

**WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON**

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

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

**FC/90/2021 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

None

**FC/91/2021 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES**

Town Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October – Approved and signed as a true record  
Festivals Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record  
Finance Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record  
Barton Laws Steering Group held on 27<sup>th</sup> October – Amendment to make on first agenda Item.

**FC/92/ 2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None

**FC/93/2021 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

None

**FC/94/2021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**94/2021/1** To receive any representations from members of the public

Nik Hardy – Assistant CE Performance & Strategy (ABC) was welcomed by the Chair. Nik explained what his role as Community Champion was. He is here to support Wigton and help develop the town plan including the Borderlands Project.

**94/2021/2** To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance  
Cllr Pitcher reported there had been a virtual meeting to discuss the Local Government Review. From May 2022 there will be a shadow Unitary Authority, it will run alongside present authorities and then take over in May 2023. (Carlisle/Allerdale/Copeland). Looking at 46 Councillors in total (Same as County division) Name will be Cumberland Authority. Social and Child Services, policing and Education will be a separate authority.  
Cllr Armstrong asked why Wigton would only be getting 1 councillor under the new authority. Cllr Pitcher explained it goes on population/area spread.  
Cllr Robson asked who makes the decisions. Cllr Pitcher answered ultimately Government.

GDF – Investigation stage. Working group not driven by ABC but do have members. Meeting at end of month to decide if ABC join the partnership. ABC should join. If Cumbria is the place nominated then there would be a referendum and the community will make the decision.

Cllr Robson asked that the mandate of the partnership was? – To look at the logic, geological feasibility etc.

Cllr Crouch – Nothing to report

Cllr Lynch had attended a climate change meeting on 22/10 to discuss EV Charging points.

26/10 Development Panel meeting plus site visits

1/11 Members briefing - New ways of working. Committee meetings are now being held in Allerdale House but FC meetings will continue to be held in different location throughout the borough.

Cllr Hodson asked if Councillors could ask about the planning side of the website as it was not user friendly.

Cllr Pitcher left the meeting.

#### **FC/95/2021 FINANCE MATTERS**

To receive and authorise payments and financial statement for October 2021

The statement was received and payments were authorised.

#### **FC/96/2021 WBJC MEMBERSHIP**

To appoint a representative to the burial committee after the resignation of Cllr Lynch –

Cllr Hamblin was duly elected.

#### **FC/97/2021 HEALTH AND SAFETY / STAFF ISSUES**

No Health and Safety or Staff issues to report this month.

#### **FC/98/2021 PUTTING GREEN UPDATE**

Cllr Armstrong reported that the green was unable to be open over the Autumn season. We now have all the equipment necessary to play. Main gate was damaged early in November which was fixed. Cllr Armstrong asked if Town Council staff could cut and scarify the grass now. Clerk to sort out with grounds staff. There will be new plans for the Spring.

Cllr Lynch thanked Cllr Armstrong on the success of the green this year.

#### **FC/99/2021 ENVIRONMENT FUND**

Working group had met a couple of times and a plan and recommendations were forwarded to members prior to the meeting. (Report below) Site visit with EA and WCRT. They will be working with us on some of the projects.

*The Wigton Tree Planting Project document of 24 August 2021 sets out what is envisaged around Wigton. Planning on all projects has continued and at this stage the working group is looking for approval from the full council to purchase the following items mentioned in the planning document (NB all funds must be spent by 31/3/22):*

#### ***Speet Gill***

- *We have an opportunity to extend the Speet Gill woodland beyond the land owned by WTC (Barney Wood) and the rugby club by approximately an extra 150 m. The owners of this land (Dawn and David Kent of Bushgill Head, Lowmoor Road) would like to see it*

*planted with trees to improve nature and also reduce flooding. We are therefore proposing that around 210 metres of fencing be bought to enclose the buffer. Trees will be supplied by the Woodland Trust. Cost £1500*

- *Bulbs for Speet Gill £500*

### **Phoenix Park**

- *Fruit and nut trees, tree guards and stakes £1750*
- *Mulch mats and pegs £240*
- *Engaging tree surgeon for 2-3 days to clean up park £1500 estimate*
- *Bulbs £500*
- *Moving top soil/compost into bee garden £300*

### **Barton Laws 2**

*The West Cumbria Rivers Trust and EA are both now advising WTC and supporting the creation of a pond/wetland in the low-lying corner of the field. We also propose creating a low cost, durable path around the perimeter of the field – see initial plan for Barton Laws 2 herewith – to open it up and allow the field to be developed. We will plant a native tree hedge/buffer around the perimeter to establish the border of the new recreational area.*

- *Initial pond costs £5000*
- *Fence and gate for pond/wetland area £500*
- *Set down low-cost, durable path around field £5000*
- *Purchase mature trees £2000*
- *Benches £1000*

### **Wiza Beck Showfield 2**

*The EA have indicated that they will pay for the work along here, so no need to access the Environment Fund for this project at the moment.*

### **Total £19,790**

Community tree planting in December. Recommendation from working group is to have the sheep removed. The Clerk to speak with Dennis Graham to ask for the sheep to be removed as soon as possible.

The Clerk to complete application to change the use of the field from agricultural land to open spaces. Letters of support have been asked from EA and WCRT.

Money received from CCC (Environmental Fund) - £30,000

Phase 1 of the project = £19,790 (As above)

Members asked to agree to the works taking place. Vote taken – **AGREED**

### **FC/100/2021 CCTV QUOTES**

2 quotes received – Same price. Members **AGREED** that either quote be accepted. Clerk to contact both companies and ask who could install the quickest and go with that company.

### **FC/101/2021 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Remembrance Service to be held at St Mary's on Sunday at 3pm and also service at Wigton Cemetery on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> at 10.45am. All councillors welcome  
It was agreed that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr Hodson lay wreaths on behalf of TC.  
Attended the Taste of Wigton event.

Cllr Scott discussed the recent Barton Laws Steering Group meeting. The Clerk and Supervisor to sort out keys for the Clubs. Looking at an official open day in Spring 2022  
Council GAREED to ask Julia to open the building.

### **FC/102/2021 CLERKS REPORT**

Annemarie started work on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and already a great asset to the Council.

Training – John V is completing his weed spraying course today and tomorrow.

Annemarie is training on Clerk Induction next week and the week after.

Barton Laws – Heat Alarms have been replaced with Smoke Alarms in the officials changing rooms.

We have received a de fib for Barton Laws – Do we want it to be in a unit outside? **YES**

Security Alarm console has been replaced – faulty

New Christmas lights install – 21<sup>st</sup> November

Wreaths to collect in office.

### **FC/103/2021 MEMBERS REPORT**

MC – WBJC

SH – Taste of Wigton, Poppies, and Santa & Elves will be visiting Wigton on 4<sup>th</sup> December.  
Thank you to Young Farmers for help with poppies.

MA – Barton Laws steering group

DF – Welcome Back Fund, Chrysalis AGM, Festivals and Traffic Issues

HR – 2 WBJC meetings

AJ – Taste of Wigton, B/laws steering group

EL – Welcome Back Fund, Taste of Wigton, Festivals and B/laws steering group

PW – Taste of Wigton, WBJC – Agreement going well with ABC, DEFRA and EA have new proposals regarding ground water and drains. Working through this.

CSc – Taste of Wigton and Barton Laws steering group

MH - WBJC

### **FC/104/2021 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To discuss and agree a change of date for the December meeting to either Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> due to the ABC FC meeting being held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>

**AGREED** to change of date to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Meeting closed at 8.25pm