**WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

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

**WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE 2019 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT**

Cllrs Ferriby, Lynch, Hodson, Armstrong, Stapley, Robbins, Williams, Crouch, Clark, & Huntington

**FC/17/2019 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies – None

**FC/18/2019 CO-OPTION**

John Hamblin and Anne Jackson had both expressed an interest to join the Council. A vote was taken and it was unanimous. They were both co-opted on to the council. The Chair invited them to sit at the table.

**FC/19/2019 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR**

Cllr Lynch proposed John Crouch as Mayor, seconded by Cllr Clark.

No other nominations – Vote taken, unanimous. Cllr Crouch was duly elected as Mayor and read and signed the declaration of office.

**FC/20/2019 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr Clark proposed Cllr Ferriby, seconded by Cllr Huntington

Cllr Armstrong proposed Cllr Hodson, no seconder

Vote taken to elect Cllr Ferriby as Deputy Mayor. 8 – Yes / 2 - Abstentions

Cllr Ferriby was duly elected as Deputy Mayor and read and signed the declaration of office.

**FC/21/2019 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 8TH MAY 2019**

Approved and signed as a true record

**FC/22/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO**

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

Cllr Lynch – Item 10 Planning applications as on the ABC planning committee

Cllr Crouch – Any items relating to ABC

**FC/23/2019 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Item 13 – WBJC Report

**FC/24/2019 PUBLIC PARTCIPATION**

**24/2019/1** - Mr Magnay asked the council ‘Who had ordered the re turfing of their grave?’

He also asked why nobody had answered the 2 emails his sister had sent.

Cllr Lynch stated again that this is being dealt with by Solicitors and please refer any questions

To us via them.

Kathryn Berwick asked if the Council could postpone these new housing developments. There

are a lot of empty houses up for sale in Wigton? The developers are also cramming them in.

Do you think this is reasonable to say?

Cllr Hodson responded by saying it is reasonable to say all of this but it’s not government

policy to stop housing and the above are not reasons to stop housing developments.

Kathryn Berwick went on to say they do not allow room for cars with the houses

Cllr Armstrong commented that we are mindful that ABC have set out 550 homes for Wigton

from 2011-29 and the 77 homes discussed takes us over this figure.

Cllr Jackson agreed with Kathryn Berwick and stated that schools, GP surgeries etc. would

struggle to cope.

The Clerk was asked to invite a planning officer to a TC meeting.

Lisa Hodgson asked if there could be more free parking in the town. Cllr Ferriby reported that

a small working group had been discussing options and that this would be sent to Cumbria CC

(On Street) and Allerdale (Car Parks) with recommendations for some limited free parking in

the town.

Clerk to write to Cumbria CC for extra patrols of the on street parking in the town.

Lisa Hodgson also commented on the rise in Council Tax and not getting anything for it. She

discussed the police part and asked if we have police presence at meetings? The Clerk informed

the council that the PCSO was off sick and unable to attend and no other officers were available.

Cllr Armstrong asked if we could invite the PCC to attend a meeting. The Clerk to also invite

the Community Sergeant.

Lisa Hodgson commented on the unkempt areas in the town, weeds etc. The park, bowling

green etc. look good but other areas are not. The Clerk explained that the Town Council look

after the park and blowing green but not the streets/estates or roadside verges.

Cllr Crouch has been talking with ABC about the state of some areas where grass had not been

cut at all as ABC having undertaken an audit of the town and certain areas are not theirs to do

even though they have cut them in the past. They are trying to resolve this by talking to the

landowners.

Cllr Williams stated that there are 3 councils and private contractors that cut grass and maintain

areas in the town and we are looking at making it easier by fewer contractors being involved

but this would result in monetary support.

Cllr Crouch informed everyone that the new leader of ABC Marion Fitzgerald has been told.

Cllr Clark had been asked by Mr Newcombe if he could have an update on progress on flooding

from the Environment Agency. The Clerk to follow up.

**24/2019/2** To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance –

Cllr Crouch reported that there had been no meetings of the new council as yet, they had all

Been postponed.

Cllr Pitcher reported that a new administration was in place and no coalition had been formed.

The Full council meeting had been set for 27th July.

Cllr Lynch had attended induction training and was a member of the development panel and

licencing committee.

**24/2019/3** To receive reports from the Police – No report received to date.

The Clerk reported she had emailed for response times to the emergency call on 12th April and

where officers had been deployed from.

Also if there had been reports to police regarding vandalism to the Ice Cream shop on King

Street. The Clerk had received the following email –

*I have spoken to  my Sgt regarding the questions that councillors have asked and am afraid due to data protection I am unable to divulge the information to them, we only pass information to members of the public that would be within the public interest.*

*Kind Regards*

***Police Community Support Officer 5326***

Cllr Armstrong asked if we could obtain the Council Tax contribution for the whole of Wigton. The Clerk to follow up.

**FC/25/2019 FINANCE MATTERS**

**25/2019/1** To receive and authorise payments for May 2019 previously circulated –

received and authorised

**25/2019/2** To receive the monthly financial statement for May 2019 previously circulated

– received and authorised

**25/2019/3** To agree new bank signatories due to resignations – **AGREED** David Ferriby,

Heather Robbins and Pat Williams

**FC/26/2019 GOVERNANCE MATTERS**

**FC/26**/**2019/1** To receive and respond to the Internal Auditor’s Report for Year Ending 31st March 2019- Previously circulated. No outstanding points to be discussed. The Clerk was thanked for the good report received.

**FC/26/2019/2** To approve the Statement of Assurance (Section 1) and authorise the Chairman to sign the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2019 – Received and Approved and signed by the Chair and RFO.

**FC/26/2019/3** To receive and approve the accounting statements for year ended 31st March 2019 (Section 2) – Previously circulated. Received and Approved and signed by the Chair and RFO.

**FC/27/2019 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In the absence of a Mayor, the Chair had attended and opened the Art Exhibition on Saturday 25th May. Fantastic turnout. The Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Brian Campbell.

**FC/28/2019 CLERKS REPORT**

Nothing to report

**FC/29/2019 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**HOU/2019/0109** – Single Storey rear/side extension at 1 Grange Close for Mr and Mrs D

Jackson – **No comments**

**Carry out works to trees** – Removal of Rowan and Hawthorn Tree at Mardale, William St

for Mr D Stanton – Cllr Crouch asked if the trees needed to be replaced. Clerk to follow up

**VAR/2019/0016** - Variation of condition 2, approved plans on application 2/2017/0587 to

Former Auction Mart for Dryden Home Group – Cllr Armstrong discussed the plans now encroaching on to the baths path. Cllr Pitcher stated this was due to drainage works and that they had consulted with the baths and they were happy. **No comments**

Decision Notices – **HOU/2019/0072** and **ADV/2019/0005**

Tree Preservation Order **No. 7** of 2019 at Syke Road

**FC/30/2019 MEMBERS REPORTS**

Art Exhibition – SH, HR, JC and PW

Pinfold – DF, SH and MA

ABC Leader Walkabout – SH, MA, HR, JC, PW and MC

Finance Meeting – Draft minutes circulated prior to the meeting – Cllr Ferriby reported that

we had started the financial year with approx. £75k and ended the year with £39k hence the

increase in precept for this year.

Grants awarded to 3rd Wigton Sea Scouts - £500

Wigton and District Community Responders - £500

Wigton Cricket Club - £100

Wigton Youth Station – Not awarded a grant for their application but happy to consider a

further application regarding a heritage lottery project.

**FC/31/2019 ELECTION OF MEMBERS ON COMMITTEES**

Finance – Cllr Williams

Festivals – Cllr Lynch

Footpaths & Parks – Cllr Jackson and Cllr Hamblin

**FC/32/2019 WBJC – CONFIDENTIAL**

**FC/33/2019 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th July 2019

Meeting Closed 8.55pm