

# MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Assembly held on Monday 12 April 2021 virtually, as permitted by The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”), at 7.00pm.**

## Present

<b>Councillor S Ashworth</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs A Kendall</b>
<b>Councillor P Kendall (Chairman)</b>	<b>Councillor D King</b>
<b>Councillor W Pegram</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe</b>
<b>Councillor Ms C Slater</b>	<b>Councillor Ms S Stamper</b>
<b>Councillor Ms C Tindall</b>	

## In Attendance

**Mr P Bramley (Clerk)**  
**Mrs L Douglas (Clerk)**  
**Mrs V Patterson (Press)**

Prior to the start of the meeting, a minute’s silence was held in memory of HRH Duke of Edinburgh & those who had lost their lives to the covid 19 pandemic. Councillor Kendall reported on an occasion when family members had met the Duke, & on his sense of humour exhibited at that time.

### **1/21 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Hampson, P Mallyon, Mrs C McCarron Holmes, J Newton, Mrs J Wood & M Wood.

### **2/21 Minutes of Annual Town Assembly held on 9 April 2019**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on 9 April 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **3/21 Annual Report of the Town Council**

The Mayor, Councillor Mr P Kendall thanked the Council’s Clerks for ensuring that the Council had continued to operate throughout the previous year through the period of the covid 19 pandemic. He reported on the visit to the area of the County Sheriffs for the past two years, visiting Maryport facilities & unveiling the heritage sign recognising Britain’s first black policeman, John Kent.

Councillor Kendall reported on the level of support given by the Town Council to various groups & organisations over the previous two years, including the provision of VE75 Day

commemorative mugs to all primary school pupils in the area, the funding of a soft play area at The Wave & support for the development of a swimming pool in Maryport by the Swimming Pool Trust, of whom he gave special mention to Ms Anna Leigh Holliday. Councillor Kendall reported that a virtual lights switch-on & tour of the lights with Santa had been arranged for 2020 & that following the cancellation of the Christmas Lights Switch-on Festival for 2020, Christmas goody bags had been provided to all primary school & nursery school children in the area. He hoped that the numerous cultural events which the Town Council supported, including schools' sports days & carnivals, would be able to take place in some format in 2021, & gave particular mention to the achievements of Flimby & Maryport Primary Schools, whom the Town Council had been proud to support, in reaching the regional finals of the Schools' Rock Challenge competition, which Maryport Primary School succeeded in winning.

Councillor Kendall reported that he felt privileged to have spent three years contributing towards the development of the bid for funding for the regeneration of Maryport & thanked the members & officers of Allerdale Borough Council & Cumbria County Council who had similarly contributed.

Councillor Kendall pledged that the Town Council would continue to support the communities of Flimby & Maryport, that he was proud to serve the area as a councillor & that he would continue to support it with a passion.

#### **4/21 Annual Report on the Council's Finances**

The Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee, Councillor Ms C Tindall, reported that 2020/21 had been a strange one for Maryport Town Council. Along with the rest of the world, the services the Council carried out & the funding it provided to others to support their operations & put on community events had been severely impacted by the covid 19 pandemic.

Planned community celebrations & commemorations, such as VE75 Day, Remembrance Day & Christmas Lights Switch-on Festival had had to be cancelled due to restrictions on communal gatherings, & alternative arrangements made where possible, such as virtual entertainment for Easter & Christmas. The same restrictions had impacted directly on local carnivals, trawler race, firework show & other events which the Council supported financially, requiring their cancellation. As a result of these changes, there had been a significant financial underspend in 2020/21.

Alternative applications of some of the unused budget had been made. Funding was provided to organisations struggling due to their funding sources being impacted & sites for the provision of additional defibrillators agreed across the area. Funding had been provided to enable Shiver Me Timbers to be repaired & re-opened in Summer 2020. Councillor Tindall reported that any savings would be reserved & applied in due course for the benefit of the Maryport & Flimby communities.

The provision of services continued to be challenging for councils, with both borough & county councils continuing to cut back on roles they had traditionally carried out, as a result of the severity of cut backs in central government financial support for local government. The financial pressure had impacted hugely on local councils & had been reflected in the budget increase considered necessary for 2020/21 by the Town Council. The Town Council had a crucial role locally in helping to address the impact of service cuts, not only maintaining but seeking to improve services in the town & surrounding areas.

Councillor Tindall reported that audits of the Council's operations had not only passed but had received exemplary reports, both in financial management & governance procedures.

The Council continued to make environmental improvements in the Flimby & Maryport areas & Councillor Tindall reported that in 2021/22 the Council would be providing commemorative & heritage features, together with additional flower displays. The Council had arranged for the provision of three CCTV cameras in Maryport & had budgeted for more in the area.

Councillor Tindall reported that over the coming year, the Council would, subject to any ongoing restrictions, continue to support events & charities which served the community, & endeavour to keep improving the town & its environs. In the provision of services, the Council would look to use local businesses wherever possible & seek out value for money. Councillor Tindall thanked the Clerks, Paul Bramley & Lisa Douglas, for their exceptional work during the previous year, particularly in finding ways of continuing to provide events & services in the face of covid 19 restrictions. Their exceptional work was reflected in the exemplary external reports which had been received, both in financial management & governance procedures.

## **5/21 Observations of Allerdale Borough Councillors for each of the Town's Wards**

### **Report from Councillor P Kendall, Allerdale Borough Councillor for Flimby Ward**

Councillor Kendall reported that he continued to deal with Flimby issues on a daily basis & had continued to do so throughout the period of the covid 19 pandemic. Since Storm Desmond had impacted so drastically on Flimby, he had worked, together with Councillors S Ashworth & K Little, as a member of the Flimby Flood Group, in association with the Environment Agency & Cumbria County Council to deal with the development of measures to mitigate flooding problems & identify funding. He reported that work to implement flood protection measures was due to commence imminently, managed by Cumbria County Council.

Councillor Kendall reported that, along with Councillors Ashworth & Tindall, he had played an active role in the allocation of Flimby Wind Farm funding, advising that no funding applications had been turned down.

Councillor Kendall expressed his hopes that Flimby Carnival would take place in 2021, stating that he enjoyed assisting with its operation. He thanked Allerdale Borough Council for commencing work on a new footpath at Flimby Cemetery following his lobbying, & reported his pleasure in continuing to serve the people of Flimby.

### **Report from Councillor I Greaney, Allerdale Borough Councillor for North Maryport Ward**

No report received.

### **Report from Councillor G Kemp, Allerdale Borough Councillor for North Maryport Ward**

No report received.

### **Report from Councillor A Kirkbride, Allerdale Borough Councillor for North Maryport Ward**

No report received.

### **Report from Councillor P Little, Allerdale Borough Councillor for South Maryport Ward**

Councillor Little reported that since being elected in May 2019, he had worked in close partnership with Home Group to resolve a number of residents' concerns regarding issues such as broken pavements, damp and vermin. He advised that he had contacted Cumbria County Council on a daily basis with regards to potholes and the unnecessary closure of Household Waste Recycling Services.

Councillor Little reported that he had supported the Council in its bid to be successful in the Maryport Regeneration programme and welcomed it coming into fruition. He had also worked with both United Utilities and Electricity North West to make dangerous paths safe in winter months, resulting in more grit bins being provided for the estates.

Councillor Little reported that during his period as a councillor and as the Armed Forces Champion, he had attended numerous events to support veterans in the local community. He advised that he had also taken part in several fundraising events, raising a substantial amount for charities.

### **Report from Councillor Mrs C McCarron Holmes, Allerdale Borough Councillor for South Maryport Ward**

Councillor McCarron Holmes reported that at the time of preparation of her report, the successful Better Towns funding, whilst verbally granted, had still to be confirmed in writing by the Secretary of State. She reported that whilst the bid had been for some £16 million, the award had been just over £11 million, which had necessitated cutting out some of the public realm work proposed in the original bid. She reported that the purchase of Christ Church, the Carlton and possibly some other buildings on Senhouse Street was necessary to enable the work required to commence. She advised that a Business Group had already been established, as well as a Cultural Group, & that public consultation had been undertaken to assist with the bid in accordance with bid requirements. She reported that that, in addition, Maryport had received Heritage Action Zone funding of less than £1 million, which was actually very welcome.

Councillor McCarron Holmes reported that she was involved in an Oral History project and that a contract for its presentation had been awarded for the all-important log of the history of the town. Also, a Cultural Mapping project had been incepted to enable further bids to be made, as Maryport was sadly in the bottom 33% of culture-based activities in the country.

Councillor McCarron Holmes reported that the covid 19 lockdown period had affected the services of Allerdale Borough Council. All meetings had been held virtually, which had drawbacks as well as benefits. As shadow Deputy Leader of the Council, she met on a monthly basis with the Chief Executive to discuss concerns and matters we felt to be lacking.

### **6/21 Observations of Cumbria County Councillors for each of the Town's Wards**

#### **Report from Councillor K Little, Cumbria County Councillor for Maryport South**

No report received.

#### **Report from Councillor Mrs C McCarron Holmes, Cumbria County Councillor for Maryport North**

Councillor McCarron Holmes reported that schooling from home during the covid 19 lockdown period had produced problems for many families who did not have access to technology suitable to facilitate effective learning & that it had become quite an issue locally and nationally. In addition, the question of free schooling during school holidays had shown families in crisis.

Councillor McCarron Holmes reported that Cumbria County Council had been chosen as a pilot area for local nature reserve management.

Councillor McCarron Holmes reported that a concern for her personally for a long time was the Mote Hill, so she had initiated a project for a Maryport Local Nature Reserve. Mote Hill was owned by Allerdale Borough Council and had a beauty which she believed should be brought forth. She saw it as a facility for local schools as well as nature groups wishing to visit in years to come.

Councillor McCarron Holmes reported that the covid 19 pandemic had proved that existing inequalities had been exacerbated, for which all local authorities had to try to assist wherever possible. She advised that the daily radio report from the Director of Public Health, Mr Colin Cox, had been welcome, & that his direct link into SAGE, the government scientific advisory group, had been a boon to all who listen to his sometimes stark but also uplifting messages.

## **7/21 Statements & Reports from representatives on Organisations in the Town**

### **Report from Councillors W Pegram & Ms S Stamper on the Citizens' Advice Bureau**

Councillors W Pegram & Ms S Stamper reported that covid 19 restrictions had impacted on the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau in 2020/21. The service had continued to operate through telephone & video calls, which had been especially important given the number of families in crisis as a result of the impact of the pandemic.

### **Report from Councillor P Kendall on the Fawcett Johnson Charity**

Councillor Mr P Kendall reported that the Trust continued to support ex-naval personnel and their widows. He advised that whilst it was a small trust, recipients receive a bursary annually. The number of recipients had dwindled over the previous ten years or so to around thirty five & each had received a contribution of £70 in 2020/21.

### **Report from Councillor Ms C Tindall on Flimby Wind Farm Community Fund**

Councillor Tindall reported that the covid 19 pandemic restrictions had meant the cancellation of events in 2020/21 for which funding had been provided. Recipients affected in that way had been permitted to retain funds & would receive a smaller grant in 2021/22 to adjust.

### **Report from Councillor P Kendall on the Industrial Alliance**

Councillor Kendall informed the meeting that he was the Council's representative on the Industrial Alliance & explained its background as a lobbying organisation, relevance to the area & the benefits of funding received.

### **Report from Councillor P Kendall on the John Collins Charity**

Councillor Kendall reported that the charity was for the support of widows in the former Ellenborough Ward of Maryport & that payments were small & issued to qualifying recipients upon application.

**Report from Councillor W Pegram, representative on Maryport Harbour & Marina Authority**

Councillor W Pegram advised that the director of Maryport Harbour & Marina would like to thank the Town Council for its continued support. He advised that Town Council grant funding was essential for the ongoing repair & replacement of ladders used by fishermen & other sailors for access from the harbour. The Marina expansion of its touring caravan site & introduction of camper pods reflected the demand for such facilities in the area.

**Report from Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe on the Senhouse Museum Trust**

Councillor Radcliffe reported that the covid 19 pandemic restrictions had impacted significantly on the operations of the Senhouse Roam Museum. During the period of closure, a number of enhancements had been made to the site & a new book was planned. Councillor Radcliffe recommended that the area's Roman history & its status as a world heritage site be actively promoted. The Trust was planning the involvement of schools in new projects when permitted.

**Report from Councillors S Ashworth & Ms C Slater on Solway Area of Natural Beauty**

Councillors S Ashworth & Ms C Slater reported that a five-year development plan was under preparation. Whilst work had been impacted by the covid 19 pandemic, volunteers had been able to catch up with maintenance work in the summer. Public reporting had been undertaken through webinars operated in conjunction with the group's counterpart on the Scottish Solway coast.

**8/21 Resolutions for which Notice had been given**

None received.

**9/21 Questions from Parishioners**

None received.

**10/21 Members' 2020/21 Meeting Attendance Record**

Maryport Town Council members' attendance figures were noted.

The meeting finished at 7.45pm.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....