

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2021

PRESENT – Cllrs Lynch, Ferriby, Robbins, Williams, Scott, Robson, Jackson, Armstrong, Hodson, Clark, Stapley and Huntington

IN ATTENDANCE – Cllr Alan Pitcher and Sam Smedley (Newsquest)

FC/58/2021 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted for Cllrs Hamblin, Crouch, Speksnyder and County Cllr Liddle

FC/59/2021 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Town Council meeting held on 14th July 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record
Festivals Committee held on 20th July 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record
Policy and Develop Committee held on 23rd August 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record

FC/60/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Armstrong – Item 6 Finances

FC/61/2021 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Item 8 – Agreed to move to end of meeting.

FC/62/2021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

62/2021/1 To welcome Acting Sergeant Leesa Edwards to the Council Meeting, along with Lisa Law and PCSO Kerry Harris – Leesa had been sent questions prior to the meeting and the responses were as follows

Are you seeing any benefits since CCTV was installed in the centre of town? – *Yes the cameras have helped with the following: - Shop lifting, a fight, RTC, missing person and driving over the limit*

How successful have speed cameras been on the by-pass since installation?

Very successful - In 2020 over 1,000 NIP's were sent and so far in 2021 there have been over 500 sent

Are you seeing any benefits since officers have been deployed from Wigton? And there is a perceived lack of communication with the Police – Now officers are in the town people expect visibility – What is the community/neighbourhood policing strategy?

3 officers are deployed from Wigton but they are response officers (999), they are a very good resource for the neighbourhood team and link in with them very well.

Anti-Social Behaviour: We have reported over the last couple of weeks 4 acts of vandalism (3 in the public park). We have been told that the police will try to increase patrols. What can we do as a council to help, if anything?

PCSO Harris will speak to the individuals concerned with the vandalism in the park and let us know the outcome in due course. PCSO Harris would also like to look at a crime prevention survey with councillors at the park. The clerk to get back to Kerry with some dates.

Cllr Lynch asked about the drug issues within the town (2 cannabis farms), ***Leesa said that those type of issues were not dealt with by the Neighbourhood team. However they do often do a leaflet drop to areas of the town that they have had concerns raised about issues. This will be reported in the newsletter.***

Cllr Pitcher asked how effective the Allerdale Hub is. He felt that maybe not all information was being circulated to all users and this is something he is trying to improve. ***Leesa said that the first point of call should always be 101 but do ask that the information is passed on to the hub.***

The Chair thanked the Officers for their time and they left the meeting.

62/2021/2 To receive any representations from members of the public - None

62/2021/3 To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance – Cllr Pitcher – Community Champion for Wigton is Nik Hardy. As many members did not know what a CC was the Clerks was asked to invite him to a future meeting for him to explain what his role entails.

LGR gathering momentum. Division of areas along County lines (1 councillor per division) Allerdale hub as mentioned previously, looking for people to use it. There's an emergency group set up for Allerdale and Wigton should be part of it.

Cllr Pitcher left the meeting.

Cllr Lynch – FC meeting, motion carried for the use of disposable bbq's to be banned from council land and to encourage shops not to sell them.

3/8 and 31/8 Development Panel meetings

9/8 – CCC bus strategy plan, looking at Wigton as links for rural areas. Cheaper fares to encourage usage.

12/8 Standards Committee – To look at complaints against Councillors

Climate change meetings

FC/63/2021 FINANCE MATTERS

To receive and authorise payments and financial statement for July and August 2021- The statement was received and payments were authorised.

FC/64/2021 INTIMIDATION AND DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY

To receive and adopt a reviewed Intimidation and DAW policy – The Chair deferred this until the next meeting. The Chair, Clerk and Cllr Robson to meet 30th September at 1.30pm

FC/65/2021 FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP – ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Agreed for 5 councillors to form a working group – Cllrs Scott, Armstrong, Robson, Lynch and Jackson

FC/66/2021 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members discussed the 2 quotes received for new lights this year, to include the purchase of new trees/lights for the shop fronts

It was agreed to go with the cheaper option on a 3 year deal.

Vote taken – 11 Yes and 1 abstain

FC/67/2021 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Has received the Mayors chain from the engravers and he will be wearing it to the Allerdale mayors brunch at the weekend.

Cllr Scott (Deputy Mayor) had attended the civic services of the Workington and Aspatria Mayors.

FC/68/2021 CLERKS REPORT

The following was noted

Barton Laws – Site meeting this morning. Building will be complete by Friday this week. All keys and manuals will be handed over at 3.00pm on Friday

Bus Shelter South End – Waiting for information on footpath closure

CCTV – Have written to the person that vandalised the cameras and he has been in touch once but we have sent him another message to get in touch during working hours.

2 residents have been in touch to say how lovely the planters around the town look this year. Annual Town Meeting – Monday 27th September, Agenda will be out next week

FC/69/2021 MEMBERS REPORT

SH – Opening of Burma exhibition, Business group, posters are ready, Posters collected from school re litter and helped out at the putting green

MA – Putting Green, open 13 times during Aug and Sept and over 200 players played and just over £900 collected in fees and sponsorship. A full report will come to members at the October meeting. Would like to thank Elaine, Anne and Sandra for their help.

Cllr Lynch thanked Mike for all his hard work.

AJ – Supported Putting Green

EL – Meet with ABC Events Manager, Taste of Wigton event on 23/10. Met with Craig Brough from Hopes re the covenant on land and was supportive with us going forward with tree planting etc.

NR – Tree fund, £30k earmarked for Wigton, lots of projects in store.

DF – Report on Bowling Club at Oct meeting. Festivals committee met and agreed that no big Christmas event to take place this year due to the uncertainty of Covid but concentrating on large event next year for the Queen's platinum Jubilee

Sam Smedley left the meeting

FC/70/2021 HEALTH AND SAFETY / STAFF ISSUES – CONFIDENTIAL

FC/71/2021 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 13th October 2021

Meeting closed at 8.55pm