

**WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 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 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, 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, Jackson, Williams, Hodson, Armstrong, Scott, Clark, Ferriby, Robbins, Hamblin and Crouch

**FC/119/2020 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies – Cllrs Stapley and Huntington

**FC/120/2020 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Town Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - Approved and signed as a true record  
Finance Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record  
Footpaths and Parks Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record

**FC/121/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Armstrong – Item 6 Finance Matters

**FC/122/2020 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

None

**FC/123/2020 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**123/2020/1** To receive reports from the Public – Mike Bryceson (Wigton Baths Trust) thanked the Town Council for their financial support as it is invaluable to the Baths and they are hoping to open up next month once restrictions ease.

**123/2020/2** To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance –

Cllr Crouch had attended an Overview and Scrutiny Performance Review meeting and ABC are 80% ahead with projects. Also attended the ABC Full Council meeting which was a

very difficult meeting.

Cllr Lynch had attended a Tourism business forum, Climate Change, Audit Committee, Census, Policy and ABC Full Council meeting.

Cllr Pitcher had attended a Borderlands Meeting (EL will discuss in detail later in the meeting). Sellafield SIF Fund will be available again so if we have any projects we wish to be considered then email him with details.

Cllr Pitcher and Mike Bryceson left the meeting.

### **FC/124/2020 FINANCE MATTERS**

To receive and authorise payments and financial statement for February 2021. The statement was received and payments were authorised

### **FC/125/2020 PUBLIC TOILETS – TO DISCUSS AND AGREE IF ANY CHANGES TO BE MADE**

It was **AGREED** No changes to be made to the existing arrangements. To add to April agenda

### **FC/126/2020 FOOTPATHS, PARKS AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE**

To agree the new rules and regulations set out by the committee – **AGREED**

To discuss the options going forward for a water supply at Burnfoot Allotments and agree which option is best for the Council –

In September 2020 we discovered that some of the allotments were serviced with water, by way of standpipes. This matter was overlooked by both parties at the time of the transfer of the land to us.

We contacted WCF to find out if they knew where the water meter was.

Since that time, investigations have been carried out and it has now been proven that they are supplied via the metered water connection to WCF, and we have determined there are 5 standpipes on the site.

West Cumberland Farmers suggested the following options, but their preferred Option is 1 and 3 as they do not want to deal with the administration of Option 2

1. Cut off all the supplies and blank off
2. Have individual meters installed to each allotment and re-charge
3. Have a new supply installed with new meter

United Utilities have quoted £855.00 for a new connection to the main – see attached appendix. This price will increase on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

In addition, we will need to lay pipework to the connection, and install a standpipe or water trough.

Initial estimates of this work are in the region of 1 to 3k, depending on whether WCF are open to us capping each standpipe. It will be more expensive to find where the supply “T’s” off, and disconnect from the main. Nor do we know how many “T” offs there are

The options we have are:

1. Do nothing. This is not a preferred option for WCF
2. Disconnect the standpipes and blank off – A preferred option of WCF – disadvantage this would leave tenants without a water supply
3. Disconnect the standpipes, blank off, and have United Utilities put in a separate supply to a standpipe or trough
4. Put in a water bowser and leave it to WCF to disconnect the standpipes – the most cost effective solution for WTC
5. Attempt to come to a private arrangement with WCF for water charges

All options were discussed **AGREED** to explore Option 5 with WCF, go back to F & P with information and if not financially viable we agree to Option 4

### **FC/127/2020 TREE PLANTING**

Cllr Robson had emailed Craig Brough at Hopes asking him if he had any issues with the council improving the land next to the cycle track on West Road with trees etc. and how he felt about the wording of the covenant. Mr Brough’s response was that he could get their solicitor to look at the covenant, at a cost of £300 to which he asked the council to pay this. Cllr Robson explained that it wasn’t a legal issue as such and again asked if he could see any issues. To date there has been no response. Cllr Robson proposed a letter be sent to Mr Brough from the Town Council to outline our position and invite him to discuss it further. The Clerk to send a letter (drafted by Cllr Robson)

Cllr Robson had received an email from Cumbria Wildlife Trust regarding working with them to create habitats for bees etc. Not sure what it entails as yet but there could be funding available and thought that the area at allotments would be ideal and possibly Phoenix Park, are council happy for him to discuss with them? Yes all happy.

### **FC/128/2020 TOWN MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Crouch had a zoom meeting with Julie Barton the High Sheriff of Cumbria and she would be doing a spotlight on Wigton on her facebook page.

### **FC/129/2020 CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk reported the following

- Barton Laws Update – Site meeting took place on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, all going well.
- Adult football set to return from April

- Circus have been in contact and were looking to come to Wigton end of July/early August. I have explained that we will not be up and running by then and look forward to working with them next year.
- Cllr Lynch reminded members about the Local Government Reorganisation survey emailed out by the Clerk. Will put on April agenda to discuss if council want to put a response together.
- Borderlands Project – This has not been signed off by the government yet but nonetheless a town team has been set up from CCC, ABC, WTC and private sector. We have a draft terms of reference. A group of members were tasked with putting together a list of stakeholders (15) for the consultants to contact. There will then be workshops and then wider consultation.

### **FC/130/2020 MEMBERS REPORTS**

MA – Work on Putting Green proposal ongoing, will be ready to come to the April meeting.  
 SH – Bailey Bridge Update – 8 watchers on facebook with 165 views but as yet no bids. Update for April meeting.  
 JC – Business Forum meeting went well. Looking at ideas for the group and will be choosing a rep for the Borderlands Project. Another meeting set up for 12<sup>th</sup> March. Attended a WAERG meeting  
 DF – Working group looking at general improvements for Park area, also rewriting the heritage trail leaflet and Cllr Armstrong looking at suppling new blue plaques  
 EL – Business Forum, Borderlands Town Team and WAERG  
 CS - WAERG

### **FC/131/2020 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
 Meeting closed at 8.20pm