

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 12TH JULY 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 Claire Meszaros
Councillor Patricia Newton

Clerk: Emma Ireton

FC/58/2023 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Speksnyder

FC/59/2023 MINUTES FROM JUNE 2023

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

Full Council held on 14th June 2023 – **DEFERRED until September meeting.**
Extraordinary Meeting held on 29th June 2023 – **DEFERED until September meeting.**

Extraordinary meeting held on 29th June – **DEFERRED. AMENDMENT TO PRESENT/APOLOGIES AND A LINE ADDED BY COUNCILLOR CLARK IN FC/57/2023**

FC/60/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor Hamblin declared £50 cash received from a member of the public for plants and flowers.

FC/61/2023 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

NONE

FC/62/2023 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

None

FC/63/2023 Finance Matters

6.1 To receive and authorise Payments and Bank Reconciliation for June 2023

All payments agreed and authorised.

Councillor Clark queried a payment of £38.99 for canes that were allocated to the WBJC. The receipt was provided by Councillor Hamblin. It was agreed this would be checked and allocated to the correct budget line if necessary.

FC/64/2023 Civic Policy

Chairman Councillor Scott addressed the members of the council with a statement regarding the need for a civic policy. Councillor Hodson refuted claims made during the statement pointing out that there had been a request for a meeting to discuss which had gone unanswered.

Members of the council discussed the civic policy, going through each point before taking a vote.

1.1 Should sentence 1 or 2 be adopted:

This protocol is designed to assist the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor to understand their roles and responsibilities and to provide guidance for undertaking civic duties. **OR**

This protocol is designed to assist Councillors to understand their roles and responsibilities and to provide guidance for undertaking civic duties.

A vote was taken.

10 councillors voted in favour to keep sentence 2.

4 councillors either voted in favour to keep sentence 1 or they abstained.

The adopted sentence for 1.1 is:

This protocol is designed to assist the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor to understand their roles and responsibilities and to provide guidance for undertaking civic duties.

1.2 Should the following sentence be removed entirely:

- a) The Deputy Mayor will not automatically become the Town Mayor the following year.

A vote was taken.

12 councillors voted in favour to keep this statement.

The adopted statement for 1.2 a) is:

The Town Mayor is formally elected by the council from amongst its members at the annual council meeting each May. A Deputy Town Mayor is also elected at this meeting. The term of office for the Town Mayor is one civic year, which runs until the next annual meeting. The Deputy Mayor will not automatically become the Town Mayor the following year. The criteria that will help determine who should be considered as Town Mayor includes the following:

1.2 Should the following sentence be removed entirely:

b) They must have served as chairman for at least one committee during their current term.

A **vote** was taken.

13 councillors voted in favour to remove the statement.

2 councillors abstained.

1.2

c) They must not have been subject of a code of conduct complaint within the preceding two years.

A **vote** was taken.

13 councillors were in favour to remove the statement.

2 councillors abstained.

The adopted statement for 1.2 b and c is:

- They must have a good attendance record at both council and committee meetings.
- They must be able to attend engagements and positively promote the Town Council.

4.4 Should this statement be amended with the removal of 4.5.

Invitations should not be sent to nor solicited by the Deputy Town Mayor, and they will not attend functions in their own right except when deputising for the Town Mayor.

A **vote** was taken on whether it should stay in its original form.

12 councillors were in favour of keeping it in its original form.

4.5 Should the original statement be replaced with the following:

Where the Deputy Town Mayor is invited to a function, it should be referred to the Town Clerk as an invitation for the Town Mayor and the Deputy Mayor should only attend where the Town Mayor cannot. (original)

Where the Deputy Town Mayor is invited to a function the invitation should be referred to the Town Clerk so it can be recorded. This invitation will then be extended to the Town Mayor as well as the Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor will not attend functions in their own right except when agreed by the Town Mayor. (Amended)

A **vote** was taken on whether the original statement should be replaced with the amended statement.

13 councillors were in favour of keeping the original statement.

4.6 Should there be an amendment to this statement.

The Deputy Mayor should not attend any external meetings or visit organisations without prior agreement from the Town Mayor unless it is usual councillor business. (Original)

The Deputy Mayor should not attend any external meetings or visit organisations without prior agreement from the Town Mayor unless it is usual councillor business. All councillors are able attend all functions in their role as a councillor. (Amended)

Councillors discussed changing the wording to the following:

The Deputy Mayor should not attend any external meetings in their role as Deputy Mayor or visit organisations without prior agreement from the Town Mayor unless it is usual councillor business.

A **vote** was taken to adopt this new amendment.

13 Councillors were in favour of this amendment.

The final and approved Civic Policy is available online and from the office.

FC/65/2023 Anti-Social Behaviour

The clerk provided members with an update regarding the recent incident at Barton Laws. The CCTV footage of the group of youths setting a sweatshirt alight behind the building was sent to the Police

Members requested the clerk to send a letter to Mike Johnson, copying in Roger Liddle regarding the issues Wigton is facing in relation to Anti-Social behaviour.

It was proposed that a meeting could be held at Barton Laws, inviting youths and parents to discuss Anti-Social behaviour.

FC/66/2023 Grounds Maintenance Update

Members received the grounds maintenance report.

Councillor Stapley shared his concerns about the roof slates as the mortar has moved. **ACTION** – the office to contact the builders.

ACTION – The office to price up portable football goals.

FC/67/2023 Cemetery Update

Councillor Robbins provided an update.

The new fees had been set from the 1st August 2023.
From the 26th July dampproof work was to be carried out at the cemetery house.
There had been issues with the septic tank being blocked with wet wipes but this has been resolved.
It was highlighted that the VAT for 22/23 had not been refunded to the WBJC account. ACTION – clerk to make the payment from the main town council account.
It was also highlighted that the income and expenditure statement did not match the budget so this needed to be addressed.

FC/68/2023 Bowling Club Update – Cllr Ferriby

Previously some members had requested to see the financial statements of the bowling club, members were reminded that financial statements can only be requested but there is no requirement for the bowling club to provide these statements.

Members still expected an annual report which would provide details of how well the club was doing. Members were reminded that the Bowling Club pay £1000 a year in rent and without that, the building would be unused with no income.

Members were also told that any work carried out by the park staff is paid for by the bowling club by way of invoicing.

The toilets are in very poor condition and the Town Council had agreed to pay to improve the facilities which include replacing the roof, the ladies' toilets, men's toilets and disabled toilet.

It was asked that there were some projections and costings available for the next full council meeting.

FC/69/2023 Mayor's Report

Mayor's Making Ceremony in Carlisle
Wigton Choral Society Concert
RBL Service
Wigton Carnival
Dhaka Restaurant – Cash for kids
Work ready day at Nelson Thomlinson School
Chrysalis AGM
Wigton infant School gala

FC/70/2023 Clerk's report

Clerk raised that the events committee was not up to quorum, councillor Scott proposed councillors Newton and Meszaros to join the committee. A **VOTE** was taken with a **UNANIMOUS** result for both to join the committee.

Welcomed Sophie as the Assistant Town Clerk.

There was a proposal to buy a cold drinks and snacks vending machine and a hot drink vending machine to have at Barton Laws. It was clarified that the town office would be responsible for the restocking and emptying money. A local business is selling a vending machine so we could purchase that for Barton Laws.

Councillor Scott proposed that we purchase the vending machine locally. A **VOTE** was taken with a **UNANIMOUS** result.

The clerk requested that the committee make a decision on which auditor to use for 23/24. It was proposed by Councillor Stapley that Rachael Kelly would be our auditor for 23/24. A **VOTE** was taken and the result **UNANIMOUS**.

FC/71/2023 Member's Reports

Councillor Jackson – Carnival and RBL service

Councillor Newton – Could there be a portaloos at the allotments? To be added to the next POA agenda.

Councillor Newton – Why are the town council not doing something to celebrate Wimbledon?

Councillor Hodson – RBL service, carnival, Wildlife for Wigton and Chrysalis AGM

Councillor Ferriby – RBL service and carnival

Councillor Stapley - carnival

Councillor Hamblin – RHS Wigton in Bloom

Councillor McCarthy – Carnival. Also raised concerns regarding recycling bins and the vape station also selling slush drinks as well as vapes

Councillor Clark – Mentioned the tree planted for the jubilee is dead

Councillor Robbins – RBL service, carnival. Also raised concerns regarding the vape station

Councillor Crouch – RBL service, carnival. Would like a letter to be sent to the carnival committee.

Meeting closed 20:59

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th September