

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON TUESDAY 10th JANUARY 2023 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT Councillors Hamblin, Hodson, Robson, McCarthy, Speksnyder, Crouch

POA/17/2023 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Scott – will join a meeting late as has work meeting

POA/18/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

None

POA/19/2023 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

POA/20/2023 DISCUSSION OF BUDGET

Discussion took place about items shown on the budget.

TO DO – Provide details of budget allocated, what has been invoiced and what is yet to come out of budget to be presented at next meeting.

POA/21/2023 WIGTON PARK

The Committee agreed this is a great asset to the town, widely used by families and football team and housing the Park Bowling Club.

Park is celebrating its centenary this year, with Dalton Shelter centenary set for 2024.

Committee agreed we need a formal tender for the refurbishment of the Dalton Shelter as the money involved is substantial.

To do –

Create tender- approach contractors on the CCC approved list for interest.

If we could find council minutes from 1923/24 it might shed more light on the history of the shelter.

Money has been set aside for the park (Friends of Wigton Park) so time now to look to access this and make sure it is spent on the park.

To do - Clerk to contact David Bedlington.

Committee suggested we organise – with Festivals – a fun day to celebrate opening – Edwardian theme. Young Farmers would like to volunteer to help with this.

Bowling Club:

Beech hedge surrounding Wigton Park Bowling Club needs to be cut to half its height. Cllr. Hamblin has spoken to Stephen about this and he is in agreement. Suggestion made to approach local farmer to cut with tractor attachment.

To do - Need plan of action for late Feb/March as best time to cut.

Arrival of Cllr. Scott to meeting 6.30pm

Disabled access to bowling green was discussed. At certain times of year this becomes unpassable as narrowed due to growth of hedge. Agreement by Committee that this should be improved by Wigton Town Council.

To do – Look at options to widen the path and make accessible for rollators and wheelchairs. Signage required to advise users of location of disabled access.

Disabled access to our playpark at Wigton Park also difficult for those in wheelchairs. We need to look at different option as spring on gate very strong. Health and Safety issues with this should be monitored.

POA/22/2023 EAST END PARK

Goal posts at East End park need to be better quality and with sleeve embedded into the ground so that they cannot be removed maliciously.

Motion put forward to committee to purchase appropriate posts.

Motion passed.

To do - price up posts for next meeting.

No complaints by residents about football as we are in autumn, but expects these to become an issue again as weather improves. Some residents still won't ring the Police with complaints – WTC has agreed to lodge complaints on their behalf but we need to be informed of incidents.

Fencing/netting to control ASB with balls
Nothing as yet has been done.

To do – Look at options and prices.

To do – Park staff to install bench and bin in park.

Cllr Hodson left meeting at 6.45pm

POA/23/2023 PHOENIX PARK

Chair of the Committee, Cllr Hamblin, spent time with Head Groundsman to discuss the workload the team has over the year. At present, no extra capacity to maintain flower beds in park.

A five-year plan might be an idea to look at possible developments might be possible in the park. WTC doesn't know what Cumberland Council might decide on grass cutting or maintenance across Wigton.

It was raised that there has been a lot of work in the park by volunteers and we shouldn't need to rely on volunteers to keep the park in a nice state. Park staff should be able to manage our parks.

Comment was made that a vision of what our green spaces could provide would be helpful. As a local example, Friends of the Railway Station do an excellent job of working with volunteers. Attracting volunteers is a full time job and very difficult at time. One possible option would be to recruit someone to organise volunteers to be friends of the

park, to generate interest over a period of time. If DBS checked they could liaise with schools.

Schoolchildren and Wigton Wombles would be best option as involving people at a young age is the best solution.

To do – Plan needs to be developed for Phoenix Park by Committee or working group.

New fencing behind flower beds was erected at end of November at Phoenix Park – refurbishment of fence at entrance to allotments – has made a great difference. This was financed equally by Wigton Park, Dennis Graham/Free for All and Wildlife for Wigton.

POA/24/2023 THROSTLE PARK

It was suggested that the working group for the pump track project should meet soon. There has been a recent bid made for money, but decisions on this as part of Borderlands funding, won't be known until end of the year. Grants and match funding need to be handled by the working group.

Motion - For Pump track to move along, we need working group to make it happen.
Agreed

To do - Plan required for Throstle Park for late summer 2023, before throstles set seed, to bring tractor in to cut everything. Work with park team to ensure this is on their work rota.

POA/25/2023 SIGNAGE

Assistant Clerk reported that she had a meeting planned the next day with preferred signage provider to mock up friendlier, more appropriate play park signage ready for sign off at next committee meeting. This would include larger no dogs signage at East End park.

POA/26/2023ALLOTMENTS

BURNFOOT:

Issue with allotment – needs to be cleared and fence erected ASAP, with gate so that new water trough will be secure and away from general public.

A gate is required between allotments 1 and 2.

Water needs to be in place before Spring. This has gone on for too long.

There have been reports that wood is being taken from the fences at Burnfoot – this needs to be monitored.

LONGTHWAITE RD:

Asst. Clerk said that all letters and invoices have gone out to allotment holders. We have some allotments that have resigned their tenancy, so Asst. Clerk contacting those on the list.

Holes in the road at the Longthwaite allotment site have been mentioned. Need to fill them before new season starts.

Discussion took place about the fence at allotment 4 which fell down. This has been caused by ground movement. This will be assessed by Head Groundsman to look at possibility of helping to recycle and re-erect the fencing as it is on the main thoroughfare and dangerous. WTC only responsible for perimeter fencing. Usually tenant who must erect their own. Tenants are not entitled to new fencing but on this occasion committee agreed it was acceptable to assist. Tenant will be asked to contribute.

Allotment inspection dates have been decided as April 20th, July 20th and September 20th at 1pm.

Meeting ended 7.54pm

**Date of next meeting:
Wednesday 15th February**