

**WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

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

**WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.00PM**

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

**FC/135/2021 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Hodson and Speksnyder

**FC/136/2021 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES**

Town Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Approved and signed as a true record  
Finance committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Approved and signed as a true record  
Festivals committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Approved and signed as a true record  
Parks, Open spaces & Allotments committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Approved and signed as a true record

**FC/137/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None

**FC/138/2021 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part of Clerks Report – Agenda Item 11

**FC/139/2021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**139/2021/1** To receive any representations from members of the public – John Daly and Steve Collier introduced themselves as members of the Royal British Legion in Wigton. They are wanting to raise the profile of the RBL and thought the TC was a good place to start. Any ideas from members would be welcome. John and Steve were thanked for their attendance.

The Clerk discussed the ongoing problem with vehicles along the baths path from Lowmoor Road. A resident has raised the issue with Cumbria CC but to date has drawn a blank. Since the gate was damaged and removed vehicles are using the narrow footpath that is only for pedestrians. The signage on Lowmoor Road is not very clear. Borough Councillors asked the Clerk to set up a site meeting with Cumbria CC.

**139/2021/2** To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance – Cllr Crouch had attended an ABC full council meeting, nothing to report for Wigton. Cllr Pitcher had attended an exec meeting regarding ABC budget and they have voted through a 0% increase on the budget. This will go to the next ABC full council meeting for a final decision. Cllr Lynch had attended the following:- Development Panel, Full Council – Motion put forward to introduce a licencing scheme regarding self catering holiday lets in towns such as Keswick. Locals are being priced out of being able to buy, ABC supported the motion.

Licencing Committee. Task & Finish group on community engagement. Climate Change meeting on Biodiversity.

Cllr Hamblin mentioned the development panel meeting from last month and that the Chair knew the thoughts of the residents and this council. Cllr Lynch explained in the letter sent last month that she does not take part in council discussions regarding large planning application so she does not have a predetermined view. Cllr Pitcher suggested that in the future the Chair leaves the room when they are being discussed. The Clerk explained again that an Allerdale Councillor does not sit on the panel for Wigton and our views were in the Planning Officers report for all members to read. The TC had not objected to the application, merely expressed a view that they preferred the option of a mini roundabout, County Council Highways had not objected to a T junction and therefore Allerdale planning officer was happy to recommend the T junction. We also made representation regarding the concerns about loss of habitat due to the removal of the hedgerow. Planning Officer reported that a new hedgerow to the southern and eastern boundaries is considered to be appropriate compensation for what will be removed at the front of the development.

Cllr Armstrong felt that the public perception is that the TC have been undermined by the Chair and that we should have a policy in place that the chair of the TC cannot hold a higher role in ABC. Cllr Ferriby suggested we look at 'any councillor on Wigton TC does not get involved with any housing/planning matters.

Cllr Lynch stopped discussion at this stage and told members that if they have an issue with her ABC role that they must speak with ABC Monitoring Officer.

Cllr Crouch reported that Allerdale Councillors had agreed not to vote for an increase in their salaries and that the money would go into a fund to help residents in Allerdale who are having trouble financially.

#### **FC/140/2021 FINANCE MATTERS**

To receive and authorise payments and financial statement for January 2022  
The statement was received. Payments **AUTHORISED**

#### **FC/141/2021 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE REPORT**

The following report produced by Stephen Farish was noted.

Work on the park and Barton law pitches has been undertaken after each weekend to keep the good surface but due to the bad weather one or two games have been called off, we are still picking dog muck off the pitches at weekends before games but I'm sure that once a fence is erected at the bottom of Barton laws with clear signage hopefully the message will get through.

Innovia: We're continuing to cut shrub beds and lower branches on trees and general tidying up of sites, areas and paths in Wigton hall and research and development area.

Several machines have been returned from WM Plant, Rickerby's and Lloyds fully serviced and repaired for the coming cutting season just one or two outstanding that need to be finished off.

Dalston: Our fortnightly visit to empty litter bins in the churchyard and check for dead flowers is continuing with just one or two tarmac paths to spray for moss left to do before the cutting season starts at the end of March.

All of the staff have finished and completed their HAVS course (hands arm vibration safety).

It has been another difficult month with staff shortages due to sickness (currently self-isolating with covid) but this can't be helped and we just battle on and try our hardest.

#### **FC/142/2021 WIGTON PARK BOWLING CLUB**

To receive an update and to set up a working group to undertake quarterly meetings with the club. A revised SLA has been sent to the club and just waiting for it to be signed.

Cllrs Ferriby, Robson and Jackson agreed to be the working group.

#### **FC/143/2021 PLAY PARK SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

To discuss and authorise a contribution to Park Play in Wigton over the summer – Members **AGREED** to grant £500 towards the scheme.

#### **FC/144/2021 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

#### **FC/145/2021 CLERKS REPORT**

The report below was noted by members

##### **Welcome Back Fund -**

Heritage Plaques – On order

Waiting confirmation from Cumbria CC as to the design for the front of the Goosemarket.

Once this is given we will order benches, bin and planters for King St, Goosemarket and Kirkland Park.

##### **New Park and Pond Area -**

Survey to be sent out – Questions – Help design the new park what would you like to see, in future what would you like to see? Eg tree planting, pond dipping etc. and naming of the park  
To be sent to all schools and community groups etc. Funding available from CCC Under 19 fund.

##### **Toilets –**

Report on number of times blocked in last month – 5 Staff called out every time and also UU called out (toilets closed for 2 days)

##### **Insurance –**

As per agreement all set up for the next year. Includes Wigton Cemetery and Wigton Carnival

##### **Allotments –**

A few weeks ago we put signs up asking people to keep dogs on leads along the allotment path from Longthwaite Road to Phoenix Park. This was after a conversation with Mr Dixon who has an allotment on Phoenix Park. He was having trouble with dogs attacking his animals. It has since been reported to me that Mr Dixon has been harassing people to put their dogs on leads and I have passed this on to Dennis Graham who is going to speak to Mr Dixon.

## **FC/146/2021 MEMBERS REPORT**

To receive reports from Councillors who have attended meetings or represented the Town Council. It's also an opportunity to bring matters of interest to the council for information or future discussion.

JC – Attended Cumbria Young Farmers AGM. Also complaints regarding anti-social driving.

HR – WBJC The committee discussed the reduction of grant from WTC to 9k. Wigton TC should have consulted with the other councils. Woodside and Waverton are not happy and are now questioning their grant amount. Cllr Lynch stated that we don't have to speak to the other councils.

Cllr Clark reported that their Terms of Reference state that we must consult the other councils. We no longer know how much grant we are going to receive from the other two councils. The Clerk pointed out that these are the terms of the committee not the town council. It was also pointed out that the grant to the burial committee was to be looked at each year and that eventually the committee would become self sufficient. Cllr Robbins stated that the people of Wigton deserve better.

DF – Report had been previously circulated to members regarding parking in Wigton. Look to ask ABC to modify its existing policy so we have a policy that is good for the town. Cllrs Lynch and Crouch to ask for a discussion at the next ABC meeting. Clerk to promote car parking charges on our facebook page with regard to low income employees who get a reduced rate.

MH – A resident had mentioned that the visibility coming out of Old Carlisle on to Syke Road is very poor due to the Wigton sign and Bus Shelter. Clerk to report to CCC.

CSt – Asked if a letter could be sent to NTS with regard to the hedge along Lowmoor Road. Very difficult for pedestrians to walk along the path at its narrowest and this is solely due to the hedge sticking out. It needs cut back. Clerk to send letter to school.

## **FC/147/2021 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Meeting closed at 9.00pm