

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 12th APRIL 2023 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT – Cllrs Scott, Armstrong, Hamblin, Clark, Huntington, Stapley, Crouch, Robbins, Jackson, Hodson, Ferriby, McCarthy and Speksnyder.

Clerk: Emma Ireton

FC/01/2023 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE
NONE

FC/02/2023 MINUTES FROM MARCH 2023

The following minutes were agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman:

Events Committee meeting held on 6th March 2023 - **AGREED**

Full Council meeting held on 8th March 2023 – **AGREED**

Staffing, Policy, and Development meeting held on 24th March 2023 – **AGREED**

Events Committee meeting held on 27th March 2023 – **AGREED**

Staffing, Policy and Development meeting held on 31st March 2023 - **AGREED**

FC/03/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA
NONE

FC/04/2023 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
NONE

FC/05/2023 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To receive any representations from members of the public – Members of the public are invited to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes each. The maximum total time for public participation will be 10 minutes. At the close of this item, members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council Members unless invited to do so by the Chairman.

5.1 Public Participation

Trevor Grahamslaw was in attendance to bring the councils attention to the Fountain in Wigton. There were concerns raised that now the Cumberland Authority had taken over, the Fountain may not receive the care and attention it requires. In 2003 Allerdale accepted ownership of the Fountain, therefore they would be responsible for its upkeep and repairs. Allerdale's property services carried out a survey and described the Fountain in reasonable condition, but they wanted a proper survey done in early Spring when the weather was better. Trevor Grahamslaw has requested that the Town Council contact the Cumberland Authority to ensure they will continue to be responsible for the upkeep and repairs of the Fountain. It is believed the contact would be Trevor Hurst at the Cumberland Authority, both the

clerk and Cumberland Councillor Elaine Lynch are to follow this up. **ACTION** – Clerk to contact Trevor Hurst.

There is a trust in place with some money left for the Fountain which could go towards the maintenance with the Town Council also contributing or matching the costs.

Cllr Clark also highlighted the importance of having a regular cleaning schedule for the Fountain.

The lack of signage at Phoenix Park was also raised as there is nothing in place to inform the public the pond is a nature area, it was also asked if a gate could be added to the fence as well as other appropriate signage regarding the pond to highlight it is deep water. **ACTION** – Arrange for signage in Phoenix Park.

5.2 Cumberland Authority Report

Cllr Lynch:

It was highlighted that as of 1st April the new authority was in place and there had been some movement within Childrens Services, with a new director in post.

In relation to Wigton, Cllr Lynch has brought into focus the issues with crossing the road outside of Spar and across Station Road, therefore has requested a meeting with Steph Davis-Johnston the Allerdale team leader of Highways. The state of the roads were also mentioned which included the number of pot holes and the loose manhole covers in the High Street. Cllr Lynch encouraged people to take photographs where appropriate and upload them to the Cumberland Authority website.

It was noted that after the initial meeting with Steph Davis-Johnston on the 1st March there had been little change to the highways in Wigton and the Police may be required for enforcement. Cllr Scott asked whether rails could be installed in parts of King St which would prevent the illegal parking.

Community panels have been set up in different areas which can give grants. Each panel has different priorities and the panel in which Cllr Lynch is part of is the Lakes and Fells panel which is to focus on wellbeing and health.

Cllr Armstrong asked Cllr Lynch about the need for electric charging points in Wigton and asked if this was a priority for the Cumberland Authority. It appears there is no person or authority which is responsible for installing them. **ACTION** – clerk to ask Aspatria about their EV charging points.

FC/06/2023 Finance Matters

6.1 To receive and authorise Payments and Bank Reconciliation for March 2023

All payments agreed and authorised.

FC/07/2023 Grounds Maintenance Report

No report was provided so an update from Cllr Hamblin and the clerk was provided.

An update on the allotments was given with Burnfoot allotment just waiting for the plumber to correct the water pipe. Once this has been corrected United Utilities can be contacted for the water supply to be connected.

FC/08/2023 Cemetery Update

There had been two funerals over the month.

The first grass cut had taken place.

A damp survey had been completed on the cemetery house, this resulted in a list of jobs that needed to be completed.

The grave mapping is continuing and will now be computerised.

The next meeting will be to discuss the fees and whether they should be increased, there will also be a 'walkaround' of the cemetery to highlight any issues at this meeting.

The Friends of the Cemetery are still waiting on being able to set up a bank account.

FC/09/2023 Public Toilets

The clerk has been unsuccessful in finding either a company or a self-employed cleaner to open/close and clean the public toilets. Currently the clerk is opening, closing and cleaning the toilets five days per week and Cllr Clark is opening and closing on a Saturday. The clerk proposed that she takes on the toilets on a self-employed basis after her working hours, six days per week at a reduced rate to save the council money, temporarily until a more permanent solution is found. The toilets are currently being looked after by the clerk but cleaning them as and when around the normal working day, prioritising the clerk's job.

Councillors discussed the proposal, and it was **agreed** that the clerk should continue the with the current way of working with Cllr Clark opening and closing on Saturdays.

FC/10/2023 Town Mayor's Report

I am pleased to report that I have had a very busy time in the last month, and I have the honour of representing the Wigton Town Council in the following events: -

10.03.2023 – My Mother and I attended the final Allerdale Borough Council Civic Dinner at the Greenhill for the Mayor of Allerdale chosen charity, Keswick Mountain Rescue.

The Guest of Honour, Harrison Ward the Fell Foodie gave an inspirational talk about his life story and how he overcame his addictions. There were also two great speeches

from the Mayor of Allerdale, Alan Daniels and the Leader of Allerdale Borough Council, Mike Johnson. Brilliant music by Mustangz. The event raised £1124.

14.03.2023 - I was invited by the Trustees and Chief Executive of Hospice at Home Carlisle and North Lakeland to a Reception at Askham Hall, in the presence of HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Prince Richard KG GCVO, to thank the Staff, Volunteers and Supporters and to celebrate 25 years of care.

16.03.2023 - I attended the Mayor of Carlisle's Annual Civic Dinner & Presentation of Community Awards at The Halston. There were some fantastic speakers including Deputy Lord Lieutenant - Mrs Marcia Reid-Fotheringham, The Leader of the City Council - John Mallinson, The Police and Crime Commissioner - Peter McCall and The Mayor himself - Mike Michelson.

23.03.2023 - I attended the unveiling of the Nightingale Garden and Monument at Vulcans Park in Workington. The monument was created by RAF General Engineering for the community of Workington to remember the people who died during the Covid 19 pandemic.

08.04.2023 – Sandra and I filmed our scene for the Cumberland Councils promo video.

09.04.2023 – I attended the Easter Sunday Service at Wigton Methodist Church

FC/11/2023 Clerk's Report

Explained that if there is an issue with receiving emails because it is a new account then email clerk@wigtontowncouncil.org.uk and this should resolve the issues.

Thanked those councillors for putting their name forward for the Taste of Wigton event, that event is now fully covered.

Annemarie Robson's last day at work was the 12th April so a thank you card and gift will be sent, if any councillors would like to sign the card it will be in the office.

An update was given around staffing with the grounds maintenance position now being filled and the vacancy in the office being advertised shortly. It has been agreed to try and recruit an apprentice but pay minimum wage for age so there is no disadvantage for 19+ applicants.

There is an issue with our Facebook page as we have lost access to it, a new page has been set up but it isn't followed as local people do not realise it is a real page. We are going to try and gain access to the old account for this reason.

FC/12/2023 Member's Reports

Cllr Hodson – took part in the 'Here I am' advertisement.

Cllr Hamblin – concerned around the gate not being locked at Phoenix Park/Allotments so a letter will be sent to remind allotment users.

Meeting Closed – 8:30pm

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th May 2023