

**WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**A MEETING OF THE PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE WAS**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AT 6.00PM**

**PRESENT** Councillors Hamblin, Hodson, Robson, Speksnyder, Crouch

**POA/27/2023 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr McCarthy

Cllr Scott

**POA/28/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS**

None

**POA/29/2023 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

None

**POA/30/2023 DISCUSSION OF BUDGET**

Discussion took place about items shown on the budget – what we can spend and where savings can be made.

**To do:** Next financial year, to have more detailed breakdown of where money is to be apportioned.

**POA/31/2023 WIGTON PARK**

The committee discussed the timescale of the refurbishment of Dalton Shelter. A tender has been prepared but needs to be finalised and agreed by the committee. This will be sent out to those organisations on the CCC list of approved contractors.

**To do:**

Finalise tender. Request approval from committee then distribute to local contractors.

Friends of Wigton Park (FOWP) has agreed that the money can be spent on the refurbishment. Assistant Clerk has spoken to all members of the FOWP and they have agreed.

It was asked if we are leaving this too late. Chair said we have time as the refurb needs to be completed by summer 2024.

Relatives of Mr Johnson, a member of the Town Council at the time, are looking for any documents they may have.

It was also asked if we look for local businesses to sponsor to help with the refurbishment. It was suggested that we could prepare some boards for the Taste of Wigton stand about our plans to refurb and see if there is anyone locally who can sponsor it.

**To do:** Task someone with preparing information for boards.

Discussion took place about planning the centenary Celebration in the Park, moving the celebration to September rather than the summer. This would give time for proper planning. Festivals have agreed on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Councillors also spoke about the possibility about getting a plaque to commemorate the centenary.

**To do:** Research plaque options.

*Bowling Club Hedge:*

Beech hedge surrounding Wigton Park Bowling still needs to be cut down to a manageable height, with chippings used across parks in bed

**To do:** Stephen said this would now need to be done in Autumn.

### **POA/32/2023 EAST END PARK**

Assistant Clerk said that there is funding available to provide 75% of the cost via Football Foundation Grant. The posts are socketed so can be removed and stored safely when required.

**To do:** Lodge grant for Futsal goalposts 3m x 2m

Discussion took place on anti-social behaviour. Wigton Town Council has no way of controlling this, but local residents must be encouraged to register incidents on 111. We can only make Police aware of hotspots and ask them to say visits later in evening. We can also register incidents if residents let us know about it.

### **POA/33/2023 SIGNAGE**

It was noted that committee wish signage to say Kirkland Play Area, not East End Park 'No dogs' needs to be made larger and easily visible.

**To do:** Amend signage list to reflect this.

It was suggested we look at Silloth's new signage as it is attractive. Two of our play areas need very small signs (Fell View, Highmoor).

Larger signage will be required at Throstle Park, Phoenix and Wigton park.

We need roadside pointers on lampposts to show where AEDs are located, and Bowling club (as part of our agreement with them).

**To do:** Contact Highways about specifications, rules etc.

### **POA/34/2023 PID – Greening the High Street**

Assistant Clerk reported that our PID document, as prepared by AC with input from Cllr Hamblin and Robson, has been put forward by the consultants working with CCC in its entirety (without amends) for the first approval round in April. This was extremely positive and should bring real change to how our green spaces are linked, providing low level lighting, improved roadside wayfinding/signage, pump track and outdoor gym spaces.

**To do:** Raise awareness about this at Taste of Wigton on info board – task someone to write about the approval of plans and mention timescale to show what will happen once Borderlands Greening the High Street funding is approved. Local PR in online newsletter.

## **POA/35/2023 ALLOTMENTS**

Process to choose appropriate contractor to clear Burnfoot 3 was handled by AC and Chair of Committee using sealed bids to ensure transparency. All emails were removed from office server and sealed bids were anonymised before decision taken.

Burnfoot 3 allotment is now cleared and will be split into three allotments. Cost is an issue with Burnfoot. WTC needs to maintain a fence along footpath and grounds team will look into this.

- Cllr Robson left meeting at 7.20pm

Size of allotments has been an issue.

Longthwaite Rd: Allot 29 will be split into two and let.

At Burnfoot: 1 is also very large. 4 is in a bad way and we have lost a tenant on 5 this year.

**To do:** Make effort to let remaining allotments now that water is close to being on site.

**To do:** Ask WCF to place lock on their gate at far end to improve security for our allotment holders.

Compost project suggested by Cllr Speksnijder – Cllr Speksnijder reported that only one person got in touch. This means that it is not really viable so we will potentially need to place message on Facebook asking allotment holders if they can spare an hour a month to turn the compost heap?

**Meeting ended 7.35pm**

**Date of next meeting:**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April**