

Reports by Graham Wilkinson

Mayors Report

A report on the January meeting of the Town Council

Ten members attended, the Chairman reported on the attendance at the town Carol Service, helped judge the Christmas Lights Competition and had attended a social evening arranged by the Mayor of Allerdale.

Minutes of the December meeting were agreed true. PC Andy Robertson had submitted a written report with his apologies as he was unable to attend. The report stated the sale of the old Police Station appears nearer.

The Pub Watch scheme has excluded five individuals to date with a possible addition at their next meeting. The report on events attended within Silloth include several relating to Mini Moto's & Scrambler type motor cycles being used on streets, the Green and the Playing Field area, all of which are illegal, one motor cycle was confiscated. There were several thefts and several disturbances.

Correspondence dealt with included, the Cumbria Countryside access strategy document. A.B.C. tree preservation order relating to a tree at the rear of Marsh House, Skinburness. A letter from Wigton Town Council requested we back the campaign to retain all services at Wigton Cottage Hospital, this we fully support and a letter to that effect will be sent to Wigton Town Council and the Health Authority.

A request from Silloth First Response Team for funding for the rental of the pagers was agreed as in previous years.

Two letters were received from the new head of Solway Community Technology College. The Susie Shepherd one related to the annual prize day, which the Chair was to attend. The other was for the £400 funding of an award for a prize for citizenship.

Planning applications dealt with this month included works at Stanwix Park, which were agreed, however a planning application for the redevelopment of the West Silloth Motors site



Graham Wilkinson
Mayor of Silloth

was refused, this now goes to Allerdale for the final decision.

Reports from representatives on outside bodies were given and it was noted Silloth Tourism Action Group have a new Secretary.

Allerdale and County Council reports included the opening of some of the cockle beds in the middle of the Solway with a limit of 1 ton per boat per day, this was to make it not viable for large boats from out of the area.

Ken Wannop gave his report on works to date much of which related to damage caused by vandals, all of which has to be paid for by the rate payers of Silloth, this included damage in the childrens playing field amounting to over £1,000.

One matter adjourned from last months meeting was the petition for the replacement of the vandalised seat in the bus shelter on Eden Street. Whilst the Council are mindful of those who have to wait between buses the Council have also had discussions with residents on Eden Street and the top end of Solway Street who all find it much more peaceful as the youths do not now gather all night as they were doing previously. There is far less damage, rubbish, broken bottles etc. The Council took a vote on whether or not to return the seat, the majority of members agreed against this action.

A request that hedges within the Crofts, which overhang the footways, be cut back is to be passed to Capita/Highways to investigate as they have the powers to enforce residents to remove such obstructions.

Budget Setting
the Rate for 2006/07.

Following long discussions the Town Council have this year been able to reduce their rate precept by £500 on last year, this will in some way go towards moderating the rise which was levied

by Cumbria County Council and Allerdale Borough Council on us all.

Good housekeeping by our grounds maintenance team of Ken Wannop and Joe Chambers (helped through the summer months by Sid Brough) on the Green, housing estates and school fields have helped the budget.

In the next financial year the council have agreed the following; £5,000 towards upgrading the Christmas Lights with a view to having feeder pillars on Eden Street and Criffel Street, which will enable us to have legal lights to modern standards; £3,000 sponsorship of the Vintage Rally, which is the only rally within the county that is unable to charge an admittance fee; £2,500 for the Regeneration Partnership to help towards attracting funds to upgrade facilities at the paddling pool, sports field and childrens play area; and £3,000 to continue the upgrade of the Community Hall, which is used by many groups within the town along with others from outside the town.

Update of the Tree Saga in Silloth.

Just prior to Christmas I was informed by Peter Marr (Capita Highways) that he had been unsuccessful in his bid to gain funding for any work within Silloth, however he said he was pressing the Arboriculture Department based at Penrith to see if they could acquire funding to prune the trees.

At our January Town Council Meeting we received a planning application relating to crowning and polling of most of the trees within

the town due to the fact we are a conservation area.

At our initial meeting with Capita we stated pruning was acceptable but we were dead against any mass pollarding, this fact is to be related to Allerdale Borough Council who will make the final decision on the application.

Following the Town Council Meeting I have again spoken to Peter Marr who informs me there is still no money for any work and that the planning application is in place so that if funds are found the work can be carried out as soon as possible.

Post Script to the Tree Saga.

On Tuesday 31st January a meeting was held regarding the ongoing saga of the trees, in attendance were Trevor Cooke, Capita (CCC) Steve Long, A.B.C. Planning Dept. together with Councillors Proud, Jefferson, Markley & Wilkinson. We were informed that money had been found for some works to be carried out, but this may be the last chance as there is no guarantee of funding in the future. (Where do our rates go?) These are County Council trees which are not the responsibility of the Town Council.

Following lengthy discussions it was felt that apart from any overhanging branches on Criffel Street and Lawn Terrace the trees would be left intact.

With regard to those within the residential streets it was felt the best option was to poll them all, so as to allow 2 to 3 years before any work would be again required. This may not be looked on as the best way by some town residents, but if we were to have some trees polled and others left this it was felt would only cause conflict.

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