

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY 2022 AT 7.00PM

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

Cllr Pitcher was in attendance (ABC)

FC/1/2022 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

None

FC/2/2022 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Town Council meeting held on 13th April 2022 – Approved and signed as a true record

FC/3/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

FC/4/2022 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Agenda Item 11 – Clerks Report

FC/5/2022 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

5/2022/1 To receive any representations from members of the public –The Clerk had received an email from a resident who would like to plant a memorial tree in Throstle Park – **AGREED** to refer to the P.O.A committee.

5/2022/2 To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors in attendance –

Cllr Pitcher reported that following the formation of the Shadow Cumberland Council, CCC and ABC are still in existence until May 2023. The new Shadow Council do not have any powers until then. ABC Exec had a meeting and are hopeful all projects already in the pipeline will be finished by May 2023.

Cllr Lynch had attended ABC development panel on 9/5 Cllr Lynch reported that she is the new Cumberland Councillor for Wigton and the Shadow Council will run until 01/04/2023 and then will become the newly formed Cumberland Council. The shadow council at present are strategic, they will be discussing how it will operate from 2023. No decision yet as to where the offices will be, they have met in Carlisle. First meeting is Tuesday 17th May.

FC/6/2022 FINANCE MATTERS

To receive and authorise payments and financial statement for April 2022

The statement was received. Payments **AUTHORISED**

FC/7/2021 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE REPORT

Report from Grounds Supervisor had been issued via email prior to the meeting.

Grass cutting: We are in full swing now cutting all sites fortnightly

Weed spraying: The government are looking to phase out the chemical glyphosate which is the main active ingredient of Roundup proventage that we use on all of our sites I have been in touch with the rep we deal with for our chemicals and he suggested an alternative called finalsan which is less harmful to bee's etc. the only negative with this is that it is not as strong as the provantage and will need to spray twice as often which means twice the man hours. We will do a trial period on our own sites for now as in the Park, Barton laws, St Mary's and the allotments to see what it's like.

Wildflower areas: wildflower areas were prepared for volunteers on Phoenix and Throstle Park and also the area by the allotments.

Nelson Thomlinson: work has begun on thinning the Hedge out along Lowmoor Road, it is taking a while as there is a lot of work involved this has been done when we had get spare time we currently have 50% of the work done.

Pitches: the posts have been took down in preparation for the pre-season work that is done by Tivoli which includes verti draining , weed spraying , fertilizing and over seeding any areas that need extra work done will be done by ourselves.

Defibrillators: there have been two defibs put up one in a Wigton Park and one at Barton laws.

Health and safety: We recently have had a toolbox talk on UV protection I have been in contact with the office and water bottles , hats and glasses have been provided and hopefully sunscreen.

Benches and tubs have been placed on the Goose market and we have planted a selection of all year round colour in the tubs this was planned for Wigton Park beds but the order was put in at Christmas so we'll be looking at putting in the all year round colour after the summer bedding has come out in September/October.

Unfortunately there has been quite a lot of graffiti in the last few weeks at Wigton park and vandalism in Barton laws it would be helpful if there was a bit more police presence on both these sites to deter the culprits. CCTV has been looked at but cannot get a clear picture at Barton laws.

The Clerk asked if there any questions regarding the report. Cllr Hodson asked if they were to remove the ivy from the hedge at Lowmoor Road. Cllr Stapley explained that the hedge was mostly ivy and that you would be unable to remove it.

FC/8/2022 BORDERLANDS PROJECT

A small group of councillors met on Monday 9th May – Anne Jackson, Elaine Lynch, John Hamblin and David Ferriby.

They discussed the proposals and established what they think the priorities of the Town Council should be.

1. We selected two priorities where we believe that the Town Council can take a lead – and they were priorities that we had already identified once they could be funded.

(a) Barton Laws- i.e. Throstle Park – continuing development in addition to what has already been achieved. We already have ideas as to how we would like to see the whole area developed. E.g. race track for children; footbridge to link the two parks; possibility of outdoor agricultural museum; more amenities for elderly e.g. seating.

(b) Wayfinding and small scale improvements. E.g. more signage to existing walks.

Producing a leaflet that highlights walks and leisure opportunities around Wigton.

Ensuring that outstanding promises happen e.g. signage and bollards in front of the Fountain; imposing stopping restrictions outside Greggs and Spar.

2. Very important but a very major project concerning the High Street/King Street – and the Kings Arms in particular - where the Town Council could advise but not take the lead.

It would be a huge project that would need expert advice and major financial investment.

E.g. Kings Arms – retain/restore the frontage; demolish much of the rest and build a mixture of a small hotel, enterprise outlets to encourage new businesses, and flats.

The other areas we thought were either of lesser importance or lower priority.

3. Water Street car park – Very important for this to be developed, but there are outstanding issues over parking charges, and nothing will change in the last year of ABC. It will be up to the new Cumberland authority to decide on policies across the area, and it is even possible that responsibility for car parks could be delegated to local councils. Therefore low priority as of now.

4. Swimming Pool – Important, but some already in hand. The Baths Committee should be leading on this and making requests to Borderlands.

5. Train station – Low priority because it is a long-term project. We need an integrated transport system, and we need a reliable train service. The station does look good – it is a welcoming place – but it is underused. Car parking and the access road are major issues. What could happen easily is improved signage to the town centre and vice versa.

Members **AGREED** with the priorities of the group. The Clerk to send off to CCC

FC/9/2022 ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Report sent via email to councillors prior to the meeting

Mike, Elaine, Anne, Chris, Nick, Monique met on 3rd May

The following was discussed:

- The main priorities for next steps for Throstle Park are: 1. Continue to get quotes for the pump track (from Velosolutions and Clarke and Kent) and also look for funding. Ballpark costs so far range from £60 – 100 K. Ideally the pump track should be competition grade, as that would encourage more visitors. A smaller track for younger cyclists might be good too. We should encourage local supporters, like Richard Metcalf, to help out. Velosolutions are coming to look at park in w/c 16 May. Need to arrange for Clarke and Kent to view park too. 2. Install picnic benches next to the putting green/Jubilee tree. Ideally we should go for the best quality

(good examples are those on Silloth green next to the water park, Wendy James, Silloth TC clerk, would have details). However, if buying good quality benches would take too long we should proceed to buy some cheaper ones knowing that they are unlikely to last as long (benches can be bought in Carlisle for just over £100). 3. Do a design and continue to develop the pond. Monique can do a plan. We can try to get plants from Gosling Sike, Thursby, and Watchtree. It would be good to put big stones around the pond; Lewis Messenger has some at his lockup, also Ian Lowes may have some. We need to get prices and an idea for a dipping platform.

- We need to get a price for a bin for the park, to go half way around or close to the picnic benches.
- A design for the park would be good so that we have a structure for where things should go and where things should be planted, rather than doing this haphazardly.
- We should explore the cost of putting a bridge between the park and Barton Laws. Nick will ask Gary Cannon for details.
- Next meeting 6 pm on Wednesday 8 June

The Clerk explained that the Environment group had spent the initial funding and therefore most of the above could be discussed at a POA committee meeting but there did need to be a working group to explore funding etc. for a pump track. **AGREED** that Cllrs Robson, Armstrong, Speksnyder and Scott would form the new pump track working group.

FC/10/2022 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Ferriby thanked members for their support over the last year.

23/04 Taste of Wigton. Very proud to be around on the day, fantastic event.

Jubilee events coming up – Thursday 2nd June – Service in St Marys at 12 noon. Town Crier at Fountain at 2pm and beacon lighting at 9.30pm. Saturday 4th Party in the park needs stewards.

FC/11/2022 CLERKS REPORT – PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL ITEM REMOVED

The report below was noted by members

- Big Plant – Saturday 7th May at Throstle Park went very well.
- Donation received from Sarah Donnelly of £526. Would like a bench at Throstle Park
- Circus due in to town from 31/7 to 7/8
- Work started on beacon ready for the lighting of the beacon on Thursday 2nd June
- CALC have asked if councillors want to receive emails direct. Let me know
- Today – Futamura have their volunteer day today at Phoenix Park. Repairing the railings at Croft Court end and fixing the gate. Putting the sign up at the bee and butterfly garden and general gardening work. Fantastic work!

FC/12/2022 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.

AJ – Taste of Wigton

MA - Taste of Wigton and Env group. Opening of putting green on 4th June

SH – Taste of Wigton and Laal Collective Open evening

JC – Taste of Wigton

HR – WBJC – Problems with dogs and people using the cemetery as a park. Cllr Robbins asked the Clerk when the WBJC’s letter would be dealt with. The Clerk confirmed the Finance committee would look at this at their meeting on 7th June.

DF – Taste of Wigton. Junior school delighted with the new seating and planters on the Goosemarket.

CSt – Pitches are looking fantastic at Barton Laws. Staff are doing an excellent job of the hedge at Lowmoor Road. The Clerk to speak with CCC again regarding a Crossing on West Road

MC – Form completed for bench at Cuddy Lonning by the Clerk and sent to ABC. Fountain needs cleaned before the Jubilee. The Clerk would mention to Stephen. Councillors agreed that they would do this.

MS – Taste of Wigton and Env group

NR – Taste of Wigton and Env group

EL – Env group, Taste of Wigton, Borderlands group. Barton Laws pitches look fantastic. Request to police regarding ASB. The Clerk had been in touch with the PCSO and was waiting for dates/times.

CSc – Taste of Wigton, wildflower planting. There had been ASB at Kirkland Park – a resident felt intimidated by a group of youths. The Clerk reiterated that people must contact the police. If people do not report it then how do the police know about it?

FC/13/2022 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 8th June 2022

Meeting closed at 8.35pm