

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT – Cllrs Scott, Hodson, Lynch, Armstrong, Jackson, Hamblin, Stapley, McCarthy, Clark, Huntington, Crouch, Speksynder, Robson

FC/55/2022 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Ferriby
Lord Liddle

FC/56/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

6.1 Payments.

Items 13 and 14 from the agenda were changed around.

The following minutes were agreed as accurate:

FC – 13/07/2022

FC – 19/07/2022

POA – 25/07/2022

Finance – 26/07/2022

Barton Laws – 26/07/2022

PDSC – 02/08/2022

FOM – 17/08/2022

Festivals – 22/08/2022

Cllr Lynch – in regards to the festival finances, how much are things costing? Will this go to finance? The response was yes. Be careful not to go over budget.

FC/57/2022 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

FC/58/2022 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

FC/59/2022/1 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.

Cllr Hamblin – The allotment inspection took place JH, SH, NR and AD all acknowledged the effort put in and with the produce and effort commendable. A lot has been achieved this season and the following awards given:

Carole Wilson – Best Kept Allotment

Ellie and Brian – Most improved

Mr and Mrs Graham – Most Improved

Brian Jackson – Chairman’s Choice Award

5.2 Borough and County Council Reports

Alan Pitcher – thanked the council for their support with the uniform bank, it had been a great success. Also thank you to Chris and Sandra for all their help with volunteering. This Saturday was the last full public session but people still have the ability to contact Alan on Facebook. Cllr Hodson suggested that nearer Christmas there could be a special Christmas jumper bank launched.

Cllr Crouch - attended the Allerdale Full Council meeting.

Cllr Pitcher – From Allerdale’s point of view, the transition to the new authority has begun, with the shutting down of unrequired services. Software is being updated to make it as up to date as possible with it being pushed that the new Cumberland Council uses the software used in Allerdale as they are the most advanced out of the three councils. Allerdale officers are applying for lots of jobs but there are also a lot of staff leaving. The Allerdale Focus Hub have won a national award for their Community Alcohol Partnership, this has supported youngsters suffering from alcohol issues and has also been driven by the young people involved.

Cllr Lynch – provided reports from the Borough and County Councils. An Allerdale meeting took place on the 27th July, the Allerdale Civic Service on the 14th August and the development panel for climate change on the 6th September. On the 20th July there was a Cumberland Executive Committee meeting to ratify the logo and appoint the new Chief Executive on the 29th July. The Full Council meeting supported care leavers as a protected characteristic. When the Council is split, there needs to be a decision on which services will go where. Adult learning services, the hosting service will not be split. It was identified that in relation to SEND there are 9 areas underperforming. Moving forward there will be an executive briefing on a weekly basis as well as a group briefing. Cumberland Council has to have a HQ. Cllr Hamblin mentioned that the Police and Fire Service will be part of the Cumberland Council.

Cllr Pitcher would also like to arrange funding for a ‘warm room’ during the colder months where local people can go for a few hours a day to a place where it will be warm. Cllr Hodson mentioned that perhaps the Library could be a place to go. The Town Council would be in support of this. Cllr Crouch described how the food bank will already be open on certain days so this could be utilised. Cllr Lynch added that it could be coordinated across the town so all days of the week are filled. Cllr Hamblin agreed that some good points had been made and the Town Council should be doing all they can to help. Cllr Lynch advised that Cllrs Stapley and Crouch could coordinate this.

FC/60/2022 Finance Matters

None

FC/61/2022 Bowling Club Report

See attached.

FC/62/2022 Training for Councillors

Training sessions have been released by CALC, Cllrs Scott and Hodson are to sign up to the chair training.

FC/63/2022 Cumberland Council

A new committee will be set up to discuss and plan for the transition.

FC/64/2022 Fundraising Opportunities

Cllr Scott asked councillors for fundraising ideas, a few were mentioned including sponsored walks. This will continue as a Full Council agenda item.

FC/65/2022 Rising Energy Prices

Cllr Stapley raised energy prices as an agenda item and discussed whether red diesel could be purchased for parks and gardens machines. Cllr Pitcher would also like to arrange funding for a 'warm room' during the colder months where local people can go for a few hours a day to a place where it will be warm. Cllr Hodson mentioned that perhaps the Library could be a place to go. The Town Council would be in support of this. Cllr Crouch described how the food bank will already be open on certain days so this could be utilised. Cllr Lynch added that it could be coordinated across the town so all days of the week are filled. Cllr Hamblin agreed that some good points had been made and the Town Council should be doing all they can to help. Cllr Lynch advised that Cllrs Stapley and Crouch could coordinate this.

FC/66/2022 Grounds Maintenance Report

None

FC/67/2022 Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk wished the council well in the future.

FC/68/2022 Town Mayor's Announcements

Report Attached

FC/69/2022 Member Reports

Cllr Huntington attended the Civic Service and the WJBC

Cllr Clark attended the Civic Service and would also like a letter to be sent to Mike Johnston to say thank you for donating a bench.

Cllr Robbins attended the Civic Service and the WJBC

Cllr Crouch attended the Civic Service.

Date of Next meeting

Wednesday 12th October 2022 - Meeting closed at 8:45pm.