

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT –

Councillor Chris Scott (Mayor and Chair)
Councillor Mary Clark
Councillor Mary Huntington
Councillor Chris Stapley
Councillor Anne Jackson
Councillor David Ferriby
Councillor Mark Newton
Councillor John Hamblin
Councillor Monique Speksnyder

Clerk: Emma Ireton

FC/114/2023 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Sandra Hodson (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Shane McCarthy
Councillor John Crouch

FC/115/2023 MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 2023

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

Full Council held on 8th November 2023 - **AGREED**

FC/116/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

NONE

FC/117/2023 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Part two of clerk's report regarding staffing issues.

FC/118/2023 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

None

5.2 Cumberland Authority Report

Cumberland Cllr Lynch was in attendance to provide an update.

Highways

Members were informed that faint road markings in key areas around Wigton such as crossings would be painted in January.

A meeting had been planned with the head of Highways to discuss a resident parking concern, but this was postponed due to the extreme snow as staff were diverted to the Millom area for support. The postponed meeting will be booked again in the new year to look at pedestrian access points, school parking and possible signage outside schools. There will also be a discussion around bollards at the Fountain.

It was reported that while there had been ongoing traffic enforcement in the area, the Cumberland Council were looking into combining staff to cover more areas more quickly.

Members highlighted some issues for Cllr Lynch to look at including:

- Why a large HGV which was carrying heavy plant machinery was told to go down the High Street in Wigton, which subsequently caused delays as it was unable to turn at the Fountain?
- Can the lights on the zebra crossing outside of the GP surgery be changed as they are dimly lit and it is difficult to see people crossing?
- Why have all the manhole covers still not been repaired? Cllr Lynch explained that each one would need to be reported to the relevant service.
- To report that the kerb stone outside the Granary is loose. Cllr Lynch explained this would need to be reported via the Cumberland Council portal.
- The barber shop still has no window.
- The reporting of the zig zags that also need to be re-painted outside The Nelson Thomlinson School.
- It was asked if anyone had reported the issues with illegal parking outside St Cuthbert's School.
- It was asked why the road at Micklethwaite had been reduced to 40mph, which was changed due to the amount of fatalities on this stretch of road.

Cllr Lynch also reported that she had been on several training courses in relation to Children's Services.

The Cumberland Council were also looking at their budget for the following year, it was reported that savings would need to be made. The public consultation is online and is open for residents to view. The final budget meeting has been set for the 8th March 2024.

FC/119/2023 Finance Matters

6.1 To receive and authorise Payments and Bank Reconciliation for October and November 2023

All payments were agreed and authorised for October and November 2023.

Amendment requested on 10th January 2024

During agenda item 6 on the 13th December 2023 a councillor raised a concern over whether personal information should appear on documents that councillors receive. The clerk reassured members that there had been no data breach as personal information does not appear on public documents. It was explained that some personal information may appear on confidential documents but these documents are only available to councillors and office staff. It was agreed that unless necessary, the clerk would remove any identifying information on confidential documents. The clerk reminded all members that they are responsible for keeping all confidential information safe and should:

- Not open emails or access sensitive information on a public or shared device.
- Not leave sensitive information open on a device.
- Not allow others to access personal email accounts where sensitive information is stored.

FC/120/2023 BUDGET UPDATE

Members were advised that the finance committee had completed the 2024/2025 budget which had been circulated prior to this meeting.

Members were also informed that there would be a budget deficit and that the recommended precept request would be £390000 for the 2024/2025 period.

A vote was taken with two councillors abstaining.

RESOLVED

Committee members approved the 2024/2025 budget and the precept request of £390000.

FC/121/2023 EXTERNAL CONTRACT

Members were informed that two of the higher value external contracts are for renewal in 2024. The RFO provided members with a breakdown of the cost of the contract with profit for the first contract.

RESOLVED

Members agreed to submit the tender application for contract one. It was agreed that the RFO would work with the grounds supervisor to cost the second contract and report back to full council.

FC/122/2023 BOWLING CLUB REPORT – Cllr Ferriby

Members were provided with a report prior to the meeting.

It was noted that there were parts of the Bowling Club that needed attention and that the Town Council had previously agreed to maintain the building as per the previous contract and in return the Bowling Club would pay £1000 a year rent. It was agreed that this should continue for 2024/2025 with the agreement being amended to remove the financial statement request. It was also agreed that the hourly rate charged to complete the grounds work at the Bowling Club would increase to £21 an hour which is in line with all external contracts.

Members also discussed the need to have a formal agreement with Innovia regarding the electric and the water supply.

ACTION – The clerk will investigate options regarding the toilets and draw up a new contract.

FC/123/2023 WBJC REPORT – Cllr Clark

No funerals had been held since the end of September.

Bereavement services have nearly completed the electronic mapping, some errors were spotted during this activity which were historic errors so it has been a useful activity.

Most of the winter contract has been completed.

The committee will be looking at new grave contractors in the new year.

FC/124/2023 TOWN MAYOR REPORT

See attached.

FC/125/2023 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

See attached.

FC/126/2023 CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk thanked all volunteers for their help at the Christmas light switch on.

Some solar lights have been purchased to install on the fence at Barton Laws, this will light up the fence where cars park.

It was agreed that the clerk can pay for the grounds maintenance team to have a Christmas lunch and provide all staff with £20 and a card as a thank you for their hard work over the year.

FC/127/2023 MEMBER REPORTS

Councillor Newton – reported that there doesn't appear to be a deep-water sign at Phoenix Park.

Councillor Ferriby – shared the details of the upcoming carol service at St Mary's and asked for numbers so seats could be reserved.

Councillor Huntington – attended the remembrance service.

Councillor Clark – attended the remembrance service.

Councillor Speksnyder – attended the light switch on.

Councillor Hamblin – described to members that he attended Cumbria in Bloom on the 18th of October and received the silver guild for his flower beds in Phoenix Park.

The AGM was also attended two weeks later.

Councillor Stapley – attended the cenotaph service.

Councillor Jackson – attended the light switch on.

Meeting closed 20:24

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th January 2024.