

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd MAY 2023 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT Councillors Hamblin, Hodson, Scott, McCarthy and Clark

POA/07/2023 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Robbins

POA/08/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

None

POA/09/2023 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

POA/10/2023 Elect a chairman for 2023/2024

Councillor Clark proposed Councillor Hamblin

Councillor Scott seconded Councillor Hamblin

Vote was **UNANIMOUS** with all in favour of Councillor Hamblin continuing as the chairman of this committee.

POA/11/2023 BUDGET

The clerk provided the committee with the budget and confirmed the committee had the following to spend in 2023/2024:

Allotment running costs - £5500

Spent to date - £400

Plants and replacement planters - £3600

Spend to date - £0

Park Maintenance (for all parks) - £6000

Spend to date £250

Dalton Shelter (ear marked) £10000

Spend to date £0

POA/12/2023 DONATIONS AND VOLUNTARY WORK

Cllr Hamblin explained he'd had a conversation with a lady who had asked to potentially pay for a bench/seat to sit on somewhere between Longthwaite Road and Phoenix Park. There is currently no seating in these areas which is an issue for some who are unable to walk long distances. The placement of the bench was discussed and it was agreed the best place would be at the Longthwaite allotment area as further authorisation would be required from the Cumberland Council if it were to be placed on the road/footpath. It was

agreed that Cllr Hamblin would contact the lady to gather more information. If the lady was to purchase the bench, the council would be happy to secure the bench.

Cllr Clark highlighted that the town did not have enough benches and the ones we do have need regular maintenance.

There was an update regarding the mushroom in Phoenix park with Cllr Hamblin confirming that it was stripped back by Wildlife for Wigton and volunteers from Futamura. There is a crack in the mushroom so it is believed Cllr Speksnyder was going to contact Futamura to see if they could repair it.

Whilst Cllr Speksnyder mentioned in the full council meeting that this work was going to be carried out by Wildlife For Wigton and Futamura, committee members did raise their concerns around how information was received regarding ongoing voluntary work. Phoenix and Throstle Parks are the responsibility of the Town Council and that includes the H&S of these parks. It was therefore requested that there is a more formal process to voluntary work being undertaken by outside partners with information and requests passed through the office by email, this information can then be shared with the council. It was noted that the council were very appreciative of all volunteers who worked on the mushroom, just better communication was required between the organisers.

The bee garden was also mentioned as it is starting to look unkempt.

The pond was another area that was mentioned as needing attention as algae was present. It was noted that a hay bale was placed in the pond to change the PH level.

It was asked what involvement Wildlife For Wigton had in the ongoing maintenance of the pond as they were part of the group who developed the pond? It was agreed that the office would contact Wildlife for Wigton to establish what support they could provide. Cllr Speksnyder would also be invited to the POA committee meetings when the parks were being discussed as she could attend as a Wildlife for Wigton representative.

Overall committee members agreed that there needs to be a maintenance plan in place to ensure all areas are maintained.

Finally, Cllr Scott mentioned that a lady had approached him to ask about whether a memorial tree could be planted. It was agreed that he would gather more information and ask Nick Robson about the types of trees that would be suitable.

POA/13/2023 SIGNAGE

The clerk has requested a quote for improved signage as East End and Wigton Park, this will be shared with committee members as soon as possible. It was agreed that the rest of the signage would be left for the time being and discussed at future meetings.

POA/14/ALLOTMENTS

Inspection letters have been sent to allotment holders where there has not been sufficient progress. To date there have been no replies.

Burnfoot allotments – the plumbing work has been completed and has been signed off ready for United Utilities to inspect. It will be approximately 5-6 weeks for the water to be switched on as there needs to be a footpath closure. SF has also priced up the fencing for front and rear of the allotments with this work being completed when the park team have availability.

POA/15/DALTON SHELTER

On the 15th May Martin Watson attended Wigton park to inspect the shelter for the second time so he could provide an updated quote, which included replacing the concrete footing. It is expected that the revised quote will be significantly more than the original quote due to the increase in materials and the length of time that had passed between the last quote.

The clerk told the committee about a community grant fund that might be accessible which is a sum of money set aside for a variety of reasons, including a community asset that would go to ruin if not replaced or restored. It was agreed that the office will apply for this grant and wait for the decision before moving forward with any work.

POA/16/WIGTON PARK CELEBRATION

Whilst this will be on the agenda for the events committee it was raised during this meeting as it was this committee that originally raised the idea of an event to celebrate the park being 100 years old in 2023. The name of the event was discussed, and it was agreed it would not be called a 'Victorian' fun day as this was the wrong era. The events committee will name the event but will avoid any specific time frame in the name. It was also agreed there would be a commemorative plaque to celebrate the park's 100th anniversary.

In the eventuality that the Dalton Shelter has not been restored in time for the event, it was agreed that a history board could be used to showcase future of the shelter.

Cllr Hamblin updated the committee regarding the flower bed project within the park by explaining that he had met with Rhys Stabler to agree on the type of shrubs to be used in place of some flowers which will save money over time as shrubs will last longer.

A vote was held to allow the committee to authorise a spend of £1500 on shrubs to replace annual flowers, the result was **UNANIMOUS** with all in favour.

It was agreed that a similar project could be completed to replace the flowers in the beds in Water Street Car Park.

POA/17/EAST END PLAY AREA

The clerk provided an update regarding actions from the previous meeting.

1. Anti-Climb paint can be purchased in a variety of colours but not white. This paint also leaves a sticky residue that would be harmful to clothing therefore this cannot be used in this area.
2. Parakeet Prints had been sent an email asking for a quote to replace signs at East End Play area and Wigton Park.

3. Stephen Farish is going to assess the green fence to see if it can be tightened along with the zip wire.

It was also agreed that a meeting with the youths that use the park will also go ahead to discuss anti-social behaviour and this information would be fed back to the local residents.

Meeting ended 7.41pm

**Date of next meeting:
Tuesday 20th June 2023**