

# MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 25 February 2013 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.

## Present

Councillor Ms D Charlton	Councillor Ms G Elliot
Councillor Mrs A Kendall	Councillor P Kendall
Councillor D King	Councillor Mrs C McCarron-Holmes
Councillor G Mitchell	Councillor A Moore
Councillor W Pegram	Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe
Councillor Mrs J Wood	Councillor M Wood

## In Attendance

Mr P Bramley (Clerk)  
Mrs V Patterson (Press)  
Mr H Wurmstrup, Vice Chairman, Cumbria in Bloom  
Mr T Magean, Allerdale Borough Council

### 36/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Long & Councillor Ms C Tindall.

### 37/12 Declarations of Interest

None received.

### 38/12 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

### 38/12 Minutes of Meeting held on 19 November 2012

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 November 2012 be confirmed as a correct record & signed by the Chairman.

### 39/12 Presentation from Cumbria in Bloom

A presentation was given by Henry Wurmstrup from Cumbria in Bloom. The aims of the organisation were to: create a stronger sense of community; provide cleaner & greener surroundings & a safer environment; instil increased local pride & community empowerment; provide a healthier local environment with less litter & higher quality green spaces; encourage communities to commit to implementing environmentally

sustainable practices; reduce anti-social behaviour; provide a positive effect on the local economy; & encourage the regeneration of run-down areas.

The organisation had various schemes through which it involved schools, businesses, councils, etc. Grasslot Infants & Ewanrigg Junior Schools, for example, were taking part in the school programme. Schemes could focus on particular areas, such as small derelict sites, through, say, the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' scheme, or on particular themes. Mr Wurmstrup saw it as very important to involve schools & school pupils in proposals, & encourage them to make suggestions & bring forward ideas. Local providers could be involved, & themes could be based around, say, local industry, such as the fishing industry in Maryport.

**Resolved** that Mr Wurmstrup be thanked for his presentation, that the Council consider its potential involvement in Cumbria in Bloom at a future meeting & that the availability of unrequired tubs, troughs, etc, resulting from reductions in service that Allerdale Borough Council was implementing be investigated.

#### **40/12 Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor announced that he had attended the following events:

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1) 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2012  | Met with Eon regarding access to funding   |
| 2) 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2012  | Maryport Lights Switch-on  |
| 3) 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2012   | Maryport Traders' Meeting  |
| 4) 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2012  | Officially opened Well Lane Flats  |
| 5) 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2012  | Carol Service in Fleming Square  |
| 6) 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2012  | Pantomime at the Sands Centre, Carlisle  |
| 7) 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2012  | Churches Together Carol singing.   |
| 8) 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2013   | Met United Utilities & Environment Agency representatives at Flimby regarding flooding |
| 9) 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2013   | Met DWP representatives regarding Job Centre closure                                   |
| 10) 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2013  | Churches Together Meeting  |
| 11) 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2013  | Emergency Planning Meeting   |
| 12) 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2013  | Opening of the new gym at Moorclose Sports Centre                                      |
| 13) 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2013  | Opened the new Library at Netherton Infant School                                      |
| 14) 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2013  | Met Allerdale Borough Council Planning officers at Flimby regarding flooding           |
| 15) 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2013 | Save our Soldiers Charity event  |

The Mayor also announced that a Council Surgery would be held on 2 March, from 10.00 am until 12.00 pm, at Grasslot Welfare Club, which all councillors were encouraged to attend. The Mayor expressed the view that such surgeries had proved popular in the past & enabled those who are unable to visit the Council offices during opening hours to receive assistance.

**Resolved** that the Mayor's announcements be noted.

#### **41/12 Correspondence**

**Resolved** that the request for dispensation for absence from Council meetings until June 2013, as a result of his attendance at Queen's University, Belfast, submitted by Councillor A Long, be agreed, noting, in particular, his record of involvement with the Council & with Council events.

#### **42/12 Review of Standing Orders**

**Resolved** that revised Standing Orders, taking into account changes introduced by the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, be agreed.

#### **43/12 Council Vacancies**

**Resolved** that:

- 1) The basis for the incidence of three vacancies on the Town Council be noted.
- 2) It be agreed that Town Council vacancies can be filled on the basis of a written application with supporting evidence outlining the applicant's skills, experience, reasons for applying & suitability for the role.

#### **44/12 Applications for Council Vacancies**

**Resolved** that written applications to fill vacant positions on the Town Council in the Ewanrigg Ward received from Mr B Carter of 27 North Street, Maryport & Mr G McAlpine of 64 The Beeches, Maryport, supported by Councillor P Kendall, be agreed, & the applicants advised of the success of their applications.

#### **45/12 Calendar of Meetings 2013/14**

**Resolved** that the Calendar of Meetings for 2013/14 be agreed as follows:

Monday 15 April	Committees
Thursday 25 April	Annual Town Assembly
Monday 20 May	Mayor Making
Monday 3 June	Full Council, (Committee Chair Selection), & Committees
Monday 1 July	Full Council and Planning & Economic Development
Monday 29 July	Committees
Monday 2 September	Committees
Monday 30 September	Full Council and Planning & Economic Development
Thursday 17 October	Budget
Monday 28 October	Committees
Monday 25 November	Full Council and Planning & Economic Development
Monday 9 December	Committees
Monday 13 January	Committees
Monday 10 February	Full Council and Planning & Economic Development
Monday 10 March	Committees

#### **46/12 Allerdale Area Working Proposals**

**Resolved** that no decision be made on Allerdale Borough Council's proposals for Area Working, based on concerns that:

- 1) Area Working Groups would add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy, replicating the work of other councils.
- 2) Area Working Groups would remove the ability of local councils to control service levels in their areas.
- 3) Existing arrangements were considered sufficient & appropriate.
- 4) Government funding cuts were encouraging principal councils to seek the transfer of services & assets to local councils, which would potentially impact on local precepts.
- 5) The improvements which the Town Council had made by taking on responsibility for particular services could be lost.

#### **47/12 Risk Assessment & Management Review 2012/13**

**Resolved** that the Risk Assessment & Management Review 2012/13 be accepted & the proposals for the management of identified risks & supporting actions be agreed.

#### **48/12 Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit 2012/13**

**Resolved** that, taking into account the evidence available & the size of the Council & its range of operations, the Council's arrangements complied with the Accounts & Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006, & that the Internal Audit Plan be agreed.

#### **49/12 Housing Benefit Changes (Bedroom Tax)**

**Resolved** that:

- 1) The Council's considerable concerns with the introduction of benefit changes intended to reduce the cost of benefits to the government & to free-up apparently under-occupied housing be expressed, noting, for example:
  - a) The extent of unemployment & low wages in the local economy.
  - b) The likely impact of these & other changes being introduced on the poorest people in the area, making their hardship much worse.
  - c) The lack of suitable alternative housing for those considered to be 'over-occupying' property.
  - d) The considerable anomalies in the changes, which would penalise certain householders by failing to take account of legitimate & unfortunate circumstances which they find themselves in, such as the elderly, disabled, parents of soldiers, & those with broken marriages.
- 2) The Council write to the Secretary of State for Work & Pensions, & the Local Government Association, expressing its concerns with both the Housing Benefit changes & the apparent lack of concern being demonstrated by the government towards the most vulnerable in society.

**50/12 Post Office Sorting Office, Maryport**

**Resolved** that the Council write to the Post Office, expressing concerns at proposals being considered to close the Maryport Sorting Office, asking that it recognise the difficulty many Maryport residents would have in accessing the Workington office as an alternative, & the impact the closure is likely to have on the local economy, & to give recognition to the size of the population served by the Maryport office, compared to other Sorting Offices in the county.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, a meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee commenced.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....