

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL
AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WAS HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2021 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT Councillors Lynch, Ferriby, Scott, Robson, Robbins, Crouch, Huntington, Williams, Clark, Hamblin, Jackson, Hodson and Armstrong

FC/1/2021 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Stapley

FC/2/2021 ELECT A CHAIR

Nominations received –

Cllr Ferriby nominated Cllr Lynch, Seconded by Cllr Armstrong

Cllr Jackson nominated Cllr Hodson, seconded by Cllr Clark - *Cllr Hodson wishes for her nomination to be withdrawn*

Cllr Williams nominated Cllr Crouch, seconded by Cllr Hamblin

No other nominations were received.

A vote was taken on Cllr Lynch nomination – 7 votes for

A vote was taken on Cllr Crouch nomination – 6 votes for

Cllr Lynch was duly elected as Chair for 2021/22. Cllr Lynch read the declaration of acceptance of office and would come in to the office tomorrow to sign.

Cllr Lynch reported that she did not want to be Town Mayor for this year.

FC/3/2021 ELECT A TOWN MAYOR

Nominations received -

Cllr Lynch nominated Cllr Ferriby, seconded by Cllr Scott

Cllr Jackson nominated Cllr Hodson – *Cllr Hodson asked that this nomination be withdrawn*

No other nominations were received.

Cllr Ferriby was duly elected as Town Mayor for 2021/22. Cllr Ferriby read the declaration of acceptance of office and would come in to the office tomorrow to sign.

FC/4/2021 ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR

Nominations received -

Cllr Clark nominated Cllr Scott, seconded by Cllr Jackson

Cllr Ferriby nominated Cllr Hodson, seconded by Cllr Lynch

A vote was taken on Cllr Scott nomination – 6 votes for

A vote was taken on Cllr Hodson nomination – 5 votes for

Cllr Hamblin abstained

Cllr Scott was duly elected as Deputy Mayor for 2021/22. Cllr Scott read the declaration of acceptance of office and would come in to the office tomorrow to sign.

FC/5/2021 ELECTION OF COMMITTEES

Policy, Development, H & S and Staffing Committee – Chairpersons of all Committees and Cllrs Williams and Robbins

Finance Committee – Cllrs Lynch, Armstrong, Robbins and Jackson

Footpaths, Parks and Allotments Committee – Cllrs Clark, Robson, Hamblin and Robbins

Festivals Committee – Cllrs Lynch and Crouch. This will be brought back to the next meeting as 4 members required.

Health & Safety and Emergency Committee - Cllrs Lynch, Robson, Armstrong and Jackson

Wigton Burial Joint Committee – Cllrs Williams, Clark, Huntington, Robbins and Lynch

The Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor are ex-officio on all Committees

FC/6/2021 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Wigton Youth Station – Cllr Crouch

Wigton Carnival Committee – Cllr Lynch and Crouch

Chrysalis – Councillor Ferriby

Barton Laws Users Group – Town Mayor, Cllrs Lynch and Jackson

Meeting closed at 7.10pm

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 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.

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

Cllr Alan Pitcher (Allerdale Borough Council)

FC/7/2021 TO RECIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies – Cllr Stapley

FC/8/2021 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Town Council meeting held on 14th April 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record
Policy & Development Committee meeting held on 15th April 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record

Footpaths and Parks Committee meeting held on 21st April 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record

FC/9/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

FC/10/2021 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

FC/11/2021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

11/2021/1 To receive reports from the Public –Cllr Hamblin had spoken to a resident at Kirkland regarding children sitting on the wall and looking directly in to his house, Cllr Hamblin agreed to remove the tree stump they were using to get up on the wall and we would keep an eye on the situation.

Cllr Jackson had representation from residents regarding the new junction and lack of disabled provision at Proctors Row. Also the volume and speed of traffic at Laurel Terrace.

Cllr Lynch had been approached by a resident to ask if Flags could be put up for St Georges Day next year. Council to discuss beginning of next year.

The Clerk had been asked by Mrs Reay to enquire if the council could clear out the ditch in the field next to Barton Laws. It was **AGREED** that the field did not belong to us and therefore we would not be able to do the work.

11/2021/2 To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance –
Cllr Crouch reported his attendance at an Overview & Scrutiny Meeting.
Cllr Pitcher reported his attendance at an Executive meeting
Cllr Lynch reported her attendance at a 2 Climate Change meetings, Vehicle Charging and licencing committee.

FC/12/2021 FINANCE MATTERS

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

FC/13/2021 BORDERLANDS PROJECT

Cllr Lynch reported there had been a town team meeting on 14th April. Tony Markley was elected Chair and herself as Vice Chair.

There are to be online workshops for the public/residents to attend and discuss what their vision is for Wigton. There will also be a survey to complete.

The list of 15 stakeholders include – Schools, Councils, business, large companies, they will be having one to one's with the consultants Thinking Place.

Cllr Robson was pleased to hear that the Schools/children were involved and that £3 million was a good portion of money to spend.

FC/14/2021 BENCH AUDIT

AGREED that Footpaths and Parks Committee to look at this.

Cllr Crouch informed the meeting that the 2 benches on King Street (Bus Stop) do not belong to Allerdale Borough Council.

FC/15/2021 WIGTON PARK PLAY EQUIPMENT

AGREED that Footpaths and Parks Committee be given the power to look at quotes and make the decision as to which piece of equipment to purchase.

FC/16/2021 SCARIFIER

Further to Cllrs Crouch and Williams asking why this was back on the agenda after a decision had been made at a previous meeting, the Clerk reported that our Supervisor had hired one in locally but it was not fit for purpose. The machine had been hired on two separate occasions and was unable to scarify the areas required. He asked that we get our old one repaired?

Cllr Armstrong reported that ours is an industrial one rather than a normal garden one. Cllrs Williams and Hamblin asked if we could hire an industrial one. The Clerk reported not locally but had not looked further afield.

Cllrs Scott and Hodson both commented that we had already paid out for hire and surely good practice would be to repair the one we've got.

Cllr Armstrong pointed out that we must equip our staff with the right tools for the job.

Cllr Lynch put the following motion forward – To repair our Scarifier at a cost of £400,
Seconded by Cllr Armstrong.

Cllr Williams put forward an amendment to wait and find out if we would get a guarantee with the repairs. The Clerk informed her that this was not an amendment but a motion. Cllr Williams withdrew the motion.

A vote was taken – 10 for, 2 against and 1 Abstain. Motion carried to repair the Scarifier

FC/17/2021 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

FC/18/2021 CLERKS REPORT

Councillor Vacancy – Received email from Democratic Services to advertise the post – Sent today

Staff Vacancy – Over 30 applications received. 5 to interview (2 qualified and 3 local)

CCTV – problem with camera above Barbers. Waiting for Police to come back regarding a new location.

CALC – Various emails sent

Barton Laws – Site meeting 22/4/2021 all going well photos sent

Planning Applications – HOU/2021/0103 Scholars Green – No objections

Decision notices – Planning Granted for FUL/2020/0507 Tiffenthwaite Farm and Ambulance Station

Bus Shelter South End – Getting quotes

Vandalism – Speet Gill and Kirkland Park

Kirkland Park – Complaint from residents regarding children sitting on the wall overlooking his house. (Email sent to members regarding anti vandal paint). Cllr Hamblin removed a tree stump. Signage was also mentioned regarding the road, Email from Highways – Even though there have been no recorded collisions they have assessed the area and they intend to install a road marking within the carriageway on both approaches to the play area to warn drivers to potential children crossing. This should provide a visual impact and help to increase awareness of the park. Cllr Hamblin asked for signage regarding the tree planting.

Toilets – Report of a flood on 16th April. Ladies and Disabled now open as of Monday 3rd May - Monday to Saturday as per last month's meeting.

Wigton & District Business Group – Meeting on 14th May Email sent

Cllr Lynch wanted to thank Cllr Hodson for her hard work on securing the sale of the Bailey bridge. Cllr Williams and Crouch also thanked Sandra. The Clerk reported that Cllr Hodson would be reporting in Members Reports about the bridge.

Cllr Crouch pointed out that we didn't pass the last minutes of the AGM in 2019 and asked how that affects us as a Council. The Clerk was asked to find out what we need to do to rectify this.

FC/19/2021 MEMBERS REPORT

SH – Sale secured for the Bailey bridge and the bridge has now gone from Barton Laws car park. Price received £3600. She had also attended a business forum meeting.

JH - thanked Cllr Hodson and asked where the money was going to be allocated to as he had heard a rumour it was going to Barton Laws. The Clerk reported that the finance committee had not as yet allocated the money to a budget head.

DF – Traffic Issues at Junior School, Bowling Club Working Group will report at the June meeting. Wigton Trail Leaflet ready for publishing along with new plaques created by Cllr Armstrong. ABC to pay for printing of leaflets. Cllr Lynch thanks Cllrs Ferriby and Armstrong for their hard work.

FC/20/2021 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9th June 2021

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 9TH JUNE 2021

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

Cllr Alan Pitcher (Allerdale BC)

Apologies from Cllr Roger Liddle (Cumbria CC)

FC/21/2021 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies – Cllr Stapley

Cllr Crouch asked for clarification on the absence of a councillor for 6 months still applies. The Clerk asked if this was in connection with Cllr Stapley as he had been attending informal meetings of the footpaths and parks committee.

Cllr Lynch put a motion forward to extend Cllr Stapleys leave of absence for a further 6 months. Vote taken - Unanimous

It was **RESOLVED** to extend Cllr Stapleys leave of absence for a further 6 months.

FC/22/2021 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

AGM held on the 5th May 2021 – Cllr Crouch asked if these minutes should be signed at the next AGM in 2022? The Clerk informed the Council that the AGM was a meeting of the full council and minutes were to be signed off at its next meeting (ie this meeting) Cllr Crouch asked the Clerk to check out this information. – Minutes approved and signed as a true record

Town Council meeting held on 5th May 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record

Finance Committee held on 5th May 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record

Footpaths and Parks Committee meeting held on 20th May 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record

AGM held on 8th May 2019 – To rectify an oversight of non-signing of the minutes - Approved and signed as a true record

FC/23/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Armstrong – Item 7 Payments

FC/24/2021 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

FC/25/2021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

25/2021/1 To receive reports from the Public – The Clerk reported that Slaters Fun Fair have asked if they can hold a fair at Barton Laws after the restrictions are lifted hopefully on 21st June. It was RESOLVED that until the build was finished there would be no events taking place at Barton Laws due to health and safety concerns but to offer Wigton Park as an alternative or to speak with ABC about Water Street Car Park.

Cllr Hodson asked members if the cottages on Church Street were listed as one is looking run down. The Clerk asked to find out.

Cllr Clark asked if staff would be cleaning the fountain as it is covered in moss and there are weeds along the edge. The Clerk informed Council this would be done when the planters are put in place later this week/early next.

Cllr Lynch discussed letters she had received from the Infant School regarding litter. They are organising a litter pick on Phoenix Park for Thursday 1st July in the afternoon. Councillors are welcome to go along. Cllr Robson thought it a good idea to maybe run a poster competition?

25/2021/2 To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance – Cllr Crouch had attended the Allerdale AGM on 19/5/21. Wigton Business District Group have designed leaflets and will be printed and handed out in the town. They have also created a facebook page.

Cllr Pitcher discussed the leisure industry in Allerdale and that the Borough Council need to provide more. Keswick Spa and Cockermouth Pool are very run down and towns have suffered. A Consultation will be coming out shortly.

Had One to One with Thinking Place Consultants. Allerdale Lottery has helped 70 good causes with £45k.

Allerdale House will not be fully utilised but hot desks will be available for staff.

Cllr Lynch had attended a Full Council meeting, 2 planning group meetings on zoom and 1 development panel meeting.

FC/26/2021 VACANCY

To consider applications for co-option. The Clerk reported Monique Speksnyder was the only candidate. Monique was invited to speak to the council and members were invited to ask questions. A vote was taken and Monique was invited to sit at the table and join the Council. The Chair welcomed her.

FC/27/2021 FINANCE MATTERS

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

FC/28/2021 ELECTION OF COMMITTEES

Cllrs Scott and Speksnyder joined the Festivals Committee.

FC/29/2021 BORDERLANDS PROJECT

The Chair reported that Thinking Place had been in discussions with various group (One to One) and Workshops had taken place and the survey had ended. They will now be gathering evidence and we have a town team meeting next week. Cllr Robson apologised for not attending the Workshop and he felt that the survey was not easy to complete and he felt the questions were too generic.

FC/30/2021 BOWLING CLUB WORKING GROUP REPORT

Cllr Ferriby asked members to consider postponing the start date of the new contract until 1st January 2022 due to covid and the club not having a full season to generate funds. It was RESOLVED to accept the recommendations from the working group that Council accepts the report with the amended start date of 1st January 2022. Vote taken – 13 For 0 Against 2 Abstains. Motion carried.

FC/31/2021 PUTTING GREEN WORKING GROUP

Members had received the report in advance of the meeting. Cllr Armstrong briefly went through the report and asked members to accept the recommendations – Aim to have a test event (Risk Assessment in place) and for the group to engage with sponsors to purchase all items required to function. A vote was taken – Unanimous

FC/32/2021 GOOSEMARKET – SAFETY CONCERNS

Cllr Ferriby reported that for some time we have been looking at safety concerns in the town especially outside the Junior School. We have been discussing options with Cumbria CC but as yet nothing has happened. Cllr Ferriby asked members if they would support him in investigating the legal side of the Goosemarket as we did with the Cornmarket some years ago. Members AGREED

FC/33/2021 MEMORIAL BENCH AT CUDDY LONNING

Cllr Clark asked that a memorial bench be put on Cuddy Lonning as it's a well walked route in town. The Clerk informed council that there was no money in the budget this year. It was AGREED that the Finance Committee look at this at their next meeting.

FC/34/2021 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had attended the commemoration of 100 years of the Royal British Legion at Wigton Cemetery along with the Deputy Mayor.

FC/35/2021 CLERKS REPORT

Barton Laws – Site meeting 20/5/2021 All going well.
Report of an incident with a pedestrian and our van. Reported on High Street on Friday 28th May. Resident reported he was hit on the arm with the wing mirror of our van on the narrow stretch (Lion and Lamb Lane). Spoke with staff and driver unaware of the incident. Supervisor has discussed safety with staff. I've spoken to the resident and he was satisfied with the call.

Kickstart Placement – Email received placement request has been passed on to DWP. It should take around 31 working days for a decision.

Bus Shelter South End – Waiting for further quotes

Vandalism – Public Toilets

FC/36/2021 MEMBERS REPORT

Cllr Lynch – Finance Meeting. Recommendations to FC Toilets open from Monday to Sunday 8-5pm and the £3,000 from the sale of the Bailey Bridge goes towards the costs of resurfacing Barton Laws Car Park. Vote taken – Unanimous

SH – Wigton and District Business Group meeting

DF – Heritage Trail Leaflet and plaques with MA

EL – Staff Interviews and Town Team

FC/37/2021 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 14th July 2021

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 23RD JUNE 2021

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

FC/38/2021 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies – Cllr Speksnyder

FC/39/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

FC/40/2021 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

FC/41/2021 ASSET REGISTER 2020/21

Members were asked to approve the Asset Register for year ending 31st March 2021 Total value of assets = £586,438 this figure is on the AGAR

RESOLVED that the Asset Register for the year ending 31st March 2021 be approved

FC/42/2021 INTERNAL AUDIT

FC/42/1/2021 Members received the Council's Internal Auditors Report for 2020/21

Cllrs Lynch and Ferriby wished to put on record their thanks to the Office staff for their work in receiving such a positive report.

FC/42/2/2021 Members noted that the Finance Committee have reviewed the effectiveness of Internal Audit and concluded it has operated effectively for 2020-21 and have re-appointed Mrs Jean Airey as Internal Auditor for 2021-22

FC/43/2021 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2020-21: ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

FC/43/1/2021 Members **APPROVED** the accounts for year ended 31st March 2021

FC/43/2/2021 Members were asked to review and approve Section 1 and Section 2 of the AGAR 2020/21 and authorise the chairman and Clerk to sign it on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED The Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 be approved and Members authorised the Chair and The Clerk to sign it on behalf of the Council.

Meeting closed at 6.20pm

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 14TH JULY 2021

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

IN ATTENDANCE – Sam Smedley

FC/44/2021 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies – R Liddle

FC/45/2021 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Town Council meeting held on 9th June 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record
Policy & Development Committee held on 14th June 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record

Town Council meeting held on 23rd June 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record

FC/46/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

FC/47/2021 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

FC/48/2021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

48/2021/1 To receive reports from the Public – Cllr Williams reported there were a lot of grassed areas in the town that had not been cut. Members discussed the situation and some members did not know which areas should be cut by Allerdale BC or County Council. The Clerk was asked to put the CCC hotline information on facebook. Cllr Liddle is trying to set up a meeting to discuss the Town Council cutting the grass in the town.

It was noted and appreciated that Cllr Liddle had secured £30k from a Government Environmental Fund. The Clerk to send out details once they were provided by CCC.

48/2021/2 To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance –

Cllr Crouch – None

Cllr Lynch – Climate change meetings discussing amongst other things electric vehicles/ cutting omissions/encouraging people to use public transport and cycle ways. 2 Development Panel meetings and a Wigton Town Team.

FC/49/2021 FINANCE MATTERS

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

FC/50/2021 PUTTING GREEN WORKING GROUP

Report sent previously via email to all members.

Recommendation to full council is

To open for weekends after the 19th July

A small charge for use

Cllr Lynch moved the proposal and Cllr Scott seconded

A vote was taken For 14 Against 0 Abstain 1. Motion carried

Cllr Scott asked if the Council could look at helping cut the grass. The Clerk to look into this.

FC/51/2021 TRAFFIC MEASURES

Cllr Ferriby reported he had sent a letter regarding the traffic issues outside the Junior School to Cumbria CC. Also a letter is ready to send to ABC regarding the Goose Market

FC/52/2021 HAPPY TO CHAT BENCH

The Clerk discussed a request had come from Hazel Stewart, Wigton Medical Group to have a bench in the town with a sign that says 'Happy to Chat'. The Clerk had got a quote for a sign at £15.00. Members **AGREED** that a bench on the Cornmarket and Memorial Garden could be used.

FC/53/2021 FAIRTRADE

The Clerk asked to send a letter to Trish Fallows thanking her for all the hard work she has put in to making Wigton a Fairtrade Town.

FC/54/2021 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

FC/55/2021 CLERKS REPORT

Barton Laws – Site meeting 24/6/2021 All going well. Waiting for quote from L Messenger for Car Park. Works will be carried out on the pitches this week/next.

Bus Shelter South End – Waiting for information on footpath closure

Park Bower – Waiting for quote but basically the roof and trusses are no good. £40-50k He is giving us some new parts for the roof which may or may not help with the leak problem. Could last us the rest of this season/next?

CCTV – Vandalism to 2 cameras. Looks like power has been cut. Waiting further instruction from Tellemachus.

Staff – 1 off sick, 1 off isolating, 2 trailer tests this month and 1 weed spraying.

FC/56/2021 MEMBERS REPORT

Cllrs DF, MC & NR had met to discuss an Intimidation Policy which hopefully would be ready for the September meeting.

CScott – Litter pick Wigton Infants and Springfields Carnival as Deputy Mayor

SH, AJ,CStapley – Litter pick at WIS

PW – WBJC meeting. Looking into high rates. MC and JH do masses of work up there. Looking to appoint a Clerk. New tenant for Cemetery House. Contract going well with ABC and there are now 14 plaques on the Memorial wall.

JC – Wigton Business Group leaflets have been printed and members will be delivering them personally to shops

EL – Town Team, looking at the terms of reference. Thinking Place Consultants have come up with themes and are looking at match funding. Members felt there should be another public consultation when restrictions are lifted. DF suggested the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in September.

Cllr Williams told members that Mave Tyas had passed away at the weekend. Our thoughts are with her family.

FC/57/2021 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 8th September 2021

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

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?

PSCO 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

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 13th OCTOBER 2021

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

2 members of the public

FC/72/2021 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted for Cllrs Speksnyder, Williams and Borough Councillor

Cllr Lynch suspended the meeting while members took the opportunity to present Julia with gift and flowers as she retires at the end of the month. Councillors expressed their appreciation for her work for the council.

FC/73/2021 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Town Council meeting held on 8th September – Approved and signed as a true record
Festivals Committee held on 7th September 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record
Footpaths and Parks Committee held on 22nd September 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record

FC/74/ 2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

FC/75/2021 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Item 17 – Agreed to move to end of meeting.

FC/76/2021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

76/2021/1 To receive any representations from members of the public

A member of the public commented on how beautiful the flower displays had been around town this year. In addition, the plants on the area in front of Lidl have died, and could the Town Council help improve this area? Cllr Robson and the Clerk will liaise with Lidl to see what can be done. The Clerk was requested to thank the Grounds Maintenance Team for their efforts this year, in particular for the flower displays.

A member of the public spoke on the plans for the housing development opposite Scholars Green which is at Reserved Matters Stage. Particular attention was paid to the removal of the hedgerow and suggested that individual councillors could attend the development panel

meetings. It was pointed out that the Town Council appeared not to have commented on the removal of the hedgerow. The Clerk will look at the application and comments submitted as it was recalled that these matters were discussed by Councillors

The members of the public left the meeting.

76/2021/2 To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance

Cllr Crouch – Bill in parliament regarding the requirement of photo id to be able to vote. Work is underway in Allerdale to improve the lives of Travellers. Decision on the closure of Keswick pool is being looked at. Universal Credit cut – representation to MP

Cllr Lynch – Attendance of Development Panel Meeting on 28th Sept– backlog of applications had resulted in an extremely long meeting – more frequent meetings would be preferred. 2 Climate Change meetings on 11th & 13th October – possibility of group in Wigton. Licensing meeting yesterday

Cllr Pitcher – submission of a written report – Preparations for Local Government Reform ongoing despite request for a judicial review from County. Geological Disposal Facility – no decision made as to the siting of the facility, and has not yet been discussed by ABC – Cllr Pitcher urges everyone to view the upcoming presentation. Leisure Survey is out, all encouraged to take part

FC/77/2021 FINANCE MATTERS

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

FC/78/2021 INTIMIDATION POLICY

To receive and adopt a reviewed Intimidation policy – Received and adopted. Cllr Robson and Stapley to act as the nominated officers. Cllr Scott asked that this policy be briefed to the Grounds Maintenance Team

FC/79/2021 HEALTH AND SAFETY / STAFF ISSUES

Cllr Scott reported he and the Clerk had inspected the Depot – all clean and tidy. A solvent cupboard is to be purchased. Cllr Scott felt the depot is not really big enough for the equipment and fleet.

Supervisors Report - Firstly it's been a hard summer with sickness and staff shortages but we are starting to catch up on outstanding jobs and sites are getting there last cut hopefully with the help of Rhys Stabler who in my opinion was a great help and one for the future if we can employ him as an apprentice also thanks to Trevor Richardson for doing the weeding up street and in Wigton park.

Pitches , it was commented by Wigton Harriers manager Dan that the Barton laws pitch is the best it has ever been so all the pre-season work has paid off .

Allotment waterline , recently there's been a burst pipe up at Longthwaite Road allotments this is an old out of date waterline and needs renewed with a new 22 mm pipe a contractor will be required to put this line in .

Carousel in the main car park , this in my opinion needs replaced with a ground display as the baskets need renewed as the old ones are a danger to the public and are above the car park pay machines .

Shed at St Mary's, this is my opinion needs took down and sold on as there's nothing stored in the shed anymore.

As we are an approved safe contractor now or depot is kept clean and all machinery is serviced or repaired by Rickerby's WM Plant or Lloyds.

Dalton shelter Wigton Park this is in desperate need of repair by a specialist as this is an historic building in Wigton

All the summer bed in this year has looked fantastic and we have had a lot of compliments the winter bedding has been ordered

Chris Irving has passed his tree surveying course and also no his trailer test, Luke O'Connell has passed is PA1 and PA6 spraying course.

Removed fence at Burnfoot – now made safe.

FC/80/2021 WELCOME BACK FUND

A list that may be suitable for funding had been compiled. Repairs to the Dalton Shelter was to be removed as it is felt heritage funding may be available. The Clerk was requested to forward that to ABC and request a site meeting to discuss/prioritise. Councillors are aware of the short time frame in which the funds can be spent.

FC/81/2021 BOWLING GREEN UPDATE

Cllr Ferriby went through the report, previously circulated to councillors. The Bowling Club are holding their AGM, and the assumption is that they will accept the proposals, in which case a formal contract will need to be drawn up by the Clerk.

Cllr Ferriby also requested that in light of urgent repairs being needed to the Bower Roof, and a cost of £4k (materials obtained free of charge) that Council authorise the works –

AGREED.

Another quote for tarmac is being sought. Signage to be addressed by the Footpaths and Parks Committee at their next meeting. Quotes are being obtained to remove the Pylons. Councillors asked that thought be given by the Parks Staff to planting sustainable beds rather than being grassed over.

Cllr Hodson is seeking a qualified opinion for repairs to the Dalton Shelter

FC/82/2021 ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

A working group is required to oversee delivery of the project and the associated funding of 30K – It was agreed that the members would be: Cllrs Robson, Scott, Armstrong, Lynch & Jackson

FC/83/2021 CCTV QUOTES

2 quotes had been received which included the companies recommendations of 4 or 5mp cameras. Cllr Armstrong requested that requotes be obtained for 8mp cameras, and that another quote be obtained from PWS Systems – The Clerk is to arrange and bring back to the next meeting

FC/84/2021 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR)

Councillors received the AGAR report from the External auditor which was noted was in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters were to be drawn to the attention of the council. Cllr Lynch asked that the Clerk be thanked for the work involved.

FC/85/2021 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Ferriby reported he had attended the Thomlinson Junior School Harvest Festival held in the Methodist Church, and would be attending Chrysalis tomorrow morning.

Cllr Scott reported he had attended the Cockermouth Civic Service

FC/86/2021 CLERKS REPORT

Annemarie Robson will start work as Assistant Town Clerk on Monday 1st November.
Julia's last working day will be Thursday 28th October.

New play equipment has been installed at Wigton Park – handover pack has been passed to the Supervisor

Bus Shelter now installed at Fairview Court

Barton Laws Steering Group to meet – members are Cllrs Scott, Armstrong, Jackson & Lynch

FC/87/2021 MEMBERS REPORT

SH – Town Meeting, Poppies to be put up Sunday 31st October

MA – Town Meeting

DF – Bus Shelter installation

C St – Town Meeting

EL WBJC & Town Meeting

JH Town Meeting

HR – Town Meeting & WBJC

JC – Town Meeting

CS -Town Meeting

MC – Town Meeting and WBJC

FC/88/2021 PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

FC/89/2021 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 10th November 2021

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 10th 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 13th October – Approved and signed as a true record
Festivals Committee held on 18th October 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record
Finance Committee held on 26th October 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record
Barton Laws Steering Group held on 27th 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 11th 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 **AGREED** to ask Julia to open the building.

FC/102/2021 CLERKS REPORT

Annemarie started work on 2nd 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 – 21st 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 4th 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 7th or Thursday 9th due to the ABC FC meeting being held on Wednesday 8th

AGREED to change of date to Thursday 9th December

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

THURSDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2021

PRESENT – Cllrs Lynch, Ferriby, Robbins, Robson, Stapley, Hamblin, Crouch, Huntington and Williams

FC/105/2021 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Armstrong, Hodson, Jackson, Speksnyder, Clark and Scott

FC/106/2021 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Town Council meeting held on 10th November – Approved and signed as a true record
Footpaths, Parks and Allotments Committee on the 16th November 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record. Recommendation to change name to Parks, Open Spaces and Allotments Committee. All members **AGREED**

Festivals Committee held on 22nd November 2021 – Approved and signed as a true record

FC/107/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

FC/108/2021 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Agenda Item 7 – Health 7 Safety/Staff Issues

FC/109/2021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

109/2021/1 To receive any representations from members of the public – The Clerk reported a comment made via Facebook page regarding the disruption of the recent roadworks in the town. The resident asking for the council to complain to Cumbria CC. The Clerk informed the council that the works on Station Road and Water Street were both emergency works carried out by utility companies. The Council agreed the works were disruptive but nevertheless essential and would not be complaining to County Council.

109/2021/2 To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance
Cllr Crouch reported that there could be a couple of funding pots that may be useful to groups in the town. Climate Change Fund and CCC Under 19's fund which has helped Workington look into a feasibility study on a BMX track. Taste of Wigton had been a huge success with over 2,000 people attending the one day event.

Cllr Lynch reported that Keswick Pool has closed. GDF – a motion was defeated for ABC to not sit at the table.

Agreed that we would be consulted with regard to any gambling licences sought for the town and we could make representation if we wished.

Also attended Licencing Panel, Development Panel and Full Council

FC/110/2021 FINANCE MATTERS

To receive and authorise payments and financial statement for November 2021

The statement was received. The Clerk reported that the town council would be receiving both our payments for approval along with the burial committees in future as after speaking with our Auditor this is something that should be happening. Payments had been approved prior to this meeting via the burial committee. This is to ensure transparency and accountability.

Cllr Williams reported that she was not happy with this arrangement and did not think our Auditor had dealt with joint committees before and therefore the committee was seeking advice from Democratic Services, CALC and NALC on the matter.

Cllr Crouch asked if the 'approval of cemetery invoices' was in effect a rubber stamping exercise. The Clerk replied yes, it shows the council is accountable for all invoices that are paid through their bank accounts. The Council have to approve the Accounts at the end of the year which will show the cemetery accounts.

A vote was taken to approve all accounts. 7 Yes and 2 Abstains from Cllr Williams and Hamblin. Accounts **APPROVED**

FC/111/2021 HEALTH AND SAFETY / STAFF ISSUES CONFIDENTIAL

Supervisors Report

LEAF PICKING - all through November we have been cleaning leaves and debris off all sites there's not a lot left to pick up just mostly debris and branches after the Storm to pick up now and some leaves in the schools and St Mary's

SPEET GILL - there has been a bit of storm damage with fallen trees and in the park also, Charlie miles is going to cut the fallen trees up, also part of the bank and path had washed away but we have fixed this.

WINTER BEDDING - have all been planted now

BARTON LAWS PITCHES - the pitches are being inspected every weekend for dog mess by the Council staff, the temporary barrier we've placed up at the bottom of Barton laws plus signs seems to be working as there is not as much mess on the pitches but something more permanent needs to be erected. The condition of the pitches is looking well and have been praised by the football teams.

WIGTON PARK BUILDINGS -The Dalton shelter is in a very poor condition and needs looked at after the vandalism that was caused through the summer and the roof also, the bowling bower roof has been completed and looks very good also the toilet roof slates have been fixed just the interior ceiling that needs fixed now after water damage. The paths around the Bowling Green need some repair as there as some trip hazards, a contractor will be needed for this job.

RAT BAITING ALLOTMENTS - regular rat baiting of the allotments has been going on and seems to be have been a success.

Safe contractor approved compliance, we have been doing toolbox talks with the staff and a new fire safety cabinet has been erected in the depot for the fuel Cans also Luke O'Connell has completed and passed his football Foundation level one and John Vickers has passed his PA1 and PA6 spraying course

Covid regulations we are regularly doing a forehead thermometer test every morning with lateral flows being done at home, the vans have been cleaned at the end of the day or after use with the staff wearing masks when sharing vehicles.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the Council staff

The Chair asked the Clerk to pass on thanks to the staff and wish them a Happy Christmas

Clerks Report

HSE contacted us and asked covid related questions. They also asked if we had a risk assessment/policy regarding work related stress. We currently do not have this. Recommend this is deferred to the policy, development and staffing committee in the New Year.

Members AGREED that this be discussed at a Policy, Development and Staffing committee meeting in the New Year.

Christmas Working – A member of the parks staff will be working between Christmas and New Year (Wed-Fri). I can if needed be in contact with them. Office staff – Last working day is Tuesday 21st December, back in Tuesday 4th Jan 2022.

FC/112/2021 ENVIRONMENT FUND

Cllr Robson reported to the members 3 quotes received for work in creating a pond.

Quote 1 - £12,800

Quote 2 - £13,800

Quote 3 - £15,000

Also quote for £20 per metre for a path around the perimeter.

Cllr Robson also reported that tree planting will be carried out on 11/12, 15/12 and 18/12 from 10.00am if any councillors wished to come along and help.

Cllr Robson proposed that members agreed to accept Quote 1 for the construction of the pond and the quote for the path round the perimeter. Seconded by Cllr Stapley

Vote taken on the above proposal – Unanimous

The clerk to ask staff to replace the gate in the field with fencing.

Showfields 2 – Progress made with EA who will be putting a fence up near the entrance and trees to stop cattle entering the beck.

Speet Gill – Planting trees and supplying fence to fence off near Rugby Club

The Chair thanked Nick for all the hard work he has done and especially with the EA.

FC/113/2021 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE EVENT 2022

To discuss the letter circulated prior to the meeting regarding planting a tree – Cllrs happy to plant a mature Maple tree either in Phoenix Park or Barton Laws 2

FC/114/2021 BARTON LAWS

To discuss the situation with regard to clean up of pitches on a weekend – The Clerk reported that this had been a temporary measure and asked what Council wanted to do in the future.

The Clerk to ask staff to continue checking pitches until the end of January and look in to a permanent fence. The Clerk to cost up a permanent fence and look at staff erecting it asap.

FC/115/2021 BORDERLANDS PROJECT

An update on the Wigton Place Plan document – The Chair reported there had been a further meeting on Tuesday where further discussion took place as there were still gaps in the plan.

The Clerk reported that all comments made by members had been sent and some had been put in the plan. Further documentation had also been sent.

The Clerk was asked to send both documents to members. (Our amended plan and the plan amended by CCC)

FC/116/2021 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to Clerk for managing to get the lights sorted out and switched on.

Carol Service on Sunday 12th at St Mary's Church – All Councillors welcome.

FC/117/2021 CLERKS REPORT

Barton Laws – CCTV is now up and operational.

Few problems with heating and doors but getting sorted.

Key boxes installed – Clubs told code etc. as and when required.

2 trees down – Speet Gill and Park due to Storm Arwen – Charlie Miles asked to cut down.

1 tree down - Barton Laws due to Storm Barra – Into the beck, SF trying to contact Charlie Miles

Care Homes – Door step deliveries only this year for the Mayor. Thursday 23rd December 10am-12pm

Chrysalis, Loveday House, Inglewood, Redmayne and Rydal Mount

Permission for Cllr Hodson to speak at Development Panel to reiterate the council's comments (as per Page 3 of report) Wigton TC consider the best option for access to the estate is via the mini roundabout as detailed in the previous plans and that appropriate signage is erected.

New covid restrictions – From 13th December you should work from home if you can

Further info from CALC to follow in the New Year regarding face to face meetings. **Cllr Robson declared an Interest. Councillors happy for office staff to decide the best way to work under the new guidance.**

FC/118/2021 MEMBERS REPORT

C St – Cemetery on 11/11 and Xmas Lights switch on

DF – Cemetery on 11/11 and Xmas Lights switch on, traffic issues

EL – Cemetery on 11/11 and Xmas Lights switch on and Borderlands meeting

MH - WBJC

PW – WBJC – Resigned as Chair and also resigning from the Council with immediate effect due to moving away in January 2022. Pat has enjoyed her 7-8 years on the Council. Cllr Lynch stated that she would be a big miss and has worked really hard on many committees.

JH - WBJC

HR – WBJC Going really well other than problems with dogs in the cemetery but we are dealing with it.

JC – Borderlands and Cemetery on 11/11

FC/119/2021 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 12th January 2022

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

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