

## **WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

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

**WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT** – Cllrs Scott, Lynch, Armstrong, Jackson, Hamblin, McCarthy, Clark, Huntington, Robson, Lynch, Ferriby, Stapley, Speksnyder

Clerk: Emma Ireton

#### **FC/85/2022 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Crouch

Cllr Robbins

Cllr Pitcher

Cllr Hodson

#### **FC/86/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

The following minutes were agreed as accurate:

Cumberland Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 – **AGREED**

Full Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 - **AGREED**

Finance Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – **AGREED**

Festivals Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – **AGREED**

Extra Ordinary meeting of the Full Council on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – **AGREED**

#### **FC/87/2022 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

None

#### **FC/88/2022 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**FC/89/2022** 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.

### **5.1 Borough and County Council Reports**

Cllr Lynch:

Provided a borough and county report starting with Allerdale. As Allerdale winds down in preparation for the new Cumberland Authority taking over, Allerdale are concentrating on their statutory roles and responsibilities such as planning and licencing. What is continuing is the Climate Change group who are looking at current policies in Copeland, Carlisle and the County overall to put together a climate change plan that the new authority can take over. A discussion point was electric car charging points with Cllr Lynch describing how she has pushed for them in Wigton

for several years which the town are on the list for but are still waiting for funding. The suggested place to have them in Wigton is on Market Hill. Retrofitting holes are also on the agenda for the group as they recommend these to house builders and housing associations in the local area along with better insulation, doors and windows. All these projects are subject to funding.

Cllr Lynch attended a communities and localism workshop for the executive members of the Cumberland Council which was to decide how the council will work with local communities which will involve more people, not just councillors.

Cllr Lynch was also in attendance of Cumberland shadow authority full council meeting to discuss how the new council will run, at the moment it is about ensuring it operates legally has budgets in place.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> October Cllr Lynch attended 'Our Promise' meeting where councillors make a promise to children looked after in relation to hearing their views.

It was explained that Policing in Cumbria was being restructured in light of the authority changes so Wigton will fall into the Carlisle area for Policing. Chief Superintendent Lisa Hogan will be the person in charge and will operate from Carlisle. A key change will be how they manage local Policing by distributing teams linked to the local focus hubs. There will be an increased number of officers and PCSOs. Wigton will have a named officer, likely to be based in Wigton but they will also police Silloth and Aspatria. The transition will start in November 2022 and will be complete by June 2023. These changes will mean more links with local councils. The local Inspector for Wigton is Scott Adams.

## **5.2 Public Participation**

Holly Blake from the Sea Scouts provided an update after the Town Council donated a £100. Holly has now been invited to the Jamboree in South Korea and is selling items she made from the £100 donation to raise the funds to travel to the Jamboree. Holly will have a stall at the light switch on to help raise funds.

Two members of the public discussed their concerns with antisocial behaviour in Wigton as it has increased over recent months. Both ladies have children and one has a local business and they have both witnessed local youths causing problems such as throwing fireworks and being intimidating. The council provided an update regarding the Police and the constant efforts made to engage with them. Cllr Lynch's provided the news that Wigton will now have a named PC and PCSOs in coming weeks and the clerk read through the letter that was sent to and from the Police. The council advised all members of the public to report all incidents to either 101/email or calling 999 if there was a crime in progress. The public were advised that hotspots of crime will only be looked at if there are several reports. The clerk offered to continue to report on the public's behalf if they did not want to report themselves, the council also assured the members of the public that they would continue to engage with the Police regarding all crime in Wigton.

## **FC/90/2022 Finance Matters**

None

### **6.1 To receive and authorise Payments and Bank Reconciliation for September 2022**

All payments agreed and authorised.

### **6.2 Provide an update in current finances**

The clerk explained the reasons for the accounts not balancing which was down to some cheques not being cashed. It was also found that some payments for August and September were not paid in time but they had been recorded in Scribe. The clerk reported that once online banking was being used, there may be issues with balancing the accounts.

### **6.3 Furniture and white goods for Barton Laws**

It was agreed that £250 could be spent on purchasing a microwave, kettle and electric urns for Barton Laws so the community space could be hired.

## **FC/91/2022 Putting Green**

Cllr Armstrong provided a financial statement regarding the putting green and provided an update of how much it had been used over the year. Cllr Armstrong mentioned that all the maintenance work had been carried out not using the park staff and was volunteer time only. Cllr Armstrong also mentioned that he would work with the clerk's office to increase usage next year, one suggestion was hiring it out alongside Barton Laws.

## **FC/92/2022 Ground Maintenance Report**

No report was provided by the parks supervisor, however Cllr Hamblin provided an update. Cllr Hamblin is working with the park supervisor to replace some of the plants and flowers in Wigton Park with shrubs and bushes that would not need to be replaced every year. This would be an environmental move as well as a cost saving activity. Cllr Hamblin prepared a list which SF (Stephen Farish) will share with Capsticks to see what can be provided. An update to follow.

## **FC/93/2022 Town Mayor's Announcements**

**See attached report.**

## **FC/94/2022 Clerk's Report**

- A debit card from the Cumberland arrived so purchases can now be made via debit card. This will now resolve the issue of staff using their personal accounts. It also means suppliers can be paid over the phone while online banking is still an issue.
- Could Barton Laws be used to hold some smaller committee meeting and working groups to reduce the amount spent on room hire?

## **FC/95/2022 Member Reports**

Cllr Ferriby – mentioned issues with parking since the Factory Shop car park received cameras. Allerdale are attending the car parks but the Highways team are not monitoring the main street and the issues that are caused because of illegal parking. Remembrance Sunday service will be on Sunday at 10:45 am at the cemetery if councillors wish to attend. On Sunday afternoon at 3pm at the Methodist Church will be the annual service.

Cllr Stapley – thanked Councillors for the donation to Age Concern and reminded everyone that you do not need to be a member or pensioner to attend their events.

Cllr Clark – A year ago a grit bin was reported to the CC, it was reported that the wrong bin was filled.

Cllr Lynch – attended Wigton Town Team meeting in regards to the Borderlands project

Cllr Robson – met with the Environment agency and Rivers Trust who have assigned £25000 to the Wigton area. There are ideas to work on Wiza Beck and Speet Gill but also looking at future projects such as improving walking trails.

Meeting Closed – 8:36pm

Date of Next meeting

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm.