

**A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON**

**WEDNESDAY 14th JUNE 2023 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT –**

Councillor Chris Scott (Mayor and Chair)

Councillor Sandra Hodson (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor John Hamblin

Councillor Mary Clark

Councillor Mary Huntington

Councillor Chris Stapley

Councillor John Crouch

Councillor Heather Robbins

Councillor Anne Jackson

Councillor David Ferriby

Councillor Mark Newton

Councillor Shane McCarthy

Councillor Monique Speksnyder

Councillors Meszaros and Newton joined the table after the vote was taken.

Clerk: Emma Ireton

**FC/25/2023 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

None

**FC/26/2023 MINUTES FROM May 2023**

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

Annual General Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – **AGREED**

**Councillor Hodson commented that she did not agree with the wording in FC/4/2023, line four.**

Full Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – **AGREED**

Parks, Open Spaces and Allotment meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 – **AGREED**

**FC/27/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

The clerk Emma Ireton disclosed that one of the councillor candidates was her sister Claire Meszaros.

Cllr Newton declared that one of the councillor candidates was his wife Patricia Newton.

**FC/28/2023 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

NONE

**FC/29/2023 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**

Two members of the public were present and observing.

### **5.2 Cumberland Authority Report**

Cumberland Councillor Lynch:

Discussed the list of ongoing traffic issues in Wigton and noted that while she was pleased with Highways response so far, she will be asking for a further update. One key issue is possibly placing bollards around the fountain so she will request a meeting with on street parking team to discuss further.

It won't be possible to put a crossing near the old bus station, so the Highways team are looking at other solutions. It is looking likely that a 20-mph zone will be introduced outside schools.

Cllr Newton raised the issue that Blue Badge holders are able to park on double yellow lines which could cause an obstruction so would it be possible to create more disabled spaces in Water Street car Park?

Councillor Speksnyder arrived: 7:09 PM

It was noted that there has been an increase in parking wardens in the area.

Cllr Lynch is happy to be contacted if potholes aren't being dealt with in a timely manner.

300 bus services being improved with more service on Sunday and an extra bus on weekday mornings. £2 bus fare ends November, then £2.50 until November 2024.

First community panel meeting occurred with the governance agreed along with how money was allocated. There is £60720 for our area (not just Wigton).

Investments (grant) can be applied for by going on website. They will need to match priorities which for Wigton includes, wellbeing, health, and sport etc.

Residents wanting information regarding the bin strikes should have a look on the Cumberland Council website for more details.

Grass cutting in Wigton was discussed as there was an issue with the area outside of the GPs. It has since been resolved but the concern is that this area is known as a roadside verge which would mean it wouldn't be cut regularly. While the Cumberland Council have been contacted about this if this continues then Cllr Lynch can be

contacted to follow it up. It was highlighted that the problem is around the merging of different areas so this will take a couple years to resolve.

Cllr Clark asked Cllr Lynch whether she knew about the who was responsible for the grassed area at Fell View as it hadn't been cut, it was noted that Home Group would be responsible.

### **FC/30/2023 Finance Matters**

#### **6.1 To receive and authorise Payments and Bank Reconciliation for May 2023**

All payments agreed and authorised.

### **FC/31/2023 Councillor Vacancies**

Patricia Newton and Claire Meszaros were invited to the meeting where they were asked two interview style questions to assess their suitability for the role of councillor. They took it in turns to answer the following questions:

- Why would you like to be a Town Councillor?
- There are 5 committees, POA, Staffing and Development, Events, Barton Laws and Finance. Out of these 5 committees which one would you have the skills and strengths to add to the success of the committee?

During the interviews Cllr Newton left the room.

Cllr Scott proposed Claire Meszaros to become a Town Councillor, this was seconded by Cllr Hamblin.

A vote was taken and the result was **UNANIMOUS**

Cllr Scott proposed Patricia Newton to become a Town Councillor, this was seconded by Cllr Crouch.

A vote was taken and the result was **UNANIMOUS**

Cllrs Meszaros and Newton joined the table.

### **FC/32/2023 Grounds Maintenance Report**

The members were provided with a report produced by Stephen Farish.

### **FC/33/2023 Cemetery Update**

One funeral last month and two next week.

There is a problem with the septic tank, so this is being investigated.

There have been some issues with dogs off the lead.

Next week is Susan McLachlan's final week as the clerk then Emma Ireton will take over.

## **FC/34/2023 Civic Protocol**

Members were provided with a first draft Civic protocol prior to the meeting. The first item to discuss was:

Part a) Vote to amend combining the chairman and the Mayor within the standing orders.

CS proposed this amendment, and it was seconded by Cllr Clark.

A discussion took place around the advantages and disadvantages of combining and splitting the role. Cllr Hodson explained that this vote was taken in 2019 to separate the positions and it could be discriminatory to change it.

The chair suggested a vote to be taken on both having the position separate and combined,

A vote was taken with **10** votes **FOR** combining the role and **2** votes to keep the role **SEPARATE**.

**Cllrs Stapley and Ferriby abstained from voting.**

Members then discussed:

Part b) to vote on the Civic Policy

Members discussed the draft policy with many members having differing opinions.

Cllr Hodson asked why it had not gone to the Staffing and Policy Committee? The reason for this was it was deemed to be an important policy; therefore all members would likely want to contribute towards it.

It was suggested that before this policy could be voted on members should have the opportunity to contribute.

Cllr Hodson proposed this was deferred until the next full council meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Ferriby.

A vote was taken to defer, 7 members voted to **defer**  
A vote was taken to adopt, 6 members voted to **adopt**

The decision was made to defer agreeing to the policy until the next meeting which would allow members to send their amendments by email to the clerk. An amended version along with the original would then be sent out prior to the next meeting.

## **FC/35/2023 Bowling Club Update – Cllr Ferriby**

Had the report, some things need followed up from different committees.

Cllr Hamblin requested access to the accounts as it was in the agreement to have this information every 12 months. It was decided that the accounts would be looked at in the Autumn.

### **FC/36/2023 Public Toilets**

The clerk provided members with Nicolle's cleaning services proposal. Daily charge is £27.50 which will be invoiced monthly. This is for a 6-day week from Monday – Saturday and includes the opening, closing and cleaning of the toilets plus all the cleaning supplies. The Town Council will continue purchasing the toilet rolls.

A month's notice will be provided for leave with the clerk's office taking over the opening, closing and cleaning. Any day not covered will not be charged.

Initially this is a three month contract then will become a 12 month contract if the service is value for money.

A vote was taken to use Nicolle's Cleaning Service and the result was **UNANIMOUS**.

### **FC/37/2023 Mayor's Update**

**Mayor Chris Scott provided the following update:**

Attached

### **FC/38/2023 Clerk's Report**

An extraordinary meeting will need to take place next week to approve the end of year accounts.

### **FC/39/2023 Member's Reports**

Cllr Hodson – Attended the Futamura/Phoenix Park day to strip the mushroom and Age UK.

Cllr Speksnyder – Managed the Futamura/Phoenix Park Day to strip the mushroom and suggested parks committee could get an artist to paint the mushroom. She also suggested asking Futamura to repair the crack in the mushroom. Also attended the Balsam bashing at Wiza beck and met with Geoff Norman.

Put barley straw in pond – water low though. Recommended trees for memorial would be cherry trees.

Cllr Hamblin notified Cllr Speksnyder that future work should go through the POA committee as they need to be aware of the work to be carried out.

Cllr Hamblin – discussed clearing ponds including algae.

Cllr Ferriby – reminded members that there was also a RBL service in Workington as well as Wigton.

Cllr Huntington – attended the service for Geoffrey Ravalde

Cllr Clark – attended the service for Geoffrey Ravalde. It was also asked whether the weeds around Wigton could be dealt with along with the need for paths to be pressure washed.

Meeting closed 21:02

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July**