

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Monday 13 May 2024 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillor S Ashworth	Councillor C Bell
Councillor B Copeland	Councillor V Cuthbert
Councillor J Cuthell	Councillor I Greaney
Councillor G Hampson	Councillor P Hetherington
Councillor S Merrin	Councillor G Mitchell
Councillor D Peggs	Councillor L Radcliffe
Councillor C Slater	

In Attendance

P Bramley (Clerk)
Mrs L Douglas (Clerk)
Invitees & members of the public

1/24 Election of Mayor 2024/25

Resolved that Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe be elected Mayor of the Council for the Council Year 2024/25.

2/24 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Resolved that the Mayor's signature to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office be noted.

3/24 Election of Deputy Mayor 2024/25

Resolved that Councillor J Newton be elected to the role of Deputy Mayor of the Council for the Council Year 2024/25.

4/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors J Hastewell, G Kemp, C McCarron-Homles & J Newton

5/24 Appointment of Committees

Resolved that all councillors be appointed as members of the Allotment Committee, the Planning & Economic Development Committee & the Finance & General Purposes Committee for 2024/25, & that the Terms of Reference for the Council & each of its committees be as follows:

1) Council

- a) To approve the Budget & set the Precept.
- b) To approve & set the Policy Framework.
- c) To determine the Council's Standing Orders.
- d) To appoint the mayor.
- e) To determine terms of reference for committees, decide their composition & make appointments to them.
- f) To appoint Chairmen of committees, (subject to internal arrangements).
- g) To make appointments to outside bodies, unless otherwise delegated.
- h) To approve the Annual Return.
- i) To review the Council's Internal Controls.
- j) To review the Council's Risk Management arrangements.
- k) To deal with all other matters which must, by law, be dealt with by the full Council.
- l) To be responsible for the ratification of meeting records.

2) Allotment Committee

- a) To take decisions on behalf of the Council with regard to the operation of allotments.
- b) To determine policy & procedures for the operation of allotments.
- c) To review the list of applications for allotment plots on a periodic basis.
- d) To consider requests for exchange of plots.
- e) To make proposals to Finance & General Purposes Committee regarding allotment rent levels.
- f) To make appointments to outside bodies within its remit.
- g) To review all appropriate correspondence & communications dealing with matters of an allotment nature & take such decisions as are considered necessary.
- h) To consider & address any other matters in respect of allotment issues.
- i) To be responsible for the ratification of meeting records.

3) Finance & General Purposes Committee

- a) To take decisions on behalf of the Council with regard to Finance & General Purposes matters, the latter being defined as any matters not falling within the remit of another committee.
- b) To make recommendations on the budget & the precept to the Council.
- c) To make recommendations on the policy framework to the Council.
- d) To take decisions to implement the Council's policies & procedures.
- e) To determine how expenditure on services should be undertaken.
- f) To determine fees & charges levels for Council services.
- g) To monitor the budget.
- h) To determine the nature & level of reserves held.
- i) To receive reports from the Internal Auditor & take decisions as deemed necessary.

- j) To approve the Council's banking arrangements.
- k) To review & authorise payments.
- l) To consider & authorise the write off of bad debts.
- m) To consider & authorise variations to contracts.
- n) To manage the Council's assets.
- o) To determine the Council's Financial Regulations.
- p) To make recommendations on Standing Orders to the Council.
- q) To take decisions on Council staffing, including arrangements for payment of salaries.
- r) To make appointments to outside bodies within its remit.
- s) To review all appropriate correspondence & communications dealing with matters of a financial &/or general purposes nature & take such decisions as are considered necessary.
- t) To consider & address any other matters in respect of finance & general purposes issues.
- u) To be responsible for the ratification of meeting records.

4) Planning & Economic Development Committee

- a) To take decisions on behalf of the Council with regard to Planning & Economic Development matters.
- b) To consider applications for planning permission & submit observations to the appropriate planning authority.
- c) To receive notifications from the appropriate planning authority on planning issues.
- d) To review and update the town development plan & develop local policies as appropriate.
- e) To consider any matters relating to Highways.
- f) To consider any matters relating to Licensing.
- g) To make appointments to outside bodies within its remit.
- h) To review all appropriate correspondence & communications dealing with matters of a planning & economic development nature & take such decisions as are considered necessary.
- i) To consider & address any other matters in respect of planning & economic development issues.
- j) To be responsible for the ratification of meeting records.

6/24 Selection of Committee Chairmen

Resolved that:

- 1) The following members be selected as Chairmen & Vice Chairmen for the stated committees:
 - a) **Allotment Committee**
 Chairman: Councillor W Pegram
 Vice Chairman: Councillor S Ashworth

b) **Finance & General Purposes Committee**

Chairman: Councillor S Ashworth

Vice Chairman: Councillor J Newton

c) **Planning & Economic Development Committee**

Chairman: Councillor C Slater

Vice Chairman: Councillor J Hastewell

2) Chairmen of Committees' Responsibilities:

- a) To ensure the overall coordination & management of the committee's functions, with responsibility for matters of detail.
- b) To chair & manage committee meetings & ensure the committee achieves its terms of reference.
- c) To ensure the efficient carrying out of the processes for which the committee has responsibility.
- d) To demonstrate fair & open decision making by or on behalf of the committee.
- e) To ensure members' information needs are met so they can contribute fully to the decision-making process.
- f) To ensure committee members obtain the necessary skills to contribute to the work of the committee & to work with officers to provide training if necessary.
- g) To be willing to learn about the professional disciplines & services relevant to the work of the committee.
- h) To initiate & develop constructive relationships with members, officers & partners.
- i) To initiate and/or evaluate potential partners' ideas prior to presentation to committees and council.
- j) To ensure accurate records of all meetings, including those outside Council & committees, are maintained.
- k) To act as a bank signatory on behalf of the Council.

7/24 Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies 2024/25

Resolved that the following members be selected as representatives on the stated outside bodies:

Cumberland Council Maryport Regeneration
Town Board

Councillor S Ashworth
Councillor C Bell
Councillor I Greaney

Adventure Playground Sub Group

Councillor C Bell
Councillor G Hampson
Councillor J Hastewell
Councillor C Slater

Harbourside Sub Group

Councillor G Hampson
Councillor I Greaney
Councillor L Radcliffe

Promenade Sub Group	Councillor C Slater Councillor I Greaney Councillor J Hastewell Councillor L Radcliffe
Streetscape Sub Group	Councillor S Ashworth Councillor G Hampson
The Wave Sub Group	Councillor C Bell Councillor P Hetherington Councillor D Peggs
Citizens' Advice Bureau Fawcett Johnson Charity	Councillor Ms J Hastewell Councillors S Ashworth & L Radcliffe
Flimby Windfarm External Monitor	Councillor C McCarron Holmes
Maryport Harbour & Marine Authority Solway Coast Protected Landscape Social Enterprise Group	Councillor J Newton Councillor C Slater All interested members

8/24 Outgoing Chairman Announcements

Councillor Linda Radcliffe reported that she could honestly say that 2023/24 had been a year of great change in Maryport. The town had seen some major developments and redevelopments begun and progressed; some new alliances had been formed, and she considered that people were beginning to believe that if they worked together on projects, everyone would benefit. The building projects seemed to have gone on for a long time, but were approaching completion on the High Street, the showcase for visitors, for it is in such locations that the town, like every other town, was judged by visitors. Councillor Radcliffe advised that she did not subscribe to 'Facebook' but those who did kept the rest informed of contributors' pleasure or displeasure and, in her opinion, if you wanted an honest opinion, you could do no better than ask a Maryport resident. She was thankful that so many of the younger residents had been consulted in the development of 'entertainment' geared to that age group. She was also thankful that, over the years, the Council had continued to support groups such as the Army and Sea Cadets and Scout movements, and seen future leaders being trained for the adult world. In addition, she doubted whether there was another town or community the size of Maryport that could boast of having won a World Championship two years running in America. Cheer Force Knights Maryport, through 'Lady Supremacy' and 'Miss Empire International' teams were represented again when they travelled back to America to compete at the All-Star Worlds Competition in Florida, and came back as World Champions for the second year in a row, a massive achievement for the club as a whole. On behalf of all the Council, she offered congratulations to the athletes, coaches and everyone who was involved in that unique club.

Those were just some of the good things, but of course, everyone involved needed to continue to strive to achieve completion of those developments which would add to the attraction of a future Maryport.

Councillor Radcliffe reported that she had met lots of young citizens during the year, not only representing their schools, but also on the wonderful occasions such as the School Art Exhibition which made it onto the TV news, and had visitors to one venue, St. Mary's Church, asking if they could purchase some of the displayed artwork from the schools. There was also an Easter Egg Hunt on 10th April for children in the community which was organised by the Town Council. Children had to complete the colours of a multi-coloured picture of an Easter Egg by locating pictures on the lamp posts in the town centre. Those who got it correct were awarded an Easter Egg as a prize at Maryport ARLFC, where an afternoon of free children's entertainment was held both indoors and outdoors, including bouncy castles, trampolines, fairground rides and face painting; great fun was had by all.

Councillor Radcliffe reported that the Town Council was working with local artist Alan Roper to produce some new signage for the area, which promoted another piece of history that should be better recognised, the former Coke Ovens. The ovens were used to produce coke for the adjacent Netherhall blast furnace at the southern end of Furness Road. A Combination of limited excavation and documentary sources has shown that they were built sometime after the blowing-in of the furnace in 1754 but before the final sale of the blast furnace in 1783. The ovens were constructed of dressed sandstone and lined with brick and were of an unusual non-beehive form. They were best described as rectangular barrel-vaulted form, with an unloading door at the front base and a 'flu' and/or loading chute at the rear top. The ovens differed from each other in minor detail and some showed evidence of alteration. On present knowledge, they were considered to be the oldest coke ovens in Britain, and therefore probably, in the world. Councillor Radcliffe advised that an eye should be kept on the Council's social media pages for an unveiling event date.

Councillor Radcliffe advised that those examples were why she wished to thank personally all Town Council members who had listened and spoken in debates and contributed to the work that the Town Council had done over the past year. She advised that she was truly grateful to every member who felt able to work for the betterment of all in Council Meetings. Most of all, she thanked the two Clerks for steering the Council through some choppy waters at times, both of whom should take credit for their unfailing wisdom and support of all the Council had done collectively, as a body of representatives of the Maryport area.

Finally, Councillor Radcliffe offered a 'heart-felt thank you' to fellow councillors who had shown a willingness to put aside personal preferences and work as a team for the common good of Maryport.

9/24 Vote of Thanks

Councillor S Ashworth gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor L Radcliffe, thanking her for all she had done in the area &, noting that she had been re-elected to the role for 2024/25, wished her luck for the upcoming year.

The Meeting finished at 7.40 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date