

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT –

Councillor Chris Scott (Mayor and Chair)
Councillor Sandra Hodson (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Mary Clark
Councillor Mary Huntington
Councillor Chris Stapley
Councillor John Crouch
Councillor Anne Jackson
Councillor Shane McCarthy
Councillor David Ferriby
Councillor P Newton
Councillor M Newton

Clerk: Emma Ireton

FC/100/2023 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Meszaros
Councillor John Hamblin
Councillor Speksnyder

FC/101/2023 MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2023

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

Full Council held on 12th October 2023 - **AGREED**

It was agreed that only full council minutes would be attached to this agenda item moving forward as committee minutes will be agreed at the committee meeting. Once agreed, a copy will be sent to all councillors to review.

FC/102/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

NONE

FC/103/2023 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Part of agenda item 8

FC/104/2023 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

A member of the public was in attendance to voice their concerns over the recent issues at the cemetery. It was disclosed that the new row of graves would be placed with headstones back-to-back, a decision that was made several years ago to prevent health and safety incidents. Unfortunately, it was noted there had been a breakdown in communication between those involved in the burial process which led to headstones being placed at the foot of the grave. This caused upset to the grieving families involved so was raised to councillors so action could be taken.

Cllr Clark invited members of the public to attend the WBJC meeting on Wednesday 15th November where members would discuss the issues.

5.2 Cumberland Authority Report

Cumberland Cllr Lynch prepared a report which was sent to all members prior to the meeting.

Members discussed the ongoing parking concerns, highlighting the issues around the car park at the Nelson Thomlinson School now being closed, forcing more cars to park on Lowmoor Road which already suffers from poor parking and congestion during peak times.

It was asked why schools do not utilise schemes such as 'walk to school trains'?

In relation to waste services, it was highlighted that there would be an extra garden collection on December 13th.

FC/105/2023 Finance Matters

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

Due to clerk/RFO sickness, some members did not feel they had ample time to review the payment list and asked for it to be deferred. It was noted that any regular payments, time sensitive payments or payments that would be paid late and would incur a charge would still be paid.

FC/106/2023 BUDGET UPDATE

Members were advised that a finance meeting took place to discuss the 2024-2025 budget, with a further meeting taking place next week to agree on the precept and finer details. Some specific items that were highlighted included:

- The need to earmark reserves for specific projects.
 - The need to replace the smaller transit van used for ground maintenance.
- Options being researched included leasing, purchasing preowned, and buying new.

- Earmarking a further £10000 for the Dalton Shelter so the total earmarked is £20000. Although the COF is still to agree on agreed funding on top.
- The need to carry out drainage works on the football pitches at Wigton Park.
- To replace or repair the toilet block at Wigton Park.

External contracts that are due for renewal in 2024 were discussed. Members were advised that the contracts were being calculated with figures being shared at the finance and policy and staffing meetings, the conclusion will be shared with full council at the December meeting.

The draft precept request is £400000 which includes the WBJC request. This will be discussed at the next finance meeting and will be shared with full council at the December meeting. The final precept request must be sent to the Cumberland Council by the 12th January 2024.

FC/107/2023 CEMETERY UPDATE – Cllr Clark

Recent concerns relating to the headstones was discussed with members being informed that the WBJC would be discussing what action to take at their meeting on the 15th November. It was reiterated that not all the partners involved in Wigton burials had shared the information regarding the new row of graves and the placement of the headstones. All members of the WBJC is extremely sorry for any upset that has been caused.

It was highlighted that the WBJC had completed a business plan which then fed into their budget, with reserves being earmarked for future projects. The precept request from Wigton, Waverton and Woodside totals £17371.

There were no burials in October.

Cllrs Clark and Huntington were thanked for all the work put into the business plan and budget setting.

Cllr Hamblin was acknowledged for all the effort put into the cemetery.

FC/108/2023 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Members were provided with a report prior to the meeting.

FC/109/2023 COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE VACANCY

Members were informed that the councillor vacancy due to resignation would be advertised.

The resignation caused vacancies on the finance committee and the parks, open spaces, and allotment committee.

Members discussed with Cllr Scott proposing Cllr Hodson to sit on the finance committee. This was seconded by Anne Jackson. A **vote** was taken which was **UNANIMOUS**.

RESOLVED – Cllr Hodson is the new member of the finance committee.

Members discussed with Cllr Clark proposing Cllr P Newton sit on the POA committee. This was seconded by Cllr Huntington. A **vote** was taken which was **UNANIMOUS**.

RESOLVED – Cllr P Newton is the new member of the POA committee.

FC/110/2023 TOWN MAYOR REPORT

See attached.

FC/111/2023 CLERK'S REPORT

Requested volunteers for the Christmas light switch on event.

FC/112/2023 MEMBER REPORTS

Councillor Hodson – Civic Service at Maryport, displayed the poppies across Wigton and attended the Scouts Bonfire.

Councillor Ferriby – Thanked Cllr Hodson for her work with the poppies. Reminded members about Remembrance services on Saturday 11th November at 11am and Sunday 12th November, 3pm at St Marys. Also asked for the Bowling Club to be on December's agenda.

Councillor Huntington – attended the WBJC meeting.

Councillor Clark – Mentioned the need for another bin at Fell View. **ACTION** – Speak to Cumberland Council. Also discussed the weeds near the old Police Station.

Meeting closed 20:39

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th December