

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

Allerdale District

Minutes of a three-tier meeting held on the 11th July 2019
At Cockermouth Town Hall

Chairman Rick Petecki (Cumbria Association of Local Councils)

PRESENT: -

Penny Poole (Blindbothel PC)	Anne Woodcock (Greysouthen PC)
Roger Hart (Allonby PC)	John Cowan (Oughterside and A PC)
Pauline Scott (Dearham PC)	Moira Knoery (Holme St Cuthbert PC)
Margaret Throp (Above Derwent PC)	Geoff Davies (Above Derwent PC)
Lizzy Shaw (CCC)	Huw Morgan (Papcastle PC))
Ian Hinde (Allerdale BC)	
Chris Shaw (Calc Allerdale Liaison Officer)	Ross Hayman (Dean PC)
Tony Rutherford (Plumbland PC)	Dean Whitehead
Alexandra Boardman (Keswick TC)	Wendy Jameson (Silloth TC)
Christine Slater (Maryport TC)	Mark Jenkinson (Allerdale B C)
Yvette Kahane (Buttermere PC)	Melanie Irving (Silloth TC)
Owen Martin (Allerdale Borough Council)	Jackie McCormick (Silloth TC)
Gordon Moore Ireby and Uldale PC)	Joe Holliday (Workington TC)
Dorothy Holliday (Workington TC)	Joan Ellis (Allerdale B C)
Joe Sandwith (Seaton PC and ABC)	Andrew Semple (Cockermouth TC/ABC)
Kathryn Mitchell (Loweswater PC)	Leigh Puddifoot (Embleton PC)
Paul Carr (Embleton PC)	Carmel Bell (Allerdale B C)
Tony Markley (Cumbria CC)	Richard Griffin (Allerdale B C)
Charles Holmes (Allerdale BC)	Joanne Fisher (Allerdale BC)

1. Welcome and Apologies Rick Petecki welcomed councillors to the meeting. Apologies were given from Alan Barry (CCC) and George Kemp (Allerdale BC)

2. Any Relevant Matters from 26th March 2019 meeting

a) Parish Elections Chris Shaw said that at the last meeting he had expressed the hope that there would be less unfilled seats following this year's town and parish council elections. He was pleased that was the case.

Parish Councils	496 seats	399 candidates	80.4%
Town councils	82 seats	111 candidates	135%
All	578	510	88.2%

b) Highways Working Together. Lizzie Shaw said that a paper had been agreed and was to be circulated in the next couple of days. It sets out two different agreements. The first was where the parish or town council formally sub contracted the work and the second was where volunteers who may be councillors undertook the work. She said that a dedicated web page on the county council site would assist parish councils.

3. Nuclear Matters The chair welcomed Richard Griffin the borough council nuclear policy officer to the meeting. Richard said that his role at the council was to keep abreast of all nuclear issues both locally and nationally and advise members when appropriate of current matters. He said that nationally government through RWM (a subsidiary of the NDA) were searching for a site to locate Geological Disposal Facility. They were looking for a willing community and a suitable site through a volunteerism process. Richard said that the borough council had no current intention to volunteer and would not be expressing an interest. He said that they had made their position clear to the developer and to central government. He said that he understood that Copeland Borough council's present position was the same as Allerdale. However as councils close to Sellafield where 70% of the waste that would be disposed of in geological facility was at presented sited they had ensure that their voice was hard when for example transport issues arose. Richard explained that there were two strands to the programme. The first was the "Working with Communities" process where volunteer organisations would begin the programme. He explained in some detail what that would entail. The second was the National Policy Statement which sets out the planning process. He said that GDF was a long term procedure and even initial borehole work was close to a decade away. Richard spoke about the Sellafield site stakeholders group which had six sub groups with the aim of holding the NDA, the Regulators and Sellafield Ltd to account. He said that the two councils were of the same mind that they had 70 years of dealing with the nuclear waste with little reward and now would be the wrong time to put themselves forward. Richard was asked what would happen if the present policy failed and would the word volunteer simply be crossed out. He said that central government had always said they were wedded to a volunteer process. He confirmed that the NDA were themselves land owners but he thought that they would be slow to offer land and it would be politically very difficult. Richard spoke about issues at a local level including the present concern with FCC at Lillyhall. The chair thanked Richard Griffin for his presentation.

4 Common Purpose The chair said he would speak on behalf of the parishes to be followed by Owen Martin, a Ward councillor, and then Tony Markley, a County councillor. The aim was to see how the three tiers could work better together.

a) Rick spoke with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation which is at appendix 1 He said that parishes expressed frustration with communications and thought that a single point of contact was needed. He said that for some parish councils the impression was given that they were not required whilst other parish councils saw underprepared ward and county councillors.

b) Owen Martin introduced himself as a newly elected ward councillor. He said he understood the frustration when communications were not as they should be. He believed that the borough council understood this issue and were working to improve. He said that from a personal point he did prepare for meetings but accepted that he did not always know the answer and he expected that it would take most of his first term to understand every aspect. Owen said that with the new ward boundaries some parish councils were seeing different ward councillors and with more training improvements would follow. He said that councillors worked with officers on most issues but the area champion system at senior level needed more publicity. He asked whether the town centre managers were used as a means of communications. Owen said that it may be that the Democratic Services division might improve th level of communication. Mention was made of the Keswick and Aspatria groups that were started at the parish level and flourished for a while but attempts

to replicate in other areas were not successful. Owen said that his aim was to get the answer to problems raised by the parish and town council as quickly as he could and ensure the information was passed on

c) Tony Markley said he was the conduit to the county council and his duty was to serve the community. He said that he was vice chair of the County Council area committee for Allerdale and he saw the need to work closely with the district council on area plans. He said that the Hubs that were in the towns brought the three tiers closer and it should be the primary duty of the parishes who were working on the ground to ensure that both the district council and the county council were aware of all the issues. He asked that when the parish clerk contacted the officers at both principal authorities the copied the note to their ward and or county councillor. It was suggested that the Calc training programme might include some aspects of dealing with the principal authorities.

The chairman said that the session had been very useful and a similar item should be included in a future meeting.

5. Items to mention

The chairman introduced Charles Holmes and Joanne Fisher officers from Allerdale B C who with Ward Cllr Mark Jenkinson spoke to the attached brief Appendix 2. Many questions were asked about the contract, the problems in the rural valleys, the different collection days and different vehicles used, the problems with assisted help and issues surrounding the recycling centres.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

J C S

August 2019

