Stronger Towns Fund Bid gave the councillors a small talk on proposals for the bid. He informed the councillors that discussions were taking place. He stated that the first thing that had to be carried out was a Strategic Report showing evidence for the grant money and that this had to be submitted by 31st January. Copeland Borough Council is the accountable body to make sure that the report is viable to submit.

He stated that there were 8 key points initially to look at, these were:

- Tourism
- Environment
- Derelict buildings
- Historical Heritage
- Transport
- Industry
- Leisure
- Training

The Mayor thanked Robert Morris-Eyton for his contribution to the meeting and he stated that he would be happy to attend future council meetings to give updates when called upon. At 20.11pm Robert Morris-Eyton left the meeting.

020/20 CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL:

CCC Cllr Hitchen had emailed the clerk that there was nothing to report at present.

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021/20 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:

The Clerk had received no reports back. Cllr Jakubowski is to make contact with the CBC councillors once a month.

022/20 MILLOM TOWN COUNCILLOR & CLERK'S UPDATE:

- **Accounting Statements and Annual Governance** - Cllr T Dixon proposed that the accounting and annual governance forms be signed as a true and correct record. This was seconded by Cllr Fitzwilliam.

023/20 QUEENS PARK REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

- **Removal of plants at Queens Park** – Unfortunately it had not been possible to co-ordinate the removal of plants. It was, therefore, unanimously decided that it would be best to leave this project. **Action: Clerk**

024/20 HAVERIGG ISSUES:

- **Condition of Main Street Road** – Cllr Faulkner reported that the road in Main Street was now in a hazardous condition and where the utilities companies have been working it has now sunk and a large hole is starting to appear. It was agreed that a meeting should be set up with the Highways Authority to discuss all highway problems in the Millom and Haverigg areas. **Action: Clerk**
- **Camper Van Parking** – Cllr Brown informed the Council that there had been numerous reports of camper vans parking overnight and sometimes for days on the front over the concrete square area and that bins were overflowing with rubbish which is not being emptied on a regular basis by CBC. The Clerk informed the Council that it was in talks with CBC to see if new larger bins could be placed in the area. The Clerk had sought permission off the land owner to ask if we could erect some signs stating that there is No Overnight Parking. They replied saying that they had no objections to us carrying this out. As this land is not owned by Millom Town Council after a short discussion it was agreed not to put the Millom Town Logo onto the signs as advised by our solicitors. The council were also informed that the camping areas in the area were overflowing at the time. The beach front was also advertised on a website stating that it was a free overnight wild camping area. It was agreed to maybe looking into who actually owns that strip of land on the foreshore front and to see if a Bye-law could be put in place. **Action: Clerk**
- **Playground and general of Haverigg Park** – Cllr Brown raised the point that the playground area is now looking very shabby at Haverigg. It was agreed to refer this item back to the next A&R Meeting. Concern was also raised about the bins around Haverigg Park and café. The Clerk informed the Council that this is in hand with CBC. **Action: Clerk**
- **Dynamic Dunescapes Project Information** – Cllr Faulkner informed the Council that this project was due to start in the autumn. This will be a 4-year project removing the gorse to encourage the habitat to come back; it is being backed by the National Heritage Fund. Cllr Faulkner will be attending a meeting which will be held in the future and update the council as and when appropriate. They were also looking into the John Muir Award. **Action: S Faulkner**
- **Millom & Haverigg Civic Society** – Cllr Faulkner informed the council that the Society

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were intending to put in a bid for £40k to help improve access around Hodbarrow and provide interesting aspects of the mining and nature reserve history. The councillors involved in this project are Cllr Faulkner, Cllr Kelly and Cllr Billing. Information will be relayed to the council as and when there is anything to report. **Action: Cllr Faulkner, Cllr Kelly, Cllr Billing (as and when required).**

025/20 HMP WORKING PARTY:

The clerk informed the Councillors that she had been in touch with the Prison Authority and as yet they have no-one available to carry out work in the area. It was suggested that a meeting be arranged with the Prison Authority to discuss working parties and work that they would be able to help with and carry out. **Action: Clerk to arrange meeting**

026/20 CARE/RESIDENTIAL HOMES IN MILLOM:

A letter of concern had been received with regard to families not being able to use the local care/residential homes in Millom. Letters had previously been sent to the authorities in charge of this raising the Council's concerns and the response was not ideal. The Clerk has asked CBC F Wilson to have a look at the problems and see what else can be done. It would appear carers are being sent into private homes until they cannot manage to help patients, therefore, needing them to have full nursing care. It is then not appropriate to keep them housed in local establishments as the level of care is out of their remit. A reply letter acknowledging these concerns has been sent to the concerned resident. It was unanimously agreed that a meeting should be set up inviting Trudy Harrison (our local member of parliament) along with a representative from CCC to attend to discuss the ongoing issues. **Action: Clerk**

027/20 STRONGER TOWNS FUND BID UPDATE:

This was discussed in the public section of the Agenda.

028/20 SOCIAL HOUSING:

Cllr T Dixon informed the councillors that he would send the clerk a document he had received in regard to the Social Housing proposals for Millom to circulate to councillors for their information. He stated that there were a number of Home Group properties coming onto the market which would be suitable for the project. Cllr Dixon proposed that a small working group be formed with a possibility of developing a business plan. Cllrs T Dixon, A Dixon, R Peter, D Billing agreed to be part of the working group. **Action: Cllr A Dixon/Cllr T Dixon to co-ordinate meeting**

029/20 NEWTON STREET PROPERTY:

Following receipt and circulation of the updated lease agreement it was unanimously agreed by all Councillors to go ahead and agree the lease of the property for a term of 10-years initially for the Newton Street Property. It is hoped that things can be sorted in as short of time as possible so that the offices can be moved. **Action: Clerk to write to Home Housing**

030/20 PUBLIC REALM UPDATE:

It was agreed to defer this until the next meeting.

032/20 SOUTH COPELAND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE:

The Councillors were updated on the recent meeting. It was noted that it was unfortunate

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that the Duddon Estuary Partnership was going to be dissolved at the present time. It was hoped that a new committee could be set up in the future.

033/20 INSTALLATION OF MUSICAL EQUIPMENT IN MILLOM PARK:

It was considered that a possible location for the musical equipment which had been constructed by the Millom STEM group would be where the old exercise equipment was sited or adjacent to the disabled swing. Cllr T Dixon is meeting Play Dale on Monday 3rd August and would ask for their comments. A meeting is to be arranged with Millom STEM Group to see where their preferred site would be. **Action: Cllr T Dixon**

034/20 FARMERS MARKET:

Cllr T Dixon informed the council that a Farmers Market was being arranged on 30th August down on the industrial estate. Cllr A Dixon will be taking table bookings and organising the necessary risk assessments/COVID 19 regulations. **Action: Cllr A & T Dixon**

035/20 REMOVAL OF UNSAFE PLAY EQUIPMENT IN MILLOM PARK:

Following a report from a local parishioner Cllr T Dixon went along to the play park to look at the monkey bars. He reported that the metal section of the bars in question were corroded and needed to be removed. The Clerk informed the councillors that she had taped the area off until the part in question could be removed. As this was not a Play Dale piece of equipment they were not prepared to repair it. It was proposed and agreed that this part of equipment be removed as soon as possible leaving the remainder intact if possible. **Action: Clerk**

036/20 PLANNING:

Three planning applications had been received as follows:

- **CH/4/20/2229/OF1 - Change of use of two shops (Class A1) into two 4-bedroomed dwellings (Class C3) – 14 Main Street, Haverigg** – There were no objections in principle to this application but were concerned that as the plans show two parking spaces at the back of the properties for a four-bedroomed house they would expect there to be at least two cars per family home. Main Street is heavily congested at the best of times and there is also a bus stop near to the property. We have some reservations in allowing the change of property use.
- **CH/4/20/2257/OF1 – Erect single and two storey extensions at 4 Moor Park, Millom** – The Council have no objections in principle to this application
- **CH/4/20/2275 – To erect extension to rear elevation of property** – The Council have no objections in principle to this application.

37/20 ACCOUNTS:

It was proposed by Cllr T Dixon that the accounts be signed ready for payment. This was seconded by Cllr T Fitzwilliam. **Action: Clerk**

38/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Following issues were raised:

- **Church Walk** – Cllr R Pattinson was concerned that the church walk pathway is very overgrown. The Clerk informed the council that it was going to be work allocated for

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the prison authority to clear but unfortunately due to the COVID-19 this has not happened. (It was felt that this and other footpaths maintenance should be included in the Town Plan). **Action: Cllr A Dixon/Cllr S Faulkner**

- **A&R Committee** – Cllr G Brace proposed that a possible sub-committee be formed from the A&R to investigate the way forward in respect of ward inspections. Cllr A Dixon stated that a letter be written to CBC asking what is happening with the cleaning and weeding of our streets as it was not acceptable to rely on our staff to do their work. The assistant clerk informed the Council that CBC were getting another person off his isolation period shortly to carry out work on cleaning the streets of Haverigg and Millom but as yet there was no transport available to enable him to carry this out. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr A Dixon also commented that our worker Mr Clark had been working well in and around the area cleaning as much as he could, given the circumstances she also asked for the clerk to chase up training for his spray certificate. **Action: Clerk**

- **Road Sweeper** – The Clerk informed the Council that the road sweeper had now been ordered and would, hopefully, be delivered in around 6-weeks.
- **Millom Town Council Website** – Cllr D Billing raised his concerns in regard to the updated website for the Town Council, he stated that he felt it should be updated as soon as possible. The Clerk informed the council that this was already being looked into. This to be discussed at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.19hrs.

Signed: Cllr A Dixon, Mayor Dated:

ACTIONS:

014/20 – Cllr D Billing - To obtain figures/details of empty/holiday houses

014/20 - Cllr J Jakubowski – Household survey for Town Plan

014/20 – Clerk – To obtain planning for stone work

014/20 – Cllr R Pattinson – Wild Flowers

014/20 - Cllr Faulkner – to liaise with Haverigg Inshore Rescue

016/20 - Cllr R Kelly & Cllr R Cummings – to arrange Millom Park inspection

018/20 - Cllr J Jakubowski – To submit a Park Funding bid

023/20 - Clerk – to write letter stating that it is no longer viable to remove plants from Queens Park area to Home Housing.

024/20 - Clerk – Arrange a meeting with Highways Authority

024/20 - Clerk – To arrange for signs to be sited on Haverigg Beach Front

024/20 - Clerk - To chase up larger bins in problem beach areas

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- 024/20 - Cllr S Faulkner – Updates as and when of Millom & Haverigg Civic Society
- 025/20 - Clerk – to arrange a meeting with HMP regarding working parties
- 026/20 - Clerk – to arrange a meeting with local member of parliament and councillors to discuss the ongoing problems in relation to Care/Residential homes in Millom
- 028/20 - Cllr T Dixon, Cllr A Dixon – to co-ordinate a sub-committee and meeting
- 029/20 - Clerk - to write letter accepting terms of lease on Newton Street
- 033/20 - Cllr T Dixon – to liaise with Millom STEM Group and arrange suitable site for musical instruments in the Millom Park
- 034/20 - Cllr A Dixon, Cllr T Dixon – to arrange Farmers Market
- 035/20 - Clerk – to arrange for damaged equipment to be removed
- 036/20 - Clerk – to write letter in regard to planning applications
- 037/20 - Clerk – To arrange for payments of invoices
- 038/20 - Cllr A Dixon/Cllr S Faulkner – to attach data in regard to footpaths into the Town Plan
- 038/20 - Clerk – To look into the possibility of a sub-committee to investigate the way forward in respect of regular ward inspections
- 038/20 - Clerk – to chase up update of website