

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 14th DECEMBER 2022 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT – Cllrs Scott, Armstrong, Jackson, Hamblin, McCarthy, Clark, Huntington, Ferriby, Stapley, Speksnyder, Stapley, Hodson and Pitcher.

Clerk: Emma Ireton

FC/96/2022 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Crouch

Cllr Robbins

Cllr Lynch

Cllr Robson

FC/97/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following minutes were agreed as accurate:

Festival Committee held on 8th November 2022 - **AGREED**

Finance Committee held on the 8th November 2022 - **AGREED**

Full Council meeting held on 9th November 2022 - **AGREED**

Joint Finance and Cemetery Committee held on the 24th November - **AGREED**

Finance Committee on 28th November 2022 – **AGREED**

Cllr Armstrong raised 6.1 as a declaration of interest.

FC/98/2022 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

FC/99/2022 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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.

FC/100/2022

5.1 Borough and County Council Reports

Cllr Pitcher:

Reported that the LRG was gaining pace.

In reference to Allerdale, it was reported that there had been a slight lapse in services as current employees were being moved to the Cumberland Authority or moved onto new roles which resulted in some experience lost. Apprentices will automatically be transferred to the new authority.

There was an update regarding the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) which has finally gone through government, while the money has not been allocated yet it will be allocated to each council soon. It is believed to be in the region of £3000. Those who had put forward an expression of interest will have the validity checked and will be asked to submit an application. The Rural Prosperity Fund is the same and Wigton does class as being rural, this should be available soon. Nick Hardy will be doing the distributions but for any further information Cllr Pitcher can also be contacted.

Cllr Pitcher has been stopped by several residents to complain about specific services, whilst Cllr Pitcher is happy to listen to complaints he did reiterate that complaints about services should be directed to Allerdale in the first instance. The danger of mentioning complaints in person is that they may get forgot about, if they are made via telephone or online, then they are dealt with accordingly. Cllr Pitcher is happy to take complaints further if required. There is still some unknowns after March but services will continue on their current format for the time being.

Cllr Hamblin asked what the complaints were, Cllr Pitcher answered with street lights, dog mess and parking issues outside Saundersons. Cllr Hamblin responded that he and other councillors were trying to resolve the parking issues and had contacted Dr Neil Hudson and this was an ongoing situation which was trying to be resolved. It was also mentioned that Sgt Neil McKinley was also involved and has wrote a letter explaining that the little could be done at the minute regarding the Fountain as the sign had the incorrect wording but would monitor the parking issues.

Cllr Hodson mentioned the Fountain and the need for it to be resealed and cleaned. Cllr Pitcher responded that it could be David Bridon from property services that may deal with this. The clerk included that AR was also in talks with Trevor Grahamslaw and was currently researching grants and funding available to maintain the Fountian.

In reference to the dog mess, Cllr Hodson asked whether the Town Council could obtain the stencil to mark the paths ourselves. **ACTION – Contact Tivoli and ask for the stencil.** Cllr Stapley remarked that people will still allow their dogs to mess even with markings on paths. Cllr Pitcher commented that there is still only one dog officer which is a problem and perhaps reminding residents on social media could be an option.

The final comment from Cllr Pitcher was around the boundary changes which would impact on Wigton. The MP for this area would be between Dr Neil Hudson and Mark Jenkinson.

5.2 Public Participation

None

FC/101/2022 Finance Matters

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

All payments agreed and authorised.

FC/102/2022 Grounds Maintenance Report

Report was provided prior to the meeting. Cllr Armstrong asked about HAVS and whether there had been updates. The clerk advised that there was ongoing work to ensure all HAVs legislation was adhered to and that HAVs monitors were being priced up as well as having an external assessor reviewing our policies.

FC/103/2022 Cemetery Update

Cllr Clark provided an update on Cllr Robbins behalf. As there hadn't been an update for some time, Cllr Clark noted the following:

- The cemetery relies on lots of volunteers to run as there are no paid staff to clear wreaths and rubbish or open and close the chapel for example.
- Woodside and Waverton have both been a great support and offered time to volunteer.
- The cemetery is facing several problems over the coming years which includes repairing over 2000 headstones over the next 5 years.
- The bill for repairing 46 headstones alone will be £4000. If they are laid down they become a trip hazard.
- The path is in need of repair which will be in excess of £3000.
- House is in need of maintenance and repair with new damp proof and kitchen required which will cost in excess of £13000 before April 2023.
- Annual bills are increasing such as grave digging and utilities.
- Whilst the house is let it needs so much maintenance it could take years to make a profit.
- There are often complaints regarding the grave digging which is sub contracted to Tivoli through Allerdale.
- There is the reliance on the precept provided by the three councils.
- The cemetery is an important historic place that is as important as the Wigton parks.
- A Friends of the cemetery is being set up to allow the cemetery to tap into certain grants and funds.
- The cemetery would like the council to work together to resolve all these issues.

Cllr Jackson reiterated what Cllr Clark said and agreed the cemetery should be a priority.

It was suggested that the cemetery had a Facebook page with the comments off to prevent negative comments and to provide information. Cllr Clark was not convinced this was a great suggestion, the clerk offered to manage it if it was agreed.

Cllr Clark also mentioned that Jason from the market was going to remove the wreaths and recycle them, Cllr Hodson asked whether a sign could be placed at the cemetery asking families to remove wreaths and rubbish.

Cllr Clark said there was the need for more volunteers within the cemetery.

Cllr Armstrong commented that currently the cemetery felt like a separate entity, the rest of the councillors do not get to know about the issues or read any minutes so it makes it hard to understand the issues.

FC/104/2022 Bowling Club Update

Cllr Ferriby shared the outcome of the annual meeting with the bowling club. Social members had increased as well as the number of darts players. It was noted that there were two priorities which were the toilet block and the paths being repaired with tarmac. The town council will cover repairs over the next financial year and will not yet make a profit from the annual fees that the bowling club pay. Signage will look to be improved as part of the Borderlands project.

FC/105/2022 Increase members on the POA

A motion was proposed by Cllr Scott for Cllr McCarthy to become a member of the POA to ensure the committee met the minimum quorum. This was seconded by Cllr Clark, vote was **UNANIMOUS**.

FC/106/2022 Town Mayor's report

See attached

FC/107/2022 Clerk's report

The clerk provided councillors with the breakdown of the Christmas Lights Event:

Raffle - £414
Mini Golf - £67.13
Santa - £308.50
Ice Rink - £1900.90
Face Painting - £70
Donations - £188.19

Everyone was thanked for helping.

The hire of Barton Laws was discussed with the clerk asking whether any councillor would be free to open and close a party for the coming weekend. It was discussed

whether it would be sensible to allow the person hiring to have the code as would it be possible to always have a member of staff or councillor available to open and close.

An update was provided around the town CCTV with the clerk describing new software that will allow the Police to identify and track images, people and vehicles across the county. We have a contact within the Police to ask them to search for images and they will liaise with the local Police.

There is still no access to online banking but this has been chased up, this is making it difficult to ascertain what has been paid and what is outstanding which is effecting the reconciliation.

The financial regulations have been read through which detail all cheques must have more than one signature, regardless of what the bank account requires. This will also be required for online payments made so the clerk is going to revise the policy and send out to councillors to check.

The finance committee agreed to ask for a £360000 precept from Allerdale for 23/24, the deadline for the application is the 6th January 2023.

FC/108/2022 Member's Reports

Cllr McCarthy – Volunteered at the Christmas Lights Switch on. It was mentioned that some of the younger families had asked that the light switch on should be a bit sooner next time round as they had to leave early as they were tired.

Cllr Hodson – 11th November at the cemetery, remembrance service at St Marys, Light switch on, Age UK event.

Cllr Ferriby – Remembrance Service, Carol Service, light switch on. It was also asked whether the taste of Wigton event would still go ahead on the 22nd as this is when Allerdale would change to the new authority. The clerk mentioned that there had been some correspondence with Allerdale regarding this with new contacts to replace Ellie Jones who is on maternity.

Cllr Hamblin – visited the archives twice to find out information regarding the Dalton Shelter. A visit to Carlisle library had also been made where it was found that in July 1924 Mrs Dalton from Standingstone and Mrs Storey made a donation for the gates. To be able to proceed with the Dalton Shelter repairs, more estimates are required. Also volunteered at the Christmas Lights Switch on.

Cllr Scott – 11th November at the cemetery, Age UK event, Christmas Lights switch on.

Cllr Huntington – St Mary's remembrance service

Cllr Clark – 11th November at the cemetery, carol service and the Junior School Carol Service.

Cllr Jackson – Remembrance Service, St Mary’s Service and the Christmas lights switch on.

Meeting Closed – 8:46pm

Date of Next meeting

Wednesday 11th January 2023

PART 2 CONFIDENTIAL