

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

WAS HELD ON JANUARY 23RD JANUARY 2025 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT Councillors Hamblin, Speksnyder, Hodson, Jackson and McCarthy.

POA/83/2024 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE
Cllr Scott

POA/84/2024 TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS
To approve the minutes of the Parks, Open Spaces and Allotment minutes from 26th September 2024 – **AGREED.**

POA/85/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS
None

POA/86/2024 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
None

POA/87/2024 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None

POA/88/2024 TERMS OF REFERENCE
It was discussed whether it would be more beneficial for the annual report to be held in person, potentially either at the end or the beginning of the year.
It was **AGREED** that the Terms of Reference would be presented to the full council in February.

POA/89/2024 ALLOTMENTS

7.1 To receive an update

The committee was informed that a letter was sent after the last allotment inspection regarding the eviction of a tenant, which they then appealed. This is due to be assessed in April. The assistant clerk mentioned there is currently a waiting list of 10-15 individuals, and several allotments have been recently returned.

7.2 To agree on the usage of plots 51 and 56 at the Longhwaite site

Cllr Hodson mentioned that during the last inspection, it was proposed to offer plots 51 and 56 to a group, such as the Scouts. The assistant Clerk and Cllr Hodson met with the Scouts on Tuesday at the plots and they expressed an interest. The committee has agreed to waive charges for two years, with a review to take place every 12 months thereafter.

7.3 To decide on allotment inspection dates

Following dates were agreed:

Wednesday 30th April

Wednesday 16th July

Wednesday 24th September

POA/90/2024 PARKS

8.1 To discuss issues and share updates regarding Wigton Park

Cllr Hamblin praised the work done on Dalton Shelter, noting that the only potential concern for vandalism is graffiti. It was suggested that future projects should be simplified to ensure timely completion. Additionally, the paths in the park require attention, which relates to the short, medium and long-term plan.

8.2 To discuss solutions regarding the fence at East End Park

The assistant clerk provided an update on Flash Fabrication's plans to rectify the vibration and noise issue by using rubber behind each clamp on the uprights of a section of the fence. He also plans to explore options for a height extension to prevent the ball from going over and disturbing residents.

8.3 To discuss installing a bench in Phoenix Park

Both a picnic table and a bench could be placed in the park, with recycled plastic being a sustainable option.

Cllr Speksnyder mentioned the possibility of installing a dipping platform at the pond in Throstle Park, with potential funding available from Fells and Solway. Concerns were raised regarding children's safety, but it was noted that the platform would include a surrounding railing. Further discussion took place about whether the entire pond area should be closed off year-round and only opened for specific groups. The Assistant Clerk will consult with the Clerk to determine if this is feasible.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY** agreed to apply for funding.

POA/91/2024 PLANS

9.1 To provide and receive ideas for a short-term plan

It was noted that the shed at the allotments is in poor condition and in need of replacement. Members discussed the possibility of a larger shed, potentially a community shed for allotment holders to use.

There was a discussion regarding planting shrubs along the path from Beech Croft.

9.2 To provide and receive ideas for a medium-term plan

A discussion took place regarding the possibility of installing a small play area in Phoenix Park for children to use, particularly after school while walking home. Suggestions included a simple structure, such as a swing set. It was noted that an outdoor gym is planned for Phoenix Park as part of Borderlands. Concerns were raised about the necessity of a new play area, as many children passing through Phoenix Park are likely heading to Greenacres, which already has a park.

9.3 To provide and receive ideas for a long-term plan

It was noted that the road at Longthwaite allotments requires improvement, the material used at Throstle Park was suggested as a potential suitable option.

Concerns were raised regarding the fencing along the right-hand side of the allotments, which may require repairs or replacement.

Committee members were encouraged to consider their own ideas and suggestions for the plan ahead of the next meeting.

Meeting ended 7:48pm

Date of next meeting: 1st May 2025

DRAFT