

Silloth Town Council September Meeting

Following on from the discussion at the Town Council's AGM, the lease for the Community Hall was discussed, with all the possibilities for the future of the building coming under discussion.

The two main ways forwards are:

(1) A lease for 28 years is signed. This would mean that the Hall would continue to be run by the Management Committee, as it is at present, and they would continue to be responsible for the interior of the building and the Town Council would be responsible for the exterior of the building.

(2) That the Town Council take on the management of the building. As the Community Hall is the only asset that the Town own, many councillors believe that they owe it to the people of Silloth to take on the responsibility of the running of the building, along with representatives of user groups of the Hall.

In a deep discussion the many aspects of the arguments of both cases were openly discussed. Opinions were voiced about the cost of hiring rooms in the premises and no timetable for user groups being on view for people to see. The fact that a 28-year lease was too long, even though there is a clause, which means that this, can be revoked at anytime. Who would be responsible for hiring the rooms, opening the building etc., if the Town Council took on the responsibility for the building.

After a long open and frank discussion it was agreed that

members of the Council would meet with the Secretary of the Hall to find out the daily responsibilities of running the building. Following that meeting and its outcome, a decision regarding the future of the hall would be decided next month.

ALSO

It was agreed to ban dogs from the Eden Street Playing-field and the Sports-fields, a fence is to be erected around the area in the very near future along with notices showing that dogs are banned from this area. A sub committee of councillors is to decide what future amenities there will be on the green, including a small train, extension of the putting green, etc. They may also consider putting the amenities out to tender.

The Town Council has made a donation of £100 to restoration of the Church organ in Christ Church.

There will be no commercial stalls at next years Carnival. There has been some confusion by local stall-holders over the right to place stalls on the green on Carnival day. It has been discovered that they may be breaching trading rules and that the insurance taken out for the event by the Town Council, may not cover this type of trading.

Council A.G.M.

At long last the Silloth Town Council held their AGM. It had been postponed from the usual date in May because of the foot and mouth breakout in the area at that time.

Seventeen Citizens of the town attended the meeting, which was held in St Andrews Hall.

Many items were discussed and congratulations were offered to the Town Clerk, Ms Jameson-Brown, on the production of the Town Annual Report, which has been available from local shops, the library etc., from Tuesday of that week.

Major causes for concern were the negotiations for the leases of the Green and Eden Street Playing-fields, which are due for renewal in the next few years.

The lease for the Community Hall was also discussed. At present there is no lease in place despite the fact that negotiations between members of the Town Council and the Management Committee have been taking place for sometime. Mr. Bill Jefferson, Town Councillor, reported that a draft lease was available and would be discussed fully at the next meeting.

There had been problems regarding the length of the lease, 28 years, and whether there should be a lease at all, as the Town Council had discussed taking over control of the building on a permanent basis. A vote of thanks was given to the Management Committee of the Hall for all the work they had done over the past year.

A vote of thanks was also given to everyone who had been involved in the successful events that had taken place over the summer months in the town, these included the Vintage Rally, Beer Festival, Its a Knockout, The Annual Carnival, etc.

In ending, the Mayor Mr Bill Allison thanked all his

fellow councillors for the work they had put in over the past year. He added that he felt that the last two years had seen a turning point in the fortunes of the town and that the people of Silloth should be proud of the work the Council had done as a whole over this period of time.

STORYSACKS A new way to read

This is an exciting new project that is hopefully to be established in our area this autumn.

Both in school and at home a child's reading is given a very high priority and we are constantly seeking new and improved way of supporting reading development.

A new initiative, which has been used successfully throughout the country, is STORYSACKS.

These are stimulating resources which aim to both capture a child's interest by bringing books to life and to provide parents with material that will help them enjoy reading together with their child at home.

In order to establish a Storysacks library in Silloth we need the help of volunteers.

If you can spare some time and can draw, sew, knit, make games or would be prepared to shop for items or help run a crèche, please don't hesitate to contact me at the address below. Thank you

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