

**WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON**

**TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022 AT 6.00PM**

**AT BARTON LAWS COMMUNITY BUILDING**

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

**FC/45/2022 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Robson – childcare issues

Cllr Speksnyder – University course

**FC/46/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None

**FC/47/2022 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

None

**FC/48/2022 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**FC/48/2022/1** To receive any representations from members of the public – Members of the public are invited to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes each. The maximum total time for public participation will be 10 minutes. At the close of this item, members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council Members unless invited to do so by the Chairman.

*This section was filmed by a resident.*

**Resident 1** asked since when has this been a private car park? Why does it have a lock on the gate? Nobody knew about this – not even some Councillors knew about this. How can you leave this car park standing empty? It's a waste of money if it's empty.

Chair explained that since having work done, gate has been locked so that the land would settle. It has never been discussed since, hence this meeting is taking place. Potential issues we have to consider are vandalism, burnt out cars being dumped in car park – would be at cost of the council to remove such cars, anti-social driving (donuts). Town Council would have to spend money to repair/remove.

**Resident 2:** Can't you put CCTV in?

Chair: We have it. Will ensure signs are created informing users that CCTV operational.

Cllr Clark commented that there is a legal requirement to place signage to show where CCTV is being used.

**Resident 3:** You've never done any maintenance on it before. The gates at Wigton Park aren't locked. Why here?

Cllr Hodson – we're only volunteers – we don't get paid.

Cllr Armstrong – We're all council tax payers – it's in our interests too.

Cllr Stapley – Let's be clear the gates at Wigton Park are shut on a night, unless there's an event on.

**Resident 4** – Surely there should have been some more public discussion about it – rather than just doing it.

**Resident 3** – You've locked something that hasn't been locked for 40 years. It's public ground – accessible public ground either by foot or by car.

Cllr Clark: The problem has been that there's been no discussion whatsoever – no one will own up to locking the gate or putting the lock on.

**Resident 1** asked whether it has to do with dogs and said responsible dog owners should pick their dog poop up. Don't class all dog owners with those that don't pick up their poop.

**Resident 2** went on to ask who made the decision and when – as lifelong resident she has the right to know.

**Resident 3** Everyone uses this car park – young old disabled etc.

**Resident 1:** People from all over Wigton who can't walk that far have to come by car to walk here by the river – you've blocked that by closing the gate.

## **FC/49/2022**

### **BARTON LAWS**

Cllr Crouch – Who actually made the decision to put a lock on the gate? Does Annemarie know?

Assistant Clerk was interrogated and she stated Stephen Farish was asked by the Clerk to lock metal and wooden gates to secure Barton Laws.

Cllr Jackson: If left open and damaged, we will need to notify residents of Wigton that we had to spend X amount to repair damage.

- Cllr. Chris Stapley left meeting –

Cllr Hamblin: This land was given to the people of Wigton in 1921. We spent a lot of money putting this building up for now and the future residents. We've put a wooden fence up to stop people driving onto the pitch. Dog mess is a problem wherever you go.

Cllr Robbins: Can't look all the time about what might happen. Just deal with the issues if they happen.

Cllr Jackson: We must communicate any decision that are made. It hasn't been done.

Cllr: Ferriby: Other parks are open with restrictions and we have problems. Most people in Wigton are very good at picking up litter etc. I'd argue that gate is open for certain hours and more signs to ask people to keep everything off the pitches.

Cllr McCarthy: Question is, is the gate for security? - it may be easier to have it open 24/7 or was gate put there as part of security for the building.

Cllr Lynch: I've just been speaking with footballers and they've seen reduction since fence has been put up. I'm conscious of people needing access. With gates shut, issues are who do we get to open/close?

Cllr Hodson: Need to find a compromise - open as much as possible. Winter is problem as that's when people get bored, damage is done. People pull up, let dogs out to poo, then they drive away. When we have events on maybe we close gate night before. Events that may need to be shut at night. In the meantime, open it.

Cllr Armstrong: Echo what has been said. Monitor. Get feedback from footballers. Poop still there - it still does happen.

Cllr Huntingdon: Open 24/7. Gates there in case we need them. We shouldn't stop people walking by river.

Cllr Jackson: Open the gates – especially now we're in summer.

Cllr Crouch: Open 24/7 It's dangerous expecting people to park on the roadside.

Cllr Clark: Open it.

Cllr Robbins: It's an open space and should be open to the public

Cllr Scott: If any form of anti-social behaviour happens, it's usually an evening. I would like to shut it on an evening and open on a morning – but we can't do that overnight, so as a council we'll have to look at that option.

**Cllr Ferriby put the following motion forward:**

Council agrees that the gates to Barton Laws should be open 24/7 with two provisos:

- 1 That gates may need to be shut for special events and this would be made public.
- 2 That any decision made tonight is open to review.

Motion seconded by Cllr Hamblin

Vote taken – Unanimous agreement.

Date of Next meeting

Wednesday 14th September 2022 - Meeting closed at 6.29pm