

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL
A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 13th JANUARY 2021 AT 7.00PM

For future public record, this Town Council meeting was held using the Zoom video conferencing facility. In March 2020 following a pandemic outbreak of Coronavirus, (Covid 19), on the 23rd March, the UK government announced a national lockdown on UK citizens. One restriction was to ban public meetings of more than 2 people and those participants must maintain a social distancing of 2metres between them. The government in early April brought in legislation which permitted Local Authorities, including Town and Parish Councils, to meet using a video conferencing facility. This system will continue in use until such time as the government allows the return of public gatherings and meetings in community buildings.

PRESENT

Cllrs Lynch, Robson, Huntington, Jackson, Williams, Hodson, Armstrong, Scott, Clark, Ferriby, Robbins and Crouch

In Attendance – Cllr Liddle

FC/80/2020 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies – Cllr Stapley and Hamblin. Cllr Pitcher ABC

FC/81/2020 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Town Council meeting held on 16th December 2020 - Approved and signed as a true record
Finance Committee meeting held on 10th December 2020 – Approved and signed as a true record

FC/82/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

FC/83/2020 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

FC/84/2020 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

84/2020/1 To receive reports from the Public – None

84/2020/2 To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance – Cllr Crouch reported there is interest in setting up a business group and a meeting is being set up for the end of the month.

Cllr Lynch had attended a virtual task and Finish Group meeting about the budget,

Development Panel meeting, electric charge points and climate change looking at tree planting.

Cllr Liddle – CCC budget still in discussion but likely very close to a 2% increase. Govt saying they can increase the social care budget by 3% but members are still debating this. Borderlands Project – Meeting has taken place to discuss Stakeholders, Consultants to lead on this. Cllr Lynch thanked Cllr Liddle for all his hard work in getting Wigton on to the project.

FC/85/2020 FINANCE MATTERS

85/2020/1 To receive and authorise payments and financial statement for December 2020 - The statement was received and payments were authorised

85/2020/2 To receive the recommended budget and precept from Finance Committee for 2021/22 – Members received the budget and £30k increase to the precept. Cllr Hodson stated she would have preferred a lower increase to the precept and that she couldn't vote for the 30K rise. Cllr Lynch asked if she wanted to put an amended proposal forward? Cllr Hodson proposed £20k increase in the precept, seconded by Cllr Armstrong.

A short discussion took place.

Amended Proposal of £20k Precept Increase and Finance Committee recommended budget – Vote taken 3 Yes / 9 No Motion not carried

Proposal of £30k Precept Increase and Finance Committee recommended budget – Vote taken 9 Yes / 3 No Motion carried

FC/86/020 PUBLIC TOILETS – TO DISCUSS AND AGREE IF ANY CHANGES TO BE MADE

The Clerk reported we are still waiting for costings for opening all toilets. Members discussed the current situation whereby some of the public toilets remain closed. It was agreed that for now, there was no need to change the arrangements.

FC/87/2020 WIGTON PARK BOWLING CLUB – WORKING GROUP

87/2020/1 To discuss new equipment for bowling green – A discussion took place regarding the Mower and Scarifier –

Scarifier – Could be fixed at a cost of £400

Mower – A refurbished Mower (Exactly the same make/model we have) could be purchased for £2,500 The working group clarified that we need a mower for the start of the season (Mid March). Cllr Armstrong was thanked for the work he had done to find a mower. However too many questions were raised on the mower for members to make an informed decision and therefore, no vote was taken. It was **AGREED** that a further meeting take place on Monday 18th January at 7.00pm for further discussions and clarification of queries/concerns raised by members.

87/2020/2 To discuss The Friends of Wigton Park Account – It was **AGREED** if the account was wound up money was to be ring fenced for the Park as per the constitution.

FC/88/2020 TREE PLANTING

Cllr Robson updated on the following

Speet Gill – Ongoing and trees had been planted at the entrance. Thanks to Grounds staff for their help.

Allotments – 400 trees were planted and are looking into the possibility of having bee hives.

Barton Laws (Cycle track) – Cllr Robson asked members on their thoughts on what to do with the lower section of the field that is nothing better than marsh land. Do we leave it or do we? do something with it? We could speak to Hopes and look at amending the agreement? Members happy for Cllr Robson to discuss amending the agreement with Hopes.

East End Park – Do members still have concerns about planting in the park? It was agreed to wait for the response from the police survey carried out before Christmas with the residents and discuss again at a future meeting.

Cllr Robson reported that the group are looking for more sites?

Cllr Robson was thanked for all the work he and the group had done.

FC/89/2020 TOWN MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Crouch reported the doorstep visits to the Care Homes in Wigton just before Christmas and Wigton Hospital for the roll out of the Covid vaccinations.

FC/90/2020 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported the following

- Barton Laws – Building has been demolished. Toilets will be demolished at the end of the project.
- Burnfoot Allotments – Identified taps, members have been asked to go and look at 2 empty allotments. Meeting next week to discuss next steps.
- Borderlands Project – I've asked Cumbria CC for powerpoint to email out to all councillors so you have a better understanding of the project.
- I've completed a survey regarding playing fields/sports pitches

FC/91/2020 MEMBERS REPORTS

EL – Emergency Response Group and Borderlands Project Meeting

JC – Emergency Response Group

CS – Emergency Response Group

DF – Wigton hospital Vaccination rollout

FC/92/2020 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 10th February 2021 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.40pm