

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 12TH JANUARY 2022 AT 7.00PM

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

FC/120/2021 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Lynch

FC/121/2021 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Town Council meeting held on 9th December – Approved and signed as a true record
Finance Committee held on 2nd December 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record

FC/122/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Stapley on agenda item 6.3

FC/123/2021 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

FC/124/2021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

124/2021/1 To receive any representations from members of the public –
Pamela Batley and Jim Ford read out statements regarding the ABC development panel meeting held in December to which they had attended as part of the residents group concerning the removal of a mini roundabout and the destruction of a mature hedgerow at the new housing development on Lowmoor Road. They called for Cllr Lynch to be removed as Chair of Wigton TC because she did not represent the wishes of the TC, or the residents of the town.

Cllr Hodson reported that she had also spoken at the meeting as a resident and as a town councillor and she fully supported the request made as did Cllr Hamblin and Cllr Jackson.

The Chair reported that this was not a matter up for discussion at this meeting but the Clerk would seek advice on the matter and come back to the residents and Councillors.

The Chair thanked the residents group for their efforts.

The Clerk read out an email received from a residents at St Cuthbert's Close regarding antisocial behaviour that had occurred between Christmas and New Year. The police were aware of this. The Clerk reiterated to Councillors to encourage people to log any antisocial behaviour to the police.

124/2021/2 To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance

The Clerk read out a letter received from Neil Hudson MP which stated that the government had made no decision on hybrid meetings and it was still under review.

Cllr Hodson asked that we invite Mr Hudson along to a council meeting. The Chair thought it a good idea to invite him to our events throughout the year. If we were to invite him to a meeting please send in agenda items to the Clerk.

FC/125/2021 FINANCE MATTERS

125/2021/1 To receive and authorise payments and financial statement for December 2021
The statement was received. Payments **AUTHORISED**

125/2021/2 To receive the recommended budget and precept from the Finance Committee for 2022-23

Members had received the draft budget via email. Cllr Clark said that she did not agree with reducing the baths funding by 1k to 9k. Cllr Hamblin agreed.
Cllr Stapley said if the baths struggled this year then they could come back to us to discuss. Cllr Crouch asked if we had spoken to the baths regarding the shortfall. The Clerk reported that we had not. The Clerk explained to the full council what had been said at the Finance meeting.

Cllr Stapley proposed we go with the recommendation from the finance committee to reduce the baths funding to 9k. Seconded by Cllr Hodson.
Vote taken – Carried

Cllr Hodson proposed a £340k precept for 2022/23. No seconder

Cllr Scott proposed a £350k precept for 2022/23. Seconded by Cllr Stapley. Vote taken –
For 12 / Against 1 Carried

The Chair put forward to accept the budget for 2022/23. Vote taken 11 For / 1 Abstain and 1 against. Carried

125/2021/3 To receive the recommended changes for allotments and pitches from the Finance Committee for 2022-23 and 2023-24

As per finance committee recommendations –

Allotment Charges – **AGREED**

Pitch Charges - **AGREED**

FC/126/2021 HEALTH AND SAFETY / STAFF ISSUES CONFIDENTIAL

The following report produced by Stephen Farish was noted.

Firstly I hope everyone had a good Christmas and happy new year to everyone.

Since my last report we have continued doing our toolbox talks with the staff and also sent some of the machinery in for service and repairs (Rickerby's and WM Plant)

Throughout December has mostly been cleaning up and pruning of shrubs and hedges. Nelson Thomlinson, throughout the school half term we managed to cut all of the hedging and shrub beds and also spiked the pictures on the main field and scholars green pitches with the pitch groomer.

Work has continued on the park and Barton laws pitches but unfortunately a car got onto the pitch at Barton laws, fortunately they did not do much damage. I'm in the process of pricing up fencing for a permanent fence for the bottom of Barton laws to stop this in the future with the path linking the car park and the Ash path down the side, the message has seemed to have got across to a lot of people with leaving dog faeces on the pitches as there is just the odd one that has been left now.

All the work has been completed at Dalston until the new season starts.

All the leaves have been picked up and all sites.

Wigton Park has had a clean up of all its branches and twigs and debris with the lower growths been pruned off all of the trees

St Mary's, the Roses have been pruned and also all the branches and twigs cleaned up and lower growth cut off all trees.

Innovia, I've set a meeting with Keith Jarman about the new schedule.

Infants, I've measured up the length for the chicken wire required to stop rabbits going into allotments this is going to be a big job as it will need to be buried a foot into the ground, it is my suggestion as there is two areas of rabbit burrows to get some advice off someone that deals with rabbit extermination rather than putting wire right along the full length. I've heard that ferret faeces can get rid of rabbits when put into their Burrows.

January's work will be mostly Innovia work cleaning and tidying up debris and pruning and cutting of shrub beds and hedges this is quite a big job.

FC/127/2021 ENVIRONMENT FUND

Update on Barton Laws 2 – Cllr Robson

Since December's council meeting the contractors Ian Cannon Ltd started work on 15 December and made good progress with the work. They installed the new pond, which is approximately 35 x 15 metres, and fed by a French drain that runs the length of the field, parallel to the river. So far, it appears that the pond is working well. Also, the contractors have created a hardwearing limestone path around perimeter of the field, plus a central path leading to up the highest point of the field, where they've created a meeting point, in which we will plant a mature beech tree for the Queens Jubilee.

In total, £25,000 plus VAT has been spent on this work.

In addition, three volunteer tree planting days were organised before Christmas where over 900 trees were planted to create a wildlife hedge on two sides of the field, plus two copses. Also, around 30 trees have been planted around the pond itself.

Next steps include:

- A temporary fence will be installed to keep the public away from the pond temporarily until the plant life in the pond is established and natural scrub forms around the pond to keep people away.
- We'd like to install a viewing platform made out of recycled materials so that school children and groups could use the pond for nature projects.
- We need to consult with the young people of Wigton, through the different schools and youth groups, to find out what they would like to see in the large empty area in the centre of the field. Ideas so far include BMX/mountain bike pump track, a multi-use games area (for football and basketball), outdoor gym, fruit orchard, and climbing equipment. It would be really good to get an idea of what youngsters, particularly those aged 10 and above, would like to see there.

Naming the area – the working title “Barton Laws 2” doesn't have a good ring to it.

Name suggestions for the park – Jubilee Park or Queen Elizabeth II park.

Members voted to spend all the £30k on the project to include fencing etc.
Cllr Stapley proposed and Seconded by Cllr Speksnyder – Vote taken Unanimous

FC/128/2021 WIGTON PARK BOWLING CLUB

Draft Service Level Agreement emailed to members before the meeting. The Chair had previously had a meeting with members of the bowling club and they were happy with the agreement (slight changes to be made)

The Chair proposed to accept the SLA – Vote taken Unanimous

FC/129/2021 BORDERLANDS PROJECT

The Clerk reported that the report has been updated but still not complete. The project will go to Local Committee on Monday 17th Jan with the proviso that there are amendments still to do.

Cllr Robson had noted that they had taken some feedback on board but the concepts were still the same. Train station for example

Cllr Hodson asked that there be more public engagement.

FC/130/2021 REPRESENTATION AT DEVELOPMENT PANEL MEETINGS

Members discussed having an appointed member to make representation on our behalf at development panel meetings.

Cllr Crouch proposed Cllr Hodson, seconded by Cllr Clark. Vote taken Unanimous
Cllr Jackson to deputise as and when needed.

FC/131/2021 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Choral Society Concert at St Marys Church and doorstep deliveries to the Care Homes before Christmas

FC/132/2021 CLERKS REPORT

Annual Electrical testing complete at Office and Station Yard

We are in the process of purchasing new signage for the parks and Barton laws

Sickness is continuing

FC/133/2021 MEMBERS REPORT

HR – WBJC – All good and we now have a vacancy on the committee

SH – The Elves raised £638 before Christmas. Development Panel meeting

MA – Family memorabilia – happy to donate to TC. Email sent to members. AGREED to set up a working group – Cllrs Stapley, Robson, Crouch, Armstrong and Jackson

DF – Chasing up traffic concerns raised with CCC and WBF

FC/134/2021 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9th February 2022

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

DRAFT