**WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

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

**WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2019 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT**

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

**FC/62/2019 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies – Cllrs Ferriby and Hamblin

**FC/63/2019 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 11TH SEPTEMBER 2019**

Approved and signed as a true record

**FC/64/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO**

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

Cllr Lynch – Item 7 Planning Application and any items relating to ABC

Cllr Crouch – Any items relating to ABC

**FC/65/2019 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

None

**FC/66/2019 PUBLIC PARTCIPATION**

**66/2019/1** – None

**66/2019/2** To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance – Cllr

Crouch has spoken to Anna Chippendale at ABC regarding support for our Christmas Market.

Also celebrating open spaces.

Cllr Pitcher reported that Scrutiny were meeting with ABC Exec fortnightly. They are looking

at Waste Services coming in house. There will be a task and finish group set up to look at what

went wrong with the Waste Services contract.

Cllr Lynch had attended Licencing Panel and Development Panel.

**66/2019/3** To receive reports from the Police – Report emailed to members prior to meeting.

Apologies received from PCSO’s. Members felt that the report now given is not detailed

enough. They would like to prioritise ASB, ASD and New Crimes.

Clerk to ask police if they have procedures when flooding occurs in the town (ie. Priorities for

closing roads)

**FC/67/2019 ABC DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2020-2030**

Councillors to consider and submit questions on Allerdales draft plan – Members discussed

each question and commented accordingly. Clerk to input this on to the online survey.

**FC/68/2019 FINANCE MATTERS**

**68/2019/1** To receive and authorise payments for September 2019 – received and authorised

**68/2019/2** To receive the monthly financial statement for September 2019 – received and

authorised

**FC/69/2019 ADMIN AND GOVERNANCE**

**69/2019/1** To receive the completed audit AGAR report from PKF Littlejohn – Members received the completed AGAR report and thanked the Clerk.

**69/2019/2** To receive updated Financial Regulations – AGREE, ADOPT and sign off – Members received, agreed, adopted and signed off the Financial Regulations.

**FC/70/2019 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had been to Chrysalis Sensory Garden Opening which had been very enjoyable.

**FC/71/2019 CLERKS REPORT**

Barton Laws – Lot of work to do for the Football Foundation.

New member of staff started on 30th September. Now gone on to winter hours

Damage to men’s public toilet external door. SF to do a temporary repair but need to look at new doors for both

**FC/72/2019 MEMBERS REPORTS**

None

**FC/73/2019 EXTERNAL CONTRACTS**

**Bolton Low Houses School**

Contract per annum £1,463.82 based on 14 cuts per year (Includes VAT)

Last year we spent 65.5 hours plus travelling approx. 14 hours = £15.30 per hour

Approx. 5.5 hours per visit

**Oulton Village Hall**

Contract price per annum = £387.32 based on 14 cuts (Includes VAT)

We have spent so far 27 hours plus travelling 7 hours = £11.39 per hour

We only took on this work due to having Kirkbride School contract but that has now ended. It is no longer cost effective.

When we tendered for this work it was done on the same basis as others in that we base on 14 cuts per year but due to the length of the grass each time we go this would need to be cut at least an extra ¾ times in the growing season year therefore increasing the charge and also the hourly rate.

In order to continue with this contract we would have to charge £18.00 per hour for 16 or 17 cuts per year. (Approx. £864.00 per year)

As I said at the last meeting Park staff are struggling with the work load they have due to staffing issues in the summer and not undertaking work outside of Wigton would help. Those extra hours would be used for work in the town that they are not getting done now. (Rose Garden at Churchyard, Phoenix Park and other areas in the centre of town)

Recommendation – To terminate these contracts as of March 2020

Cllr Williams proposed the council accept the recommendation by the Clerk

Yes – 9

Abstention – 1

**FC/74/2019 BAILEY BRIDGE**

Report sent to Councillors prior to the meeting was discussed

In 2010, land off West Road was purchased from Hopes Auction Company by Allerdale Borough Council on behalf of Wigton Town Council.

The intention at the time was to use the land as additional sports pitches. A restrictive covenant is in place which prohibits any buildings to be placed on the land.

In 2012 a bridge was donated to the Town Council, and the intention was to link Barton Laws to planned new pitches across the River Wiza

In February 2013 the Clerk was asked to contact Innovia to obtain relevant drawings to assist in any planning application. The subsequent plans provided were inadequate for planning purposes, and further plans were commissioned by the Town Council.

In 2014, plans were submitted to Allerdale Planning Authority. The Environment Agency raised flood risk concerns. In addition, the height of the bridge would mean the ramps would take up a lot of the car park, and also traverse the public footpath, which would need addressed at some expense.

In October 2014 the Playing Field Strategy was published for the whole of Allerdale. This report states there is no demand for additional playing fields in the town. Following our ongoing discussions with the FA, from their perspective, the situation remains the same. The Environment Agency also indicated that they would object to any raising of the land where the pitches would be. As a result it would prove difficult to find partner funders to develop the land.

In Early 2016, at the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the planning application was withdrawn to enable efforts to be concentrated on the Pavilion and Pitch Improvements.

**Options**

1. **Do Nothing** – Leaving the bridge in situ does take up some space and doing nothing will result in the bridge deteriorating further. Councillors should note that we have had a few comments about it being an eyesore.
2. **Progress the installation** – It will be difficult at this time, and for the foreseeable future, to make a business case for the installation of the bridge due to the lack of demand of additional pitches, and to overcome the Environment Agencies concerns. If installed the ramps will take up a significant amount of the car parking space. Plan attached.
3. **Sell it –** The council have been asked if it can be sold for a donation. As a comparison, we have obtained an estimate for its Scrap Value which is £100 per tonne (which would include dismantling and removing it from site). Its estimated weight is 6 tonne.

Cllr Armstrong commented that the bridge was a versatile and valuable structure. It is an asset and we still need to explore the access to the potential usage of the other field.

The Chair tasked Cllr Armstrong with exploring costs to dismantle and keep the bridge in storage.

**FC/75/2019 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Consider and submit observations on the following~

**LBC/2019/0025** Mr P Evans, Listed building consent for the creation of a new door between

18 & 20 High St on first floor and alterations to provide toilet and office access at The Limes

– **Fully Support**

**HOU/2019/0211** Ms S Jones, Single storey extension to replace conservatory and bathroom at

1 Grange Cottages, Cross Lane – **No comments**

**FC/76/2019 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th November 2019

Meeting Closed 8.20pm