

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.00PM

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

Clerk: Emma Ireton

FC/122/2023 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Robson

Cllr Speksnyder

Alan Pitcher

FC/123/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following minutes were agreed as accurate:

Parks, Open Spaces and Allotments Committee held on the 10th January 2023 – **AGREED**

Full Council held on 11th January 2023 - **AGREED**

Staffing, Policy and Development Committee held on the 19th January 2023 - **AGREED**

Finance Committee held on the 23rd January 2023 – **AGREED**

Events Committee held on the 30th January 2023 - **AGREED**

FC/124/2023 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

FC/125/2023 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.

FC/126/2023

5.1 Public Participation

Cllr Hamblin invited Toby Hosford to the full council meeting to give councillors an update regarding his fundraising efforts for Wigton Food Pantry. All councillors congratulated Toby on his achievement and Cllr Scott presented Toby with a £20 voucher to say well done.

John Daly from the RBL provided councillors with some information regarding the 100 year anniversary of the Wigton branch of the RBL. There will be a celebration at the Methodist Church on 18th June for those that want to attend. Councillors were also asked how the RBL contact local business' and shops to help celebrate the anniversary by having flags etc. present in shop windows. It was asked if any person had any old photographs of Wigton that could be used, it was suggested that Trevor Grahamslaw could have photographs and that the clerk would pass on his contact details.

ACTION - Cllr Hodson mentioned that she would pass the RBL's details onto the business group in Wigton.

ACTION – The clerk's office to promote the RBL on Facebook and to request any old photographs.

A member of the public raised issues regarding not seeing enough of a Police presence and reported incidents including electric scooters. **ACTION** – Ask the Police to attend the next meeting.

5.2 Borough Reports

Cllr Crouch:

Explained that there had been a taxi licensing meeting and it was decided that the licensing fees would remain unchanged for this year. It was also mentioned that in the future there would be a zone system implemented and this would be identified by the plates on taxis.

Cllr Lynch:

Described how with only six weeks to go until the change over there had been many meetings to finalise changes. On the 1st April there will be a shadow executive meeting where the focus will be the budget. For those who want to see the budget, it can be viewed after the 16th February on the new Cumberland Website.

All district councils had to come together to discuss the budget, therefore figures can change up to the end of March. Overall the budget is 303 million with 25 million being inflation alone. Council Tax rises are in line with the 2.99% government recommendation with 2% being the social care levy. The Cumberland Council will collect for the Fire Service and Cumbria Constabulary.

At the previous meeting, Cllr Lynch mentioned she would ask about the cemetery changes but there had been no final decisions, however bereavement services will cover three areas.

Councillors asked about the actual rise in council tax, if band D was harmonised then what is the true rise? It was explained that including the harmonisation to ensure all areas are the same, the overall rise would be 4.99%

FC/127/2023 Finance Matters

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

All payments agreed and authorised.

FC/128/2023 Grounds Maintenance Report

Report was shared and councillors were invited to ask questions.

FC/129/2023 Cemetery Update

Cllr Robbins explained that there would be an early inspection in April because of the grass cutting season.

The cemetery draft budget was agreed where there was one query regarding the precept from the town council which is £10000 for 23/34.

There is still some mapping to be completed, there are some anomalies where maps have different numbers but this will be resolved.

The friends of Wigton Cemetery is still going ahead but a bank account is required before it can be operational. The Cumberland Building Society have a backlog on regards to opening new accounts so until the account has been opened the Friends of Wigton cannot be operational.

There is still some work ongoing in regards to checking the business rates, it has been found that the land is registered so a query has been submitted so Allerdale have twenty days to respond.

Finally, it was agreed that the cemetery will start having meetings every two months instead of every three months.

FC/130/2023 FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Cllr Hamblin wanted to raise the need to have an agreed list of contractors that can be used without having to gain three quotes. The clerk also provided information from the practitioner's guide which explained the requirements:

Under £500 – Clerk can approve
Up to £5000 – Committees can approve
Over £5000 – Full Council must approve

Paying contractors was also discussed along with the need to take payments to full council. It was agreed that a policy would be written by the clerk's office around

having an approved contractors list and payment requirements. This would be shared with full council before any decisions would be made.

FC/131/2023 Memorial Bench

Cllr Scott raised purchasing a bench for the Grainger family to commemorate Mr Joe Grainger who was a former councillor and Mayor. A vote was taken and it was AGREED to purchase the bench out of the current budget and place it at Kirklands.

FC/132/2023 Town Mayor's Report

Nothing to Report

FC/133/2023 Town Clerk's Report

Allerdale are providing the Town Council with £600 to purchase a bench to commemorate Allerdale, this will be placed at Throstle Park.

The office will be promoting the location of the town's defibrillators, AR will be leading on this.

The quotes for the new PCs and IT systems were shared with councillors with the recommendation to go with IT Systems, this was **AGREED**.

We will be taking a work experience student to work with the park staff from the 20th March 2023.

FC/134/2023 Member's Reports

Cllr Ferriby – wanted to thank Cllr Scott for chairing meetings in his absence.

Cllr Hamblin – met with Rhys Stabler and Stephen Farish regarding the project of planting shrubs in Wigton Park.

Cllr Clark – asked if the memorial benches could be cleaned on a more regular basis, perhaps twice per year.

Cllr Crouch – mentioned dog fouling and asked about bringing the dog warden to Wigton.

Cllr Jackson – mentioned the state of the town especially in front of the library and the barriers near Procter's Row.

Cllr Hodson – mentioned writing a letter to CCC

Cllr Armstrong – pointed that wheelchair users could have a problem with single tracks

SMcC – Wanted to report loose drain covers

Meeting Closed – 8:48pm

Date of Next meeting

Wednesday 8th March 2023