

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL
A MEETING OF THE PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE
WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST MAY 2025 AT 6.00PM

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

POA/92/2024 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE
None

POA/93/2024 TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS
To approve the minutes of the Parks, Open Spaces and Allotment minutes from 23rd January 2025 – **AGREED.**

POA/94/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS
None

POA/95/2024 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
None

POA/96/2024 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None

POA/97/2024 ALLOTMENTS

6.1 To receive an update regarding allotments

It was noted that the allotment inspection had been postponed by one week and would now take place on Wednesday 7th May, due to the notice not being issued to allotment holders in time.

6.2 To discuss the usage of plots 51 and 56 at the Longthwaite site

The committee were informed that the Scouts are no longer interested in plots 51 and 56. It was proposed that a letter be sent to individuals on the waiting list, including a photograph of the plots and a response deadline. It was further suggested that the 60% cultivation rule could be waived for anyone willing to take on the plots, due to their size.

6.3 To review the current allotment rules

The committee were informed that the Assistant Clerk and the Chair would be working together, using appropriate legislation, to amend and update the current allotment rules.

POA/98/2024 PARKS

7.1 To discuss issues and share updates regarding parks

The committee were informed that the fence at East End Park had been rectified by Dylan to reduce noise and included an extension to prevent balls from entering the road.

Cllr Speksnyder arrived at 6:17pm.

Positive feedback has been received from residents regarding the changes. It was noted that the gate is sometimes left open, causing the ball to roll out into the road, which is a hazard. A suggestion was made to fit a spring to the gate so it closes automatically.

Cllr McCarthy reported that some children had asked if a similar extension could be

added to the fence on the opposite side, to prevent balls from going into the field. The committee also discussed the state of the park and the amount of litter. It was noted that Paul Radcliffe had offered to assist with funding to install CCTV in the park, which could act as a deterrent.

The Assistant Clerk was asked to check with Stephen how often the bins are emptied, as the frequency may need to be increased.

7.2 To discuss installing a bench in Phoenix Park and receive possible options

The committee were informed that composite plastic benches may fade over time when exposed to sunlight.

A company based in Dumfries was mentioned that produces benches and also offers engraving services, which could be a nice option.

It was also reported that a bench in Phoenix Park is damaged.

7.3 To discuss the installation of a dipping platform in Throstle Park

Photographs of Watchtree Nature Reserve's dipping platform were shown. It was noted that the one there is always supervised.

The water level issues at the pond were discussed, and it was suggested that a pipe could be run from the beck in Hopes Auction's field, particularly from an area that frequently floods, which could help resolve two issues simultaneously.

Schools have shown interest in using a dipping platform for educational projects.

The idea is that the platform would be installed by an external contractor, but maintained by the Council.

The Assistant Clerk is to find a suitable manufacturer/installer and arrange a site meeting with councillors to discuss options.

It was agreed that the Council will proceed with the project and not wait for Borderlands funding.

Cllr McCarthy proposed that the Assistant Clerk obtain quotes and arrange a site visit, and that Cllr Speksnyder contact a consultant to check the water condition.

Cllr Scott seconded the proposal, and the vote was **UNANIMOUS**.

Cllr Hamblin raised concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and littering in the woods at Speet Gill.

It was also noted that children have been lighting fires in the woods, and that the fire brigade has had to attend on more than one occasion.

It was suggested to contact the fire brigade about the possibility of visiting schools to deliver talks aimed at discouraging this behaviour.

Further suggestions included putting up signage to discourage fires and to remind cyclists to be considerate of others.

It was also reported that the sign at Stoney Bank leading to Speet Gill has split—Stephen to be asked to look into this.

POA/99/2024 PLAN

It was noted that some footpaths and roads within Wigton Park are in need of attention, and photographs were shown to the committee.

It was highlighted that some of these paths are used for disabled access, increasing the urgency for improvements.

A suggestion was made to compile a full list of necessary works to be put forward for inclusion in the Town Plan. These items could then be split and delegated to the appropriate committees.

It was proposed to hold an extra meeting where members can bring their own ideas

and contributions, with the sole agenda item being this topic, to allow for a focused and in-depth discussion.

Meeting ended 7:57pm

Date of next meeting: 5th June 2025

DRAFT