**WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

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

**WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT**

Cllrs Lynch, Crouch, Jackson, Hamblin, Hodson, Armstrong, Robbins, Scott, Clark & Huntington

**IN ATTENDANCE** - Cllr R Liddle

Cllr Lynch spoke of the recent sad loss of Jimmie James. He was a big part of our community and will be sorely missed. A minutes silence was held.

**FC/114/2019 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies – Cllrs Ferriby, Williams and Stapley

**FC/115/2019 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Town Council meeting held on 8th January 2020 - Approved and signed as a true record

Festivals Committee held on 30th January 2020 – Approved and signed as a true record

Footpaths, Parks & Allotments Committee held on 4th February 2020 – Approved and signed

as a true record

**FC/116/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO**

**GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Cllrs Lynch and Crouch – Agenda Item 9 (ABC) and anything else relating to ABC

Cllr Huntington – Agenda Item 8 – St Marys Church Gate (Member of PCC)

**FC/117/2019 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

None

**FC/118/2019 PUBLIC PARTCIPATION**

**118/2019/1** - To receive reports from the public –

Pamela Batley asked if they could speak at Agenda Item 6 regarding the impact assessment.

The Chair asked members if they were happy with this, all said yes.

**118/2019/2** - To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance –

Cllr Liddle reported on the County Councils budget for 2020/21. 3.99% which includes Social

Care Services. They still need to make further reductions but less than previous years. In the

last decade they have reduced costs from 680m to 410m.

Borderlands Project – This project is to strengthen the economy on both sides of the border.

Northumberland, Cumbria, Carlisle, Dumfries and Galloway. There is £350m to spend over

the next 10 years. There is a desire by the new government to invest in the country. There will

be a town fund – 6 towns in each district will benefit and Wigton has been chosen by Cumbria

CC and Allerdale BC. Economic regeneration is the umbrella. At a very early stage and as yet

there is no structure from the government.

Cumbria CC will be the accountable body but will need input from Wigton to include

representatives from the town/groups. Officers from CCC and ABC will also be involved.

Areas for discussion will include Compulsory purchase of empty buildings, traffic

(pedestrianisation), Water St Car Park area, Retail area and integrated public transport.

Meeting on 14th Feb regarding parking enforcement and the Traffic Review Order is to be

looked at over the next year.

Police Presence – Need better policing in the town.

Cllr Crouch had attended a presentation from planning regarding Maryport. Allerdale FC

meeting where a modern slavery act was adopted.

Cllr Pitcher sent apologies and reported that it was voted for no increase on members

Allowances and that the markets were going in house.

Cllr Lynch had attended climate change meetings with a report now ready with

recommendations to be carbon neutral by 2030 in line with the environment bill going through

government. 2 development panel meetings. A number of street lights will be ready for town

and parish councils this month.

**118/2019/3** – To receive report form the police – Clerk reported that we no longer receive a

direct report from the police and asked members if they wished for the link to police website

sent with agenda each month. Members agreed to this.

**FC/119/2019 IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR WIGTON**

The Clerk reported she had been in touch with ABC to ask advice on an impact assessment.

ABC had kindly offered to meet with councillors and representatives from the group to

initially ascertain exactly what it is they are looking for. It was agreed that Cllrs Crouch,

Jackson and Armstrong would attend and the Clerk to obtain dates/times and liaise with

members and residents.

**FC/120/2019 FINANCE MATTERS**

**120/2019/1** To receive and authorise payments for January 2020 – received and authorised

**120/2019/2** To receive the monthly financial statement for January 2020 – received and

authorised

**FC/121/2019 ST MARYS CHURCH GATE**

Background information had been sent to members prior to the meeting.

**Recommendation**

The gate design has been drawn up by an approved contractor of the PCC and approved in principle.

The cost is quoted at £799, and was included in the budget for 2018/19 (funded by the Concurrent Grant from ABC)

The recommendation is that we proceed to the next step which is to contact the Archdeacon as a faculty is likely to be required. The PCC will assist us in that process.

A vote was taken and the decision to move to the next step was agreed (Unanimous)

**FC/122/2019 ABC DRAFT STRATEGY DELIVERY PLAN 2020 – 2024**

It was agreed that members give individual responses if they wishes. No response from the

Council

**FC/123/2019 POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

An email had been sent prior to the meeting to ask for 2 new members to sit on the policy and

development committee.

Cllrs Scott and Williams had put themselves forward. The Clerk asked if anyone else wished

to join. No other members came forward. It was agreed that the Cllrs Scott and Williams

joined the P & D Committee.

**FC/124/2019 PCC COUNCIL TAX CONSULATATION**

Cllrs discussed the increase in council tax which was for extra officers. It was agreed to support

this year but would like to see evidence of the increase as members felt there had been no

improvement/benefit last year and as such would not be able to support this in future years.

**FC/125/2019 VE DAY**

Members were asked for ideas for this 75th Anniversary celebration. The Clerk reported that

all the towns in Allerdale were doing events. Clerk to ask Brian Warren (RBL) to March

meeting to see if they had any ideas.

Clerk suggested a parade of servicemen, flags on buildings, ringing of church bells (a national

event)

**FC/126/2019 BAILEY BRIDGE**

The Chair thanked Cllr Armstrong for his report on the Bailey bridge.

Cllr Armstrong went through the options

Option 1 – Leave as is (no cost)

Option 2 – Leave as is and try to sell (no cost)

Option 3 Strip down and flat pack (£1000 to deconstruct + free storage donated)

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

It was agreed to look to explore Option 2 to sell. Cllr Hodson would look into cost of a recent

bridge on ebay and come back to March meeting to discuss further.

**FC/127/2019 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**FC/128/2019 CLERKS REPORT**

The following was reported to members

* Barton Laws – Planning application approved. Work is progressing with building regulations. Meeting held 10th Feb with Day Cummins. Tender to go out hopefully in the next 2-3 weeks. Funding secured from Sports England of £75,000
* CALC training – I would like members to consider training for all councillors to be held here at Wigton Market Hall – Bespoke
* Council Surgeries – What do you think of holding a surgery once a quarter. 2 hours on a Saturday morning in the Library
* Meeting with Fletcher Contract Cleaning regarding toilets – Complaint received toilets were closed on Sunday. Hopefully now sorted. Will keep an eye on the situation. Park staff to paint
* Cumbria CC Working Together Service (Email sent 3rd Feb) Do you wish us to express an interest?
* Questions for the PCC – Sending questions to PCC on Thursday 27th Feb

**FC/129/2019 MEMBERS REPORTS**

SH – Borderlands Project

AJ – Borderlands Project

MC – Borderlands Project

EL – Cumberland FA meeting with SF regarding funding for pitch improvements

**FC/130/2019 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th March 2020

Meeting Closed 8.50pm