

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL
A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 14TH APRIL 2021

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.

A minutes silence was held in memory of Prince Phillip, The Duke of Edinburgh

PRESENT – Cllrs Lynch, Ferriby, Crouch, Robbins, Williams, Hamblin, Scott, Robson, Jackson, Armstrong, Hodson, Clark, Huntington and Cllr A Pitcher (Allerdale Borough Council)

1 member of the public

FC/132/2020 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies – Cllr Stapley

FC/133/2020 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH MARCH

The minutes were approved and will be forwarded to the Chair for Signature

FC/134/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

FC/135/2020 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

FC/136/2020 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

107/2020/1 To receive reports from the Public -None

107/2020/2 To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance – Cllr Crouch reported his attendance at a meetings and workshops in relation to the proposed Local Government Reorganisation. Whilst Allerdale, Copeland and Carlisle would prefer two Unitary Authorities (North East Split), The County Council is recommending one Unitary Authority.

Cllr Pitcher reported as Cllr Crouch with regard to the Unitary Authority proposals. He also reported that the local link offices had re-opened, with appointments being made in advance. Some Allerdale officers are slowly returning to the workplace, but he felt it unlikely working methods would revert back to how it was pre-pandemic.

Cllr Lynch reported her attendance at 3 development panel meetings, and is involved in looking at the future way of working for Allerdale personnel post pandemic. She had attended the Climate Change group who are working on an Action Plan which is to be

presented to Executive later this month. She will report back at the next meeting as potentially Wigton Town Council will have a role to play
Cllrs Armstrong and Hodson asked whether it had been prudent to spend money on Covid Marshalls for Wigton. Cllr Pitcher will take the question back to the Head of Service in Allerdale.

FC/137/2020 FINANCE MATTERS

108/2020/1 To receive and authorise payments and financial statement for March 2021-
The statement was received and payments were authorised.

FC/138/2020 PUBLIC TOILETS-TO DISCUSS AND AGREE IF ANY CHANGES ARE TO BE MADE

It was AGREED to open the Ladies Toilet, and leave access to the disabled for all, 6 days per week (Monday to Saturday) as a temporary measure. It was AGREED that the Finance Committee review the situation at their meeting in May.

FC/139/2020 WIGTON PARK BOWLING CLUB

Councillors received the report from the working group. Cllr Lynch thanked the group for the work they had undertaken. Cllr Ferriby reiterated that the proposals will reduce expenditure without crippling the club. Repairs are needed to the bower roof and pathways, as well as repairs to the surface by the main gates. The Clerk is to obtain quotes to take to the next finance meeting. Cllr Robson reiterated the proposals have all been discussed with a representative of the club and that they are realistic. It was also agreed Signage is required. The Clerk was also requested to obtain quotes for disabled access ramps.

FC/140/2020 PUTTING GREEN

Councillors received the report from the Working Group. Cllr Armstrong explained the intention was to start “small”, opening at weekends with volunteer help, over a 10 week period during the summer to see how it could develop. There are 20 sponsors and hopefully the venture would be self-funding.

Cllr Clark asked about the restrictive covenant, and Cllr Armstrong reported that he had checked with planning and permission was not needed.

Cllr Hamblin asked who the sponsors were – Cllr Armstrong explained they would be published once council agreed to the go ahead.

Cllr Hamblin expressed his reservations about the close proximity to the footpath, Cllr Armstrong responded that Risk Assessments would be drawn up.

Cllr Williams asked about DBS vetting and safeguarding policy. Cllr Armstrong reported that this would be covered by the Risk Assessments and The Town Council would need to check the insurance policy

The Clerk made members aware that the grounds maintenance team are fully occupied at this time of year.

FC/141/2020 TREE PLANTING AT BARTON LAWS

Cllrs Lynch and Robson reported that because of the restrictive covenant in place tree planting cannot go ahead at the present time.

FC/142/2020 BAILEY BRIDGE

Cllr Hodson reported a couple of people had enquired about the bridge, and she had received a provisional offer of £3k. It was AGREED to delegate the acceptance of any formal offer to Cllrs Lynch, Ferriby, Hodson and the Clerk

FC/143/2020 BURNFOOT ALLOTMENTS

The clerk reported that arrangements were in place to cap the standpipes, and install a water bowser.

FC/144/2020 BENCH AT CUDDY LONNING

Cllr Crouch asked about the disappearance of the bench at Cuddy Lonning and queried why this had not been reported to councillors. The Clerk explained that the Grounds maintenance team had recently completed an audit of the benches. Cllr Lynch reported that no funds were in this year's budget for replacements. Cllr Jackson advised that there may be spare ones at Wigton hospital: the clerk is to follow up. This item is to be placed on the next agenda.

FC/145/2020 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION SURVEY

Cllrs commented upon the consultation and the preferences put forward as mentioned in the Borough Councillors report earlier in the meeting. Cllr Robson mentioned he had struggled to find information to make an informed decision, and that a CALC presentation had failed to materialise on line. It was agreed that the consultation be responded to individually.

FC/146/2020 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

FC/147/2020 CLERKS REPORT

- Barton Laws update-Site meeting took place on 25th march, all going well
- 2 emails regarding anti-social driving received – police
- Fly tipping in Wigton Park – Police informed
- Litter picking – group offer of help
- Pot hole on Car Park repaired

FC/148/2020 MEMBERS REPORT

JC – Business forum meeting. Fairshare to join “The big Lunch” The Clerk to see if any gazebos are available. Looking for a community allotment area. Fairtrade to be added to the next agenda.

DF Traffic issues/signage at Thomlinson Junior School

EL Borderlands – moving forward. Stakeholders identified. Workshop and internet survey being arranged. WBJC- ABC undertaking Bereavement Services

PW – Sheepfold – can parks staff look at as reinstatement of grass is a mess

Meeting ended 21.08pm

Date of Next Meeting – TBC