

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON TUESDAY 4th JULY 2023 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT Councillors Hamblin, Hodson, Scott, McCarthy, Robbins and Clark
Cllr Speksnyder as the Wildlife for Wigton Representative

POA/18/2023 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE

None

POA/19/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Hamblin declared a member of the public gifted him £50 cash which was to be used for flowers in Phoenix Park.

POA/20/2023 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

POA/21/2023 PARK PLANNING AND MAINTENANCE

At the last meeting it was decided that a representative from Wildlife for Wigton (WFW) should attend this meeting to discuss the ongoing maintenance of the open spaces and parks in Wigton. Nick Robson and Cllr Speksnyder who are both representatives were invited but only Cllr Speksnyder was available.

The committee members raised some concerns over work being carried out at the parks and open spaces without the committee or the office being fully aware of the details. For this reason, it was asked that future work carried out by WFW should always go through the office and then requests can be put onto the POA agenda. This will ensure that H&S is adhered to and any other partners are contacted prior to work commencing. It was recognised that the work WFW carried out, especially at Phoenix Park was welcomed.

Cllr Speksnyder/Representative for WFW:

It had been noticed that the parks and open spaces were lacking in relation to maintenance and volunteers were needed to make the areas more appealing. It was understood that the park staff did not have the time to fulfil all activities in Wigton and the new Throstle Park was an added challenge.

In relation to the mushroom in Phoenix Park, the office had been told that Futamura would be volunteering to strip it and it was also mentioned at a full council meeting.

WFW requests included:

Ask that the park staff cut the areas around the two fruit trees at Throstle Park.

A gate to be erected at the wildlife area of the pond and a sign saying, 'Wildlife area'.

Consider asking Futamura to make the signs for the pond area.

To remove the fence between the beck and Throstle Park to allow wildlife access to water.

ACTION – Enquire who owns the fence.

For Throstle Park to be cut once a year.

To place large stones on the edge of the pond for decorative reasons.

The committee asked about WFW, who they were, what their aims were and who the members were. Members currently include Nicholas Robson and Cllr Monique Speksnyder and their aim is to engage with as many people as possible to improve green spaces in Wigton. Cllr Speksnyder is also an ecologist so has the skill, knowledge and experience to advise on matters relating to green and open spaces. They also confirmed that they had full insurance and were a voluntary group.

There had been a 5 year plan for the parks developed by Cllrs Clark and Hamblin but a shorter annual maintenance plan is also required which would capture the issues Cllr Speksnyder has raised.

Part of the plan was to improve the entrance to Speet Gill as it is a mess currently. It was asked whether the park staff could clear this area?

Cllr Speksnyder in her capacity of the WFW representative asked if she would gain a response to her requests and recommended that the committee looked at the next steps for the mushroom. It was **AGREED** the committee would respond to her requests.

POA/22/2023 BUDGET

The clerk provided the committee with the budgets for each area including:

Allotments
Flowers and Shrubs
Replacement Planters
Grass Cutting

POA/23/2023 SIGNAGE

The committee were provided with a quote for the signage for both East End Park and Wigton Park, the total being £134. It was also **AGREED** to change the wording to East End Park so people do not get confused with 'no balls in the play area'.

POA/24/2023 ALLOTMENTS

The chair reminded the committee that the next inspections were on the 20th July with Sophie Cooper (SC) attending from the office and Cllr Robbins. The chair gave an overview of how some of the allotments were in poor shape and requested letters sent out after the inspection.

ACTION – Call UU to ask about footpath closure and when the water at Burnfoot would be turned on. (Water will be turned on 14th August)

It was requested that when the water was on that the IBC tank was moved to Phoenix Park.

POA/25/Dalton Shelter

The recent quote was reviewed again for the attention of Cllr Robbins as she was previously on leave. The committee was informed that Martin Watson had been contacted

so he was aware that there would now be a delay as we wait for an answer from the community support fund. It was discussed whether the design should be altered to prevent damage and vandalism so the committee AGREED to meet at Wigton Park on Monday 17th July at 5:30 pm.

POA/26/PARKS

The chair asked about creating a plaque for the 100 year anniversary of the park. It was **AGREED** the chair would share some wording with the clerk and then pass the planning over to the events committee.

It was suggested that David Bedlington was asked to be a guest.

An update was required regarding the goal posts, the clerk will have a look at where the previous assistant town clerk left this and pick it up.

The chair asked if the Zip wire at East End Park had been repaired – **ACTION** ask SF.

Finally, the ongoing issues with East End Park were once again highlighted and it was asked if it could be locked? Once the signs are up discussions can take place.

Meeting ended 7.58

**Date of next meeting:
TBC**