

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

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT –**

Councillor Chris Scott (Mayor and Chair)  
Councillor Sandra Hodson (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor John Hamblin  
Councillor Mary Clark  
Councillor Mary Huntington  
Councillor Chris Stapley  
Councillor John Crouch  
Councillor Heather Robbins  
Councillor Anne Jackson  
Councillor David Ferriby  
Councillor Mark Newton  
Councillor Shane McCarthy  
Councillor Monique Speksnyder.

Clerk: Emma Ireton

**FC/13/2023 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Armstrong

**FC/14/2023 MINUTES FROM April 2023**

The following minutes were agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman:

Events Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 - **AGREED**

Full Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – **AGREED**

Parks, Open Spaces and Allotment meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – **AGREED**

**FC/15/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

NONE

**FC/16/2023 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Agenda item 9 - Recruitment Update in a confidential part 2.

**FC/17/2023 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.

## **5.1 Public Participation**

Two members of the public were present and observing.

## **5.2 Cumberland Authority Report**

Cumberland Councillor Lynch:

In the April meeting, Cllr Lynch stated that she would contact Trevor Hurst regarding the maintenance of the Fountain in Wigton. An update was provided during this meeting where it was confirmed that an email had been sent as agreed with no replies received at the time of this meeting.

It was stated in the last meeting that there had been a meeting with Steph Davis-Johnston from the Highways department which was to review some of the traffic issues in Wigton, especially around Station Road. During the meeting Steph Davis-Hunter managed to see some of the issues that Wigton face including the illegal parking outside of the Factory shop which while is on private land, it is hoped it will be looked at. Cllr Lynch during this meeting did suggest the use of bollards in specific areas.

It was shared that Cumbria Police had a meeting to review the area around the zebra crossing so it is hoped that some improvements will come from this meeting. In relation to Station Road a crossing was a potential but was discounted as well as an island which would be an issue for large HGVs crossing. The road markings have all pretty much gone at the top of Station Road so these need to be replaced. Overall there is the focus to make this area safer.

In terms of the loose man hole covers, it was advised that they need reported to the specific authority/utility company as they are not all owned by the Cumberland Authority.

There have been discussions taking place regarding Lowmoor Road and the entrance to the Swimming Baths.

The electric charging points are still being followed up.

In relation to Wigton, Cllr Lynch shared information regarding the community panels as a second meeting had taken place with a further meeting to happen on the 12<sup>th</sup> June to look at the community and investment plan. The process will be different to the Borderlands Project as there will be funding for eight community panels which will be based on the number of people in an area and the level of deprivation. Up to £60000 will be available and will be to improve health and wellbeing as well as other top priorities. Each panel will have an officer taking minutes and a member of the authorities' senior management team which will be Simon Higgins for the Wigton area panel. There will be a meeting later in the month to discuss how the money can be used.

The first full council meeting was on the 18<sup>th</sup> April which was to set the committees and for members to receive media training. There are weekly meetings in relation to

Children's Services with vaping and smoking policies a hot topic as it is such a big issue in schools.

There was an update provided around the bin collections, it was advised that if one area has not been collected it will be collected the following week.

It was asked if parish councils were able to take on extra responsibilities yet, the response was that nothing had been delegated as of yet.

Early Years outcomes need to be improved so the authority is working on a strategy for this.

Cllr Lynch visited Futamura for a meeting to discuss what the council could do

## **FC/18/2023 Finance Matters**

### **6.1 To receive and authorise Payments and Bank Reconciliation for April 2023**

All payments agreed and authorised.

## **FC/19/2023 Grounds Maintenance Report**

Stephen Farish the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor provided the following:

Firstly, as the football season comes to an end the pitches have stood up well with all the play apart from the 9v9 pitch at Wigton Park, it is my recommendation that we put a proper drainage system in. I know this will cost a bit, but this does need to be done down one side as there is a main drain right through the middle already. There is talk about putting a lady's team on Barton laws next season which is good news. Other good news was hearing Wigton harriers had won their league, their feedback was that it's the best the pitch has ever played. We will try to do as much work on the pitches as possible ourselves but certain jobs like vertidrainning and overseeding will need to be done by Tivoli.

The park verges need repaired after all the traffic throughout the football season just waiting for matches to finish.

Town tubs and benches will be finished before planting in mid-June.

Litter bins have been installed in Throstle Park as they are getting used quite a bit, so we are emptying them every week.

Burnfoot allotments - we have measured up and priced a fence to go in the newly prepared allotments. Also rat baiting is being carried out at the Longthwaite allotments.

The slide and park play equipment - painting has started on the slide at Wigton Park as it needed a lot of TLC, also other equipment needs painting.

Grass cutting is in full swing now and all sites are getting cut fortnightly.

The park beds project AT Wigton Park - all beds have been PH tested and Rhys has worked out what shrubs we need, including varieties.

Staff - our new employee, Frank, starts next week, which will be a godsend as a lot of jobs can be started on as it's been a bit hectic lately and jobs have had to be delayed.

Finally, the large Van had to have a lot of work done on the rear part of the body due to corrosion on the base of the tipper.

## **FC/20/2023 Cemetery Update**

There have been 5 funerals and 2 cremations in April.

The first yearly inspection was also carried out, the result of this was that it was noted that the path at the bottom and to the side of the cemetery needs to be repaired.

The clerk has been in touch with the Monumental Masons to discuss headstone repairs,

The mapping of the cemetery continues.

Cllr Scott announced that he had been in touch with Futamura regarding volunteering and suggested they could help with painting the cemeteries front gates.

**ACTION** – Cllr Scott to liaise with Futamura.

## **FC/21/2023 Public Toilets**

There has been no further update since the last meeting, the clerk and Cllr Clark continues to open and close, and the cleaning is undertaken by the clerk.

Cllr Clark did mention that she has spoken to a potential self-employed cleaner so she will pass our details on.

Cllr Hodson also offered to help with putting quotes together.

## **FC/22/2023 Mayor's Update**

**Mayor Chris Scott provided the following update:**

### **Town Mayors Announcements 13/04/2023 – 10/05/2023**

I am pleased to report that I have had a very busy time in the last month, and I have had the honour of representing the Wigton Town Council in the following events: -

**22/04/2023** – I, with some fellow councillors manned the stall at the Taste of Wigton event.

Despite the awful weather we had a nice steady flow of people throughout the day. I went to the Throstle with Anna Chippendale after the event, and we discussed how to make the event better. She suggested moving it to another location which I was opposed to as this would take people away from the town centre and the local shops, cafes and business' who all prosper when the event is on. She did agree to my suggestion of a 2-day event.

**27/04/2023** – Dennis Graham asked me to come along for a photo for the News & Star for his exhibition of Wigton High Street from 100 years ago that he is building in the Boys Club.

This exhibition will be on display in the Market Hall in the summer.

**05/04/2023** – I was invited to West Cumbria age UK for their Coronation Tea & Cake party where I put on my pinny and help serve teas and coffees. The event raised £207.34 which is going towards a minibus.

**05/04/2023** – I was asked to present a trophy at the Wigton Rugby Club for their Colts and Senior Presentation. The Colts team approached Wigton Town Council for a grant to

purchase their stripes. This is the first Colts team for 6 years and they've had a good season finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**06/04/2023** – I was invited by Inglewood Nursing Home for their Coronation party where Lol was playing. Jack Thomlinson saved me a seat next to him and asked to see his name on the chain. He ended up wearing it throughout the whole party. Jack was the mayor the year I was born.

**06/04/2023** – I got out the Union Jack suit once again for the Beacon Lighting at Barton Law. It was a success with about 100-150 people attending. Wigton Town Council managed to make the Daily Mail

### **FC/23/2023 Clerk's Report**

Firstly, the clerk wanted to thank all councillors who assisted during the lighting of the Beacon but especially Cllr Armstrong as he had spent days on the lead up to the event ensuring the Beacon was painted and ready to be set alight.

It was noted that snacks and drinks were sold at the Lighting of the Beacon and there were some left over. The clerk suggested trialling an honesty box to sell the remaining goods to those using the facilities for football. The other suggestion was to look into leasing a vending machine for Barton Laws.

It was also mentioned that there had been several resident complaints over a cockerel that seems to have been abandoned and is taking resident in people's gardens. It was suggested that Knox Wood is called as the cockerel does not seem to belong to anyone.

### **FC/24/2023 Member's Reports**

Cllr Newton – Suggested Wigton has a scarecrow event like Dalston

Cllr Hodson – Taste of Wigton and Beacon Lighting with thanks to the clerk and Cllr Armstrong for all the work he put into the event. Also the displaying of the poppies on the Fountain which will stay up for the carnival and the RBL 100 year anniversary (Wigton branch). Also working with the RBL and shopkeepers to promote this in their shop fronts.

Cllr Jackson - Taste of Wigton and Beacon Lighting

Cllr Speksnyder – Attended the Beacon lighting. Also reported that Wigton for Wildlife along with Futamura will be attending Phoenix Park on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May to clean and strip the old paint from the Mushroom.

Councillors were informed that Wigton Harriers won the Premier Division of the Cumberland County League, it was therefore suggested that a letter of congratulation was sent. **ACTION** – Clerk to send a letter of congratulations.

Cllr Hamblin referred to the minutes of the recent POA relating to the anti-social behaviour at East End Play area, he explained that there had been no further incidents since the committee met to discuss the issues. However, this should still be monitored as well as continuing with Cllr Scott's idea of planning a meeting to

include the youths to overcome the problem. The actions from the POA minutes will also still be completed.

Cllr Clark - Taste of Wigton and Beacon Lighting and the Infant School Coronation Event at St Mary's.

Cllr Robbins - Taste of Wigton and Beacon Lighting

Cllr Crouch - Taste of Wigton and Beacon Lighting. It was asked when councillors would receive a meeting to discuss the Bowling Club and their position. **ACTION** – To speak to Cllr Ferriby to arrange a meeting.

Cllr McCarthy - Taste of Wigton and Beacon Lighting, he also mentioned that more advertisement was required.

Cllr Stapley - Taste of Wigton and Beacon Lighting.

Meeting Closed – 8:35pm

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023