

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Cockermouth, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillor Stephen Barnes  
Councillor Catherine Bell  
Councillor Marion Bowman  
Councillor James Samson  
Councillor Gillian Telford

Councillor Howard Beanland  
Councillor Chris Bridgman  
Councillor David Malloy (Mayor)  
Councillor Alan Smith  
Councillor Richard Watson

Cllr Andrew Semple – Cumberland Council  
Mrs Jane Ollerenshaw – Clerk  
Mrs Amy Jeffrey – Administration Assistant  
Members of the Public: 4

19:00 meeting opened.

**156/25 Apologies** Cllrs Burns and Laidlow had submitted apologies.

**157/25 To approve the minutes of the Cockermouth Town Council Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Resolved** to approve the minutes.

**158/25 To receive the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025.** Noted received.

**159/25 Declaration of interests.**

None.

**160/25 Exclusion of Press & Public.** No items required exclusion of the press and public.

**161/25 Mayor's Announcements.**

Cllr Malloy had been to Carlisle Cathedral for the Judge's service. He had attended the civic reception, civic dinner and quiz night with the twinning visitors, the Fireworks display and Remembrance Sunday. He thanked everyone involved in the organisation of the events.

**162/25 Reports from Cumberland Councillors.**

- **Taste Cumbria.** The event was on 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> December.
- **Free Parking** The car parks would be free for the Switch on Day and for the late-night shopping on 27<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> December.
- **Bus Service.** The C123 had been well used as had route 68, the Cockermouth to Maryport bus.
- **Sidings.** This was expected to go before the committee in January.
- **Station Street Trees.** Was still being followed up.

- Cllr Semple was thanked for his efforts and asked if it would be possible to receive the bus figures quarterly. Cllr Semple agreed to request the data for the Council.
- **Lamplugh Road Pavement.** Cllr Smith raised concerns about the lack of pavement along Lamplugh Road. Cllr Semple said that he would support the Council if they wrote in to raise the issue.
- **Towers Lane Bus Stops** Cllr Watson said that there was a shortage of places for people to stand while waiting for the bus. Cllr Semple would look at the area but said that bus stops would be looked at during the next phase of the service delivery project. Cllr Samson asked if this would include information displays and Cllr Semple confirmed that it would.
- **The Old Court House.** Cllr Malloy queried the safety of the building and any contingency plans for a collapse. Cllr Semple said that the Environment Agency were quick to respond and had a plan in place.

**163/25 Guest Speakers.** None present.

**164/25 Public Participation.**

There were no questions from the public.

**165/25 Planning**

- **FUL/2025/0150 Resolved** to recommend refusal. The proposal was out of keeping with the conservation area. [noted that the application had been withdrawn].
- **CAT/2025/0038 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **WTPO/2025/0033 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **FUL/2025/0162 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **LBC/2025/0029 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **FUL/2025/0163 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **WTPO/2025/0034 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **FUL/2025/0164 Resolved** to recommend refusal due to the scale and the number of trees to be removed. Concern regarding the wall and construction traffic along the access road.
- **HOU/2025/0171 Resolved** to recommend approval but to note that the windows design detail was still outstanding from the previous application.

**166/25 Planning Decisions Under Delegated Authority.**

- **CAT/2025/0037** recommended for approval.

Noted as received.

**167/25 Climate Emergency Group.**

- The group had not met since the last meeting, the next meeting would be in January, date to be confirmed.
- **Isel Road.** Cllr Bowman had been in touch with somebody who would offer advice on the woodland management. She would email councillors when a date for a site visit was arranged if others wished to attend.
- Cllr Watson updated on the work of Cockermouth Climate Action Now.

- **Greyrigg Site.** The questionnaire was now ready for distribution.

**168/25 Community Led Plan.** ACT were due to meet with the group and contact with the schools had been made in preparation for the visioning day.

**169/25 Council Noticeboard.** Cllr Beanland said that this had been mentioned for a few years and asked that the clerk be tasked to investigate various noticeboard options and prepare a report for the January meeting. This was agreed. Cllr Semple would assist with talking to highways about location permission.

**170/25 Cockermouth & Papcastle Recreational Trust. Resolved** that Cllr Bowman would be the council's new representative to the Trust.

**171/25 Cleanliness of pavements on Main Street. Resolved** that the clerk would write to Cumberland Council and the Chamber of Trade, voicing the council's concerns.

**172/25 Involvement with schools and engaging young people in democracy. Resolved** that the clerk and mayor would contact Cockermouth School to arrange meetings with the 6<sup>th</sup> form council.

**173/25 Community Governance Review. Resolved** to request that the council is considered for review.

**174/25 External auditor's reports.**

- **2023/2024** The external auditor had commented that general reserves were low, but this had already been identified and addressed by the council.
- **2024/2025** As a result of the restating of the asset value, the response to assertion 1 on the Annual Governance Statement should have been "no". This will be redeclared.
- **2024/2025** Reserves were low. This has already been addressed by the council.
- **2024/2025** Insufficient detail of variances. The full details of the difference in the restated asset values were not included with the first submission but was provided to the auditor on their request.

**Resolved** to accept the reports and agree the actions.

**175/25 Internal auditor's report.** For the six months to 30/09/25. No issues had been raised. **Resolved** to approve acceptance of the report.

**176/25 Assertion 10 – Data compliance. Resolved** that the clerk would bring a policy to the council for approval that would cover the requirements of assertion 10.

**177/25 Draft budget.** The clerk explained the draft budget and invited questions, comments and suggestions from councillors. Draft with suggestions to be debated again in December.

**178/25 Payments for Approval. Resolved** to approve the payments.

**179/25 Pre-approved Payments. Resolved** to note the schedule of payments.

**180/25 Clerk's Report.** The Clerk's report had been circulated.

- **Public toilets CCTV.** An incident of vandalism had been caught on camera and the footage shared with the police.
- **Fire doors.** New fire doors had been fitted to the upstairs offices.
- **Office rental.** The parlour was now being rented out 3 days a week.
- **Cleaner.** A new cleaner had now started in the Town Hall.
- **Use of upstairs room.** Andy's Man Club were unsure if they would still be able to use the space at James Walker while alterations were being made and had enquired as to whether they could have use of a room if they needed one.
- **Asbestos cement sheeting** had been found on an allotment by a tenant who is requesting that the council removes them. Government advice is that the sheets are safe as long as they are not disturbed or deteriorating. A quote for the removal had been obtained. The council agreed that the tenant should be advised to leave the sheets undisturbed, but to pass on the quote if they wished to arrange removal themselves.
- **Banking** the mandate had been updated.
- **FSCS** limit was increasing to £120k from 1<sup>st</sup> December so additional funds would be transferred to higher interest accounts after that date.
- **Grant funding requests.** Requests for over £500 need to be submitted by a deadline for the following year. Two such requests had been received in time, one from Always Another Way for £5684 and one from Cockermouth Live! for £2500. Completed applications were due by 30/11/25, to be considered at the December meeting.
- **Civic Trust/Sainsbury's meeting.** The Civic Trust had invited councillors to join their meeting and would advise of the date.
- **Correspondence.** A letter had been received regarding the state of shops in the High Street. A response was agreed.

**181/25 Councillor Matters.**

- Cllr Telford had attended the online neighbourhood policing forum and had requested a good police presence at the lights switch on event. She had spoken to volunteers at Wordsworth House and expected a big fight next year as it was hardly going to be open.
- Cllr Smith asked for a follow-up on the footpath opposite Fairfield School. He asked for a letter to be sent to Cllr Tucker to ask for an update.
- Cllr Bowman had circulated notes from the CALC AGM and asked that the clerk complete the public toilet survey on behalf of the council.
- Cllr Beanland had been discussing the footbridges and path at Harris Park extension with an officer from Cumberland Council. The bridges had been replaced by them. The cost of putting in a hardcore path would be about £30k and Cllr Beanland was keen to explore ways that this could be funded as the path was too muddy at this time of year.

**182/25 Date of next meeting.**

Confirmed as Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

21.07 meeting closed.