

**MINUTES OF AN ZOOM MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 31ST MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT: Cllr R Peter (in the chair), Cllr R Kelly, Cllr G Brace, Cllr B Crellin, Cllr S Faulkner, Cllr R Pattinson, Cllr D Billing, Cllr J Jakubowski, Cllr T Fitzwilliam, Cllr J Brown, Mrs Vicky Bradley (Clerk) and Mrs Cath Jopson (Assistant Clerk), CBC Cllr Ged McGrath, Richard Scorton (Natural England/Dune Landscapes), Eve Mulholland (Natural England/Dune Landscapes) and Jenny Brumby (Shop Local Co-ordinator, CBC)

173/20: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllrs A & T Dixon and Cllr S Donnelly

174/20: MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Mayor's announcement had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting this is the detail:

"I find it very positive that we are such a busy Council with every councillor contributing to both our debates and work. We are lucky to have such wonderful and hard-working clerks. However, I am becoming somewhat concerned about the quantity of after-hours emails, we are generating.

It is absolutely necessary to communicate when there is a clear and present danger to the public such as flooding or more recently, poles. I absolutely accept that. However, I would ask you to consider the Clerk's if there is a request or debate after working hours and hold off if possible. I should emphasise that I need to do this as well and that the Clerks have never complained to me at least, I just think it is a matter of working courtesy".

175/20: DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

Cllr R Peter declared a pecuniary interest in item 13 on the agenda

176/20: ACTIONS UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – TO REVIEW ANY INCOMPLETE ACTIONS:

The Clerk informed the Councillors that all actions for the clerk had been carried out.

Action 166/20 – Cllr Billing to draft a response to local government consultation. This was still ongoing and Cllr Billing requested that any more comments need to be given to him before the end of the first week in April.

177/20: TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2021:

It was proposed by Cllr Graham Brace that the minutes from the meeting held on 27th January 2021 be signed as a true and correct record. This was seconded by Cllr R Kelly.

178/20: TO NOTE THE MINUTES FROM THE A&R MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2021:

It was noted that the minutes from the recent A&R Meeting had been circulated for information to the Councillors.

179/20: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

CBC Cllr G McGrath raised a couple of issues that the public had spoken to him about. The first one was in regard to the hanging baskets in the square which looked an eye sore. It was agreed to remove these as soon as possible. **Action: Clerk to arrange for removal of hanging baskets**

He also raised the question of maintenance to the existing benches in the parish as one that had been donated was in need of some maintenance and was asked who would be expected to

**MINUTES OF AN ZOOM MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 31ST MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM**

upkeep them. Cllr Brace asked if the maintenance of benches could be added to the town audit of issues around the parish. This was agreed. **Action: Clerk to add list of benches to existing maintenance list**

180/20: DYNAMIC DUNESCAPES:

Richard Scorton addressed the council and informed them that the gorse had finally been removed and chipped. He went on to say that they are looking to set up a volunteer group to address the problem with litter that had been exposed since the removal of the gorse. Ongoing works will consist of the planting of willow coppicing, regular litter picks and the possibility of holding summer activities. Cllr Billing raised his concerns about the justification for the removal of gorse and in his opinion that since the removal of the gorse the area looked a mess. Eve Mulholland informed Cllr Billing that all details were on their website. Cllr Brown informed the Council that in her opinion since all the gorse had been removed the banks looked well and she was very pleased with the outcome.

Cllr Faulkner asked if further information could be given with regard to possible grazing on the dunes. Richard Scorton informed the council that he would gather the information together and send it for distribution.

The mayor thanked Richard Scorton and Eve Mulholland for attending the meeting and giving the Council up to date information on the Haverigg Dunes.

181/20: CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE:

a) LGR Update – Cllr Billing

Councillor Billing informed the councillors that the response had to be returned by the middle of April and anyone wanting to add to the response need to contact Cllr Billing by the first week in April.

182/20: COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT:

a) One-Way system for Millom Town

Cllr Kelly asked if there had been any response to the Council asking for a one-way system in the town. The clerk informed the council that nothing had been received as yet. **Action: Clerk to email Craig McCarron asking where we were up to with the possibility of a one-way system through the town.**

b) One Unitary Body for Copeland

CBC McGrath informed the council that Copeland Borough Council were looking to agree to the unitary collation of Copeland being within the whole west coast joining together as a whole body, this would appear to be the best option.

c) Waste issues

CBC Cllr McGrath informed the council that there was a fund of around £600k to help alleviate issues that are arising with the waste problems. There had been a Task and Finish Group that had been set up to deal with all these issues, especially the recycling waste that appears to be blowing around the area causing a litter issue.

d) Shop Local Campaign

Jenny Brumby, CBC Shop Local Co-ordinator informed the council that she had now been in post for several months and would like to meet some of the councillors to discuss the

**MINUTES OF AN ZOOM MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 31ST MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM**

Welcome Back Fund of around £160k which was available to four main areas and the smaller villages/coastal areas prior to the opening of shops etc. This could include making the areas more desirable to shoppers and visitors to the towns, villages etc. The money could be also going towards the purchase of flower planters, benches etc. Jenny stated that she would like to continue meeting the councillors on a regular basis. All agreed to this. **Action: Jenny Brumby to organise meeting**

183/20: MILLOM TOWN COUNCILLOR AND CLERKS UPDATE:

a) Response from Haverigg Prison

A response from Haverigg Prison had been circulated to all councillors for their information. Cllr Kelly stated he felt that we would be wasting a great resource. Cllr Peter stated she felt that the council should explore the issues felt by the community and introduce the working parties into the community in a controlled and safe way. Cllr Billing proposed that Cllr Kelly draft a response to the Prison Authority, this was seconded by Cllr Peter.

Cllr Brace stated that the reply letter should state that the council as a whole were happy to facilitate and support this and help to build some bridges within the community.

b) Beach Café and Update

The clerk informed the council that she had arranged for the testing of the beach café roof.

c) Review of Policies and Procedure

- Disciplinary Procedure – It was agreed to accept this policy
- Document Retention and Disposal Procedure – It was agreed to accept this policy
- Co-option Policy – It was agreed to accept this policy
- Complaints Procedure – subject to an address for the Council being updated it was agreed to accept this policy
- Data Breach Policy – It was agreed to accept this policy
- Fire Risk Assessment – It was agreed to accept this policy
- Health & Safety Policy – Cllr Billing reported that he felt that this policy needed to be updated and added to in line with HSG65. Cllr Kelly proposed that Cllr Billing look into this and amend for consideration by the council at the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Billing to look into amending the policy**
- Coronavirus Risk Assessment – this to be deferred until next meeting. **Action: Cllr Billing to look further into this assessment**
- Fire Risk Assessment – It was agreed to accept this policy
- Grant Funded Project – Ratification Process - Cllr Billing queried whether the process had been followed and wanted an example. Cllr Jakubowski confirmed that the process had been followed in the light of the funding for the new park. It was agreed that the council accept the policy be accepted

d) Co-option – to co-opt following Cllr Cummings resignation

One application had been received from CBC Cllr Ged McGrath. A vote was taken and it was agreed that Mr Ged McGrath be appointed as a new Town Councillor. It was noted that Cllr Billing abstained from the vote. **Action: Clerk to inform applicant of his success**

e) Norman Nicholson Festival – Request for donation

A request had been received for a donation towards the proposed Norman Nicholson Festival. All agreed that a donation of £200 be given.

**MINUTES OF AN ZOOM MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 31ST MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM**

f) To note the resignation of Cllr Carter

Cllr Peter wished Cllr Carter all the best in her retirement from the Council and that she would be missed greatly. The clerk informed the councillor that she had informed CBC of the vacancy within the council. Awaiting notice from CBC to advertise the vacancy.

184/20: MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL – MEETING PROTOCOLS/ISSUES:

Due to the absence of Cllr A Dixon this item on the agenda to be deferred until next month.

Action: Clerk to add on April agenda

185/20: MARKET STALLS - TO DECIDE ON STORAGE:

Unit 3 informed the Council that they wanted a rent of £30/month for the storage of the market stalls. The clerk informed the Council that she had a price for a shed from Haverigg Prison circa £1400. Cllr Jakubowski informed the Council that once the park was finished there would be storage available in the container. All agreed that this was a good idea. **Action: The clerk to inform Unit 3 of outcome.**

186/20: SOUTH COPELAND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE:

Cllr Kelly stated that at present there was nothing to report in regard to the South Copeland Partnership.

Cllr Billing informed the councillors that the working group for the GDF presentation was progressing slowly

187/20: TOWNS FUND BID/UPDATE:

Cllr Kelly informed the councillors that due to the purdah dated 21st March no publications or information is not allowed due to election process. The meeting for applications that have been submitted will be given at the next meeting in May 2021.

188/20: MILLOM IN BLOOM/ALLOTMENTS:

Cllr R Pattinson suggested that an additional category be added to the Millom in Bloom competition under the heading of Vegetables/Allotment and that it would be available for anyone to take part (not just allotments). It was also suggested that the council look into the possibility of joining the National Allotment Society, this would cost approximately £30 per annum. **Action: The Clerk to look into joining the allotment society.**

A short discussion took place on the question of available allotments in Millom. It would appear that there is a long waiting of around 20 people. This did not include Haverigg area where the Working Men's club could possibly have allotments available (these are only available to members of the Haverigg Working Men's Club). **Action: Clerk to see advice from CCC/CBC to see if there were any available plots available for more allotments.**

189/20: HAVERIGG ISSUES:

Cllr Brown raised the following issues in the Haverigg area.

- **Notice Board** – Cllr Brown asked that a new notice board be erected at Haverigg. All agreed to this. **Action: Clerk to arrange for purchase of new notice board**
- **New Signs on Beach Areas** – Cllr Brown informed the councillors that they have been erected and looked good. Cllr Faulkner raised concern that even though new notices had been in place it is not stopping off road vehicles driving along the sand dunes. It was agreed to ask the police to patrol these areas more to try and help to alleviate these issues. **Action: Clerk to contact Police Authority asking if they could have more police presence in the area.**

MINUTES OF AN ZOOM MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 31st MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM

ACTIONS:

- 179/20:** Clerk to arrange for removal of hanging baskets Market Square
- 182/20:** Clerk to email Craig McCarron to ask where we are in relation to a possible one-way system in Millom
- 182/20 d)** Meeting to be arranged by Jenny Brumby in relation to the Welcome Back Fund
- 183/20 c)** Cllr Billing to look into updating the current Health and Safety Policy
Cllr Billing to look into updating the current Coronavirus Risk Assessment
- 183/20 d)** Clerk to inform applicant of his success and arrange for documents to be signed accordingly
- 184/20** Clerk to add Meeting Protocols/Issues onto April meeting agenda as previously requested by Cllr A Dixon
- 185/20:** Clerk to advise Unit 3 in regard to the storing of the market stalls
- 188/20:** Clerk to look into joining the Allotment Society
- 189/20:** Clerk to arrange for new notice board to be purchased for Haverigg
Clerk to arrange for more police presence in the Haverigg Dune area to try and alleviate the problem of vehicles driving around the sand dunes
Cllr J Jakubowski to look into the setting up of a consultation process for the Haverigg Park Areas
Clerk to contact CBC asking for the fence to be erected by the skips at Haverigg