

**WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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, Hamblin, Robbins and Crouch

In Attendance – Cllrs Pitcher & Liddle

**FC/68/2020 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies – Cllr Stapley

**FC/69/2020 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Town Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 - Approved and signed as a true record  
Finance Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

**FC/70/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Armstrong, Agenda Item 6

**FC/71/2020 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

None

**FC/72/2020 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**72/2020/1** To receive reports from the Public – None

**72/2020/2** To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance

Cllr Liddle began by briefing councillors on the proposals likely to go forward to consultation following the Governments initiative in inviting proposals for change. The Government will choose what finally goes out to public consultation. Cllr Liddle recommended that once public

consultation opens, the Town Council consider possible implications with regard to local control, the possibility of extra powers and the surrounding area.

Cllr Liddle then updated members on the Borderlands scheme, which remains to be finally signed off by the government. The fund will be for mainly Capital Projects, focused on the centre of town, and the Town Council along with other public and private partners will have a key role as to how the funding is spent. It was suggested that the Town Council revisit previous plans, and investigate the setting up of stakeholder working group

Cllr Crouch is to arrange a meeting in January with Toni Magean (Business Engagement Manger) of Allerdale Borough Council to progress a Business Forum for Wigton following Funding from Allerdale Borough Council. Cllrs suggested a personal approach to businesses as they feel it is likely to generate more interest.

Cllr Pitcher reported he will be working closely as a representative for Wigton on the Borderland Scheme once work begins. With regard to the proposals for a Unitary Authority, Cllr Pitcher explained Allerdale's preferred option is a two-unitary model for Cumbria with Allerdale, Carlisle and Copeland for this part of the County. Cllr Pitcher believes this option is a big opportunity for the area.

Cllr Pitcher then updated members on the 1<sup>st</sup> Allerdale Lottery draw, due tomorrow, to which 60 local charities have joined, and finally the Budget consultation is also due to come out tomorrow which he encourages everyone to read and respond to.

Cllr Pitcher then left the meeting at 19.40pm

Cllr Lynch reported she was to attend a Budget Task and Finish group meeting tomorrow, and Also sits on the Pandemic Task & Finish group focusing on child poverty etc.

In addition Cllr Lynch reported car charging points for Wigton are being investigated.

#### **FC/73/2020 FINANCE MATTERS – TO RECEIVE AND AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR NOVEMBER 2020**

The statement was received and payments were authorised

#### **FC/74/020 PUBLIC TOILETS – TO DISCUSS AND AGREE IF ANY CHANGES TO BE MADE**

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, and the Clerk will price for additional cleaning should in the future all toilets are re-opened.

#### **FC/75/2020 NEW PROJECT FOR LAND AT WEST ROAD**

Cllr Armstrong outlined the project idea of a Himalayan Putting Green for which an outline Paper had been previously circulated. Cllr Armstrong explained that there is support in the community for this project, and that it could be a focus for 2021. One possible restriction, which could also affect tree planting at the lower end of the field, is the restrictive covenants. Cllrs discussed the proposal with negative and positive observations made. It was agreed that Cllrs Armstrong & Robson report back with further details at the next meeting. Cllr Robson

suggested that this is the opportune time to review all of the recreational facilities in the town

### **FC/76/2020 TOWN MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Crouch reported the visit by the High Sheriff had been put off until January.  
In addition he reported on the Fare Share Project that started today, and councillors are asked to spread the word.

### **FC/77/2020 CLERKS REPORT**

Barton Laws – asbestos has been removed and demolition will begin on 4<sup>th</sup> January  
Town Council paperwork is being stored at the Cemetery and volunteers are requested to go through it (for data retention purposes)  
Website compatibility – have heard nothing back from our website developers  
Bailey Bridge –still heard nothing despite several follow ups

### **FC/78/2020 MEMBERS REPORTS**

EL/JC – Emergency Response Group  
MC – WBJC, looking to plant tree in memorial garden for those who have died because of the epidemic  
JC – Emergency Response Group  
CS – Emergency Response Group  
AJ – Fare Share Project. Would Council Sanction a banner? AD and CS to look where they can be made. MA suggested All Signs

### **FC/79/2020 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.40pm