

Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Laidlow (Mayor)
Councillor S Barnes
Councillor G Bennion
Councillor I Burns
Councillor A Kennon
Councillor D Malloy
Councillor A Semple
Councillor A Smith
Councillor C Smith
Councillor A Tyson
Councillor R Watson

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S Nicholson

Also Present: 8 members of the public & a member of the Press

16 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the AGM of Cockermouth Town Council held on 15 May 2019.

17 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the special planning meeting held on 6 June 2019.

18 Declaration of Interest

Councillor A Kennon declared a personal interest in relation to item 15 due to knowing the contractor well.

Councillors A Smith, A Tyson and A Semple declared a personal interest in all planning applications due to being either a member of the Development Panel or a substitute member of the Development Panel.

19 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had attended the following events since the last meeting:-

Allerdale's Mayor Making
Conference on Domestic Abuse and Modern Day Slavery, Christ Church
Workington's Mayor Making
Wigton's Art Exhibition

Civic Reception for International Rotarians
Cockermouth Children's Carnival

20 Police Report

The police report was circulated to members prior to the meeting. There was no-one present at the meeting.

21 Public Participation

No members of the public wished to speak in accordance with the public participation scheme.

22 Planning Matters

HOU/019/0106

Detached garage, store and garden room

12 Rose Lane

Recommended – Approval

FUL/2019/0120

Construction of a detached single storey rendered workshop to replace a previous dismantled render finished single garage

Cherry Garth, Sunscapes Avenue

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2019/0111

Residential side extension to bungalow

29 Simonscales Lane

Recommended – Approval

FUL/2019/0135

Change the premises to a retail outlet and also cosmetic tattooing studio

6 Tithe House, Station Street

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2019/0118

Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of new conservatory

The Garden House, Rose Cottage, Lorton Road

Recommended - Approval

23b Tree Preservation Order No.18 of 2018

Agreed – That the contents of the confirmed Tree Preservation Order No 18 of 2018, trees on land at the Fitz, Low Road be noted.

23c Tree Preservation Order No 2 of 2019

Agreed - That the contents of the confirmed Tree Preservation Order No 2 of 2019, land off Strawberry How Road be noted.

23d Tree Works

Agreed – That the approval of tree works on the Memorial Gardens, Wakefield Road be noted.

23e Tree Works WTPO/2019/0014

Recommended – That various works to T1, 11 The Parklands be approved.

23f Tree Works

Recommended – That the full removal of a tree/shrub in the middle right hand corner of the front garden, 63 Kirkgate be approved.

24 Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £22,736.73 formally approved for payment.

25 Memorial Gardens Toilets

Mr Gee gave a detailed presentation regarding his vision to make Cockermouth the No. 1 cycling destination in Cumbria. Part of that vision was the development of our toilets in the Memorial Gardens into a cycling café.

Members were excited by this prospect and agreed to enter into further

negotiations

Resolved – That Cockermouth Town Council enter into formal negotiations with Mr Gee regarding the use of the toilet block as a cycling café.

26 Correspondence

26a TV Licence

Further to Minute Number 210a (2018/19), those present re-considered Whether or not to purchase a tv licence for the library so that users could watch BBC iplayer.

Resolved – That a tv licence be purchased for the library and usage be monitored.

26b Calc Newsletter

Agreed - That the contents of the May 2019 Newsletter be noted.

26c West Cumbria Water Supplies Tree Planting Fund

United Utilities have funds available to plant trees, hedges and woodlands in the valleys surrounding the West Cumbria Water Supplies Project. The fund has been established to off-set the loss of trees and woodland as a result of the water supplies project construction. The funding can be used for plants, planting, fencing and materials to protect the planting along with support for work to involve communities where appropriate.

Resolved – That Neville Elstone be invited to come along to our August meeting.

26d Scope

Charity Scope were hoping to find locations for and to expand their network of textile recycling banks in the area.

Resolved – That sites at Aldi and Lidl be suggested.

26e VE Day

The 75th anniversary on 8th May 2020 represents an important milestone in our history, a time to remember, reflect and pay tribute to the millions who played such a vital part in achieving it.

SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity have organised a number of activities over the anniversary weekend and were encouraging local town and parish councils to organise their own events locally.

Resolved - That councillors A Semple & S Barnes be appointed onto the WW1 Committee to discuss anniversary activities locally.

26f Vision Group

Those present considered a request from the Vision Group to write to Story Builders about the overgrown state of the SUDS ponds at Strawberry Grange.

Resolved – That the Vision Group be informed that the responsibility for planning enforcement rests with Allerdale Borough Council. Clerk to request permission to forward their letter on to Allerdale Borough Council.

26g Civic Trust

For some years, the Civic Trust has been concerned about the lack of maintenance of the trees in Market Place and in particular the areas around the tree bases being full of weeds in the summer season. Discussions with Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria County Council had not resulted in any improvement.

The Civic Trust wanted to set up a meeting to resolve the issue.

They were requesting that a representative from Cockermouth Town Council attend that meeting.

Those present discuss the matter and agreed that Allerdale Borough Council was responsible for the matter.

Resolved – That the Town Council be not represented at the July meeting.

27 Clerks Report

Resolved – That the contents of the Clerk's report be noted.

28 Climate Change Emergency Action

As at 3rd June 2019, 77 councils including Carlisle and South Lakes District Council have declared a Climate Change Emergency.

Although a lot needs to be done at National level, there is still a lot we can achieve locally. In practice there are many nil cost steps or low cost

that are achievable.

Resolved - (a) That Cockermouth Town Council declares a climate change emergency.

(b) That Cockermouth Town Council supports the presentation of a petition to encourage Allerdale Borough Council to declare a climate change emergency.

© That councillors A Semple, R Watson, S Barnes & Alan Smith produce a list of simple achievable actions that the Town Council can carry out and report back to the Town Council by October/November 2019

29 Library Opening Hours

Those present considered the whether or not to continue with late night Opening in the library on a Wednesday evening.

Resolved – That late night opening on a Wednesday continues for the foreseeable future and that attendance figures continue to be Monitored.

30 Contract for Christmas Lights

Resolved – That financial standing order 11.1b be waived for the reasons set out in the report and that our current contractor E. W. & P. A. Nicholson be awarded the christmas lights contract for a further 4 years (the term of this council) on similar terms plus inflation each year.

That under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings Act 1960, the public be removed due to the following item of business containing contractual information.

31 Tenders for the re-surfacing of the Memorial Gardens Play Area

The play area was closed on 11 June 2019 due to the poor condition of the safety surfacing.

The clerk had contacted several firms for pricing.

Those present discussed those prices and agreed to split the contract.

Resolved – (a) That W G McKay be authorised to remove the top layer (black layer) of safety surfacing and dispose of safely at a cost of £1665.

(b) That the Town Clerk, councillor A Tyson and councillor A Kennon be given delegated powers to award the contract to re-surface the play area as soon as

practicable so that it can be safely re-opened.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm