

## WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

### A MEETING OF THE PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT Councillors Hamblin, Hodson, Robson and Scott

#### POA/10/2022 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Speksnyder

#### POA/11/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

None

#### POA/12/2022 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

#### POA/13/2022 WIGTON PARK

Discussions continued from previous meetings regarding the refurbishment of the Dalton Shelter. Cllr Hamblin spoke of the historic importance of the shelter and described how Mrs Dalton donated £200 to build the shelter. Mrs Storey was also mentioned as important person, who at the time also donated money for the plaque. Cllr Scott mentioned that he had a relative that lives on West Road with the same surname, so he would research whether she was a relative of Mrs Storey. **ACTION – Cllr Scott to check if his relative was related to Mrs Storey.**

Cllr Hamblin stated that 2024 will be the centenary of the Dalton Shelter so having it repaired would be a great way to celebrate and recognise both Mrs Dalton and Mrs Storey for their donations. It was noted that Wigton Park is a great park for all that use it including the children, families and those that play football, but the current state of the Dalton Shelter is poor so having it repaired would help in continuing to make the park better in the future.

Cllr Scott shared that he had received one estimate so far in relation to repairing the Dalton Shelter. The quote was £9840 inclusive of VAT, this quote included replacing the seating, facias, guttering, slates, brackets and repairing the ceiling. It would be left paint primed and ready for painting. After inspection it was found that 120 slates were damaged, and this could rise to 300. As three quotes are required a further two are needed before proceeding. The budget also needs to be set and agreed for 23/24 before committing to the refurbishment of Dalton Shelter, especially with the continuing rising costs of materials. Cllr Hamblin added that the quote also included the repair of the base of the shelter and all the woodwork. Unfortunately, some of the companies that have been approached to provide quotes have not got back in touch. Cllr Scott has two more companies he knows he can approach so is confident they will provide a quote. **ACTION – Cllr Scott to receive quotes by October. Cllr Scott to send received quote to the Town Council office.**

Cllr Robson asked who had sent the quote that had already been received, Cllr Scott responded with Malcolm and Martin Watson who live in Wigton. Cllr Hodson suggested Wilkinson's as a potential joiner with Cllr Scott mentioning that he had contacted Darren Studholme and one other.

Cllr Hamblin went on to mention that he is conscious of money in the friends of Wigton Park fund, with currently £3718 available. While this group has now dissolved, the money is still there. If we were able to access it, it would help towards the cost of repairing the Dalton Shelter. **ACTION – EI/AR to contact David Bedlington to ask if we can gain access to the money.**

Cllr Robson had two points to raise. Firstly, in relation to the quote, which is inclusive of VAT, the VAT can be claimed back therefore this sounded like a reasonable quote as there is a lot of work that needs to be done. Cllr Hamblin added that the Town Council would be responsible for erecting barriers while the work was undertaken. Cllr Scott further added that the price also included scaffolding that would be removed each evening. Cllr Robson's second point was that while three quotes were needed, it is important to choose a suitable contractor as it is a heritage building so the work needs to be completed to a high standard and make repairs that are in keeping with the shelter's heritage. Cllr Hamblin mentioned that there was provision for a structure on top of the shelter, it is unknown what was there before but it could have been a weather vane.

Cllr Scott reiterated that there needed to be evidence of having three quotes.

Cllr Robson explained that these discussions started six months ago so everything needs to be documented, he also asked whether there could be any grants available and failing that the Friends of Wigton fund could be accessed. Cllr Hamblin agreed that there would be money out there.

Cllr Scott suggested researching the Lottery Heritage Fund, if the money from Friends of Wigton Fund was available this would show the Lottery Heritage Fund we are able to also put money in.

Cllr Scott brought up security of the refurbished shelter and suggested erecting cameras on the fascias to act as a deterrent to future vandalism.

### **POA/14/2022 EAST END PARK**

Cllr Hamblin referred to the report that was attached to the agenda. To summarise, the purpose of the report was to highlight the issues that residents were experiencing due to some anti-social behaviour and to offer a solution. Footballs are regularly kicked over into residents' gardens and onto the street which could hit a car. Cllr Hamblin suggested erecting a net, another suggestion was to heighten the fence.

Cllr Robson asked who erected the fence, the response was Story Construction. Cllr Scott mentioned that the fence already is high, and it might not be able to be made much higher, even if a net or the fence was made higher the youths in the area are still likely to cause a problem. It was asked where the net would go, Cllr Hamblin suggested it covered the whole area. Cllr Hodson suggested putting a catch net up instead of a net that covers the whole area, Cllr Scott mentioned that a net could trap birds.

Cllr Hamblin explained that residents have ongoing complaints, but they are not being resolved. Cllr Scott added that it is doubtful that the youth are accidentally kicking the ball into unwanted areas, and it is likely more deliberate.

Cllr Hamblin went on to mention that one option could have been to lock the park up at 8pm but that would not be possible. The park is a space for everyone, so the council have

an obligation to make it a safe space for everyone.

Cllr Scott explained that a net would prevent the flow of playing football. Cllr Hamblin mentioned that residents won't call the Police to report ASB as it could impact on them selling their houses.

Cllr Hodson suggested a curved extension rather than a net.

**ACTION – EI/AR to contact the contractor that erected the fence to ask for quotes to increase the height of the fence.**

Cllr Scott raised the point that putting up a net or extending the fence is a big expense for only four residents and there needs to be a justification of why we have acted. It was suggested a log is kept.

Cllr Robson would like to have further information which would enable him to make a suggestion. How often are complaints etc.

Cllr Hodson mentions that it could appease residents if the Town Council at least makes some enquiries into how to resolve the issue. Lewis Messenger should be contacted to provide a quote on providing a net or erecting an extension. **ACTION – EI/AR to contact Lewis Messenger.**

### **POA/14/2022 PHOENIX PARK**

Cllr Robson – no updates but is there a fence still being erected? Cllr Hamblin replied that Cllr Clark had called Ian Rumney, the fence would be erected after the grass had finished being cut, likely in October.

Cllr Hamblin provided an update and spoke about the trees and said they are doing well. The end part of the park had been started but at some point, the fence needed to be replaced.

Cllr Robson mentioned that the mushroom will need to be painted and could this be a project that kids could be involved, alternatively Futamura could be involved although it may be a better idea that they are involved in the work in Throstle Park. The kissing gate needs to be improved, Futamura were going to fix the gate by doing some welding. There is also Japanese Knotweed in Phoenix Park which has been cut out twice, but it has started to grow back. Cllr Scott mentioned Lawrence Coulthard had strimmed it. If this is not kept on top of it will take over the park.

### **POA/15/2022 THROSTLE PARK**

Cllr Robson stated that it needs to be cut now we are at the end of the season. The area around the pond is doing well with trees etc, there are also water plants. It would be beneficial get more plants but the whole area is doing well so it should be left to naturally develop. There are thistles in the rest of the park which need cut before winter then we need to consider how to develop it in the future. Short term it needs a tidy up, in the long term there are plans for a pump park. Wildlife for Wigton are going to be contacted to tidy up the trees which were planted for hedging. The park is being used but the paths have grass growing through. We haven't been able to ask the park staff to help as they are short

staffed. It was asked whether Stephen Farish could attend these meetings in future.

**ACTION – ask Stephen if he can attend**

Cllr Hamblin mentioned that the park staff is an issue on its own.

### **POA/16/2022 SIGNAGE**

EI adds that AR had been tasked with researching the different types of signage. AR was trying to find costs for wooden signs which would be in keeping with the area and metal signs to as a comparison. The wording on some signs is to be changed to make it more user friendly and inclusive.

### **POA/16/2022 ALLOTMENTS**

EI escorted Cllr Hamblin to the allotment inspections. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken in number two but water is now an issue. A further concern is plot one as seeds are starting to go into other plots. Number three is in a bad state. The occupier of plot four is possibly going to leave. The fence still needs to be replaced after plot three removed it when he left. Ian Rumney is to be contacted to give a price for erecting the fence at Burnfoot. It should be considered that plot one is split into two. Overall the area is overgrown and needs some work. The park staff could perhaps help one into winter but they need a timetable.

Cllr Robson stated that everyone needs to know what the park staff do, what is their purpose and their roles? Are they there for the town or to service other areas? **ACTION – EI to work with park staff to create a yearly timetable and job description.**

Cllr Scott proposed that we ask Futamura to clear Burnfoot if they offer to volunteer again.

Cllr Scott mentioned that councillors should be reminded that they are required to attend meetings as there needs to be a minimum of four councillors.

Meeting closed at 19:25

Date of next meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023