

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH 2023 AT 7.00PM

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

Clerk: Emma Ireton

FC/135/2023 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Hodson

Cllr Ferriby

Cllr McCarthy

FC/136/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following minutes were agreed as accurate:

Full Council held on the 16th February 2023– **AGREED**

Finance Committee held on the 27th February 2023 – **AGREED**

FC/137/2023 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There will be a confidential agenda item in part two in relation to staffing issues.

FC/138/2023 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/139/2023

5.1 Public Participation

A member of the public described how they had heard about a club that was giving young people hot meals and access to the internet, it was asked if the Town Council were able to do something similar for pensioners? It was explained that the club for young people was held within Café Twelve on Tuesdays and was an initiative run by NADT. Councillors also provided the member of the public with a list of all the places where pensioners were able to gain access to a warm spot within Wigton which included:

- Wigton Library
- Age UK West Cumbria

- Methodist Church
- St Cuthberts, Wigton Food Pantry

The second query from the member of the public was around the lack of dog bins within Throstle and Phoenix park. It had been noticed that rubbish bins had been placed but there were no dog fouling bins. **ACTION** – Clerk to find out if there are any dog fouling bins to install.

It was also asked what the event plan for 2023 looked like. As events was an agenda item this question was answered later in the meeting.

5.2 Borough Reports

Cllr Lynch:

In relation to the new Cumberland Council the current priority is setting the budget. The budget including the council tax breakdown can be viewed online by looking at the Cumberland Council's website. There is the hope that the budget will support free school meals, but the age and details have not been confirmed yet. The free school meals will be in addition to the free school meals already available to those aged seven and under. It was explained that health and wellbeing is high on the council's agenda.

Cllr Speksnyder entered at 7:07pm.

The Cumberland Council will continue to support the youth parliament scheme as they have important ideas that should be engaged with moving forward.

Another priority within Children Services is to improve the early health service including the time it takes to gain a SEND diagnosis and to help with problems that families and schools face.

Cllr Robson entered at 7:10pm.

Cllr Lynch explained how she was part of the SEND Partnership Board, the priority here is to ensure that SEND is done correctly which involves including parents' thoughts and views around what is required.

Cllr Lynch also attended the last Allerdale meeting which was a dinner.

Cllr Robbins highlighted that regarding SEND, there was a backlog of young people who are waiting for a diagnosis and appropriate support.

Cllr Crouch:

Attended the last Allerdale Full Council meeting on the 1st of March 2023.

Cllr Scott personally thanked all the Allerdale Councillors for their service over the years and requested that a letter of thanks was to be sent. **ACTION** – Send a letter to Alan Pitcher, Cllr Crouch and Lord Liddle.

FC/140/2023 Finance Matters

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

All payments agreed and authorised.

FC/141/2023 Grounds Maintenance Report

Report was shared and read out by the clerk so the general public were aware of the update.

FC/142/2023 Cemetery Update

There had been four funerals over the month.

Grass cutting was due to start but the poor weather had delayed this, it was hoped this would start soon.

The final cemetery budget was agreed by the WBJC committee with no objections from full council. WBJC Budget – **AGREED**

FC/143/2023 2023/2024 Budget

The clerk provided councillors with a copy of the budget and explained to the general public that the budget would be available to view online once it has been agreed by full council.

The clerk invited questions from councillors instead of reading out each budget line.

Cllr Speksnyder had two queries. The first was why had the park maintenance been reduced from £10000 to £6000? The reason was because £10000 was not spent in 22/23 therefore it could be reduced back to £6000 which is approximately what was the expenditure was. Budget lines had also been split with more budget lines being input which will allow some of the previous expense to be allocated to a different budget line. The second query was why was there was not a significant decrease in room hire when Barton Laws was being used as well as the Market Hall? It was explained that Barton Laws would only be used for a small number of meetings that were appropriate to be held there so there would not be a significant decrease in room hire costs. There was also an agreement with NADT to hold meetings within the Market Hall so there could not be a significant loss of income for them.

Cllr Scott commented that any meeting at Barton Laws was still a public meeting therefore the public would be welcomed.

There were no further questions.

Cllr Scott asked if all agreed to approve the 23/34 budget, the vote was **UNANIMOUS**.

FC/144/2023 Events

The clerk provided councillors with an update around with provisional dates of the following events:

Saturday 22nd April – Taste of Wigton Event facilitated by Allerdale. The Town Council will have an information stall and will be manned by councillors throughout the day.

To support the Wigton Carnival (Date TBC) managed by Dennis Graham.

Saturday 6th May – King's Coronation at Barton Laws (More details to follow)

Saturday 2nd September – 100 Year Centenary of Wigton Park which will be a Victorian Family event.

Sunday 26th November – Christmas light switch.

FC/145/2023 Town Mayor's Report

Attended the John Peel theatre to watch the pantomime.

FC/146/2023 Town Clerk's Report

The grounds maintenance position was successfully filled with the new member of staff aiming to start on Monday 3rd May.

FC/147/2023 Member's Reports

Cllr Robson – explained that as he was moving house and out of Wigton this was likely to be his last meeting.

Cllr Hamblin – met with the Highways team to discuss the speed of traffic and the zebra crossings outside of the schools. It was clear the highways were not there to act on parking issues but it was obvious to them that it was a problem. They discussed the possibility of having a 20mph limit through the high street.

Also met United Utilities at Burnfoot allotments to arrange for the water to be connected. They discovered the pipe needed to be lagged and a mechanical stop needed fitting before they could connect the water therefore a plumber would need to be called back out before continuing.

Cllr Clark – highlighted how dirty the area by the library was so there needed to be a plan to improve this area.

Meeting Closed – 8:51pm

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th April 2023