

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 7.00 pm

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

Also Present: Approximately 16 members of the public & a Police representative & a member of the Press

Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor, Councillor D Malloy outlined the highlights of his Mayoral year, these included last year's Remembrance Service and switching on the Christmas Lights. He had attended over 100 engagements in his year of office, he thanked his wife Lynn for her unwavering support. He also thanked those fellow Councillors who had supported him, the Town Clerk and her staff and applauded the many volunteers in Cockermouth for their hard work and support during his year in office. He paid tribute to Councillor Sam Standage who had sadly died in office earlier in the year. Finally, he announced that he had raised over £3,000 for his charities and that the monies raised would be distributed to his chosen charities in the near future.

1 Election of Town Mayor/Chairman

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Town Mayor/Chairman for 2019/20.

Councillor A Smith moved Julie Laidlow. This was seconded by councillor Burns.

Councillor Tyson moved Isabel Burns. This was seconded by councillor Kennon.

Councillor Burns informed those present that she did not wish to be nominated and asked that the motion be withdrawn.

Resolved – That Councillor J Laidlow be elected Town Mayor/Chairman in 2019/20.

Councillor D Malloy then handed over the Chain of Office to Councillor J Laidlow.

The new Mayor then read out and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took over the Chair. The Mayor thanked Councillor Malloy his wife Lynn for all their hard work during the past year.

She welcomed her friends and family and invited those present to stay behind after the meeting to celebrate her inauguration.

Councillor Laidlow announced that her partner Desie had agreed to be her Consort. She presented him with his chain of office.

The Mayor announced that that her charity would be the Europe Prize Scholarship Fund.

2 Election of Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chairman

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairman.

Only one nomination was received and seconded and on being put to the vote it was:-

Resolved – That Councillor A Smith be elected as the Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chairman of the Council for 2019/20.

The Town Mayor then presented the Deputy Mayor's badge to the Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairman.

3 Declaration of Interest

Councillor A Smith declared a personal interest in any item on the agenda relation to Allerdale Borough Council due to being their Leader.

Councillors A Tyson and A Semple declared a personal interest in any item on the agenda in relation to Allerdale Borough Council due to being a member.

4 General Power of Competence

Resolved – That confirmation be given that Cockermouth Town Council still meets the criteria set out in the Localism Act 2011, sections 1-8.

5 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held on 17 April 2019.

6 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the special planning meeting held on 2 May 2019.

7 Police Report

The police report was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Councillor Bennion asked if Police were aware of the incident under the Railway Bridge and if the Police had had discussions with local schools about keeping safe as a result.

The Police representative confirmed that they were aware of the incident and that they regularly contacted schools in the area.

8 Public Participation

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

8a Planning Matters

FUL/2019/0115

Five new detached dwellings and garage facilities utilising existing access on site with extant permission

Land on the north east side of Lorton Road

Recommended – Refusal design out of character with the neighbouring area.

8b Application for Tree Works, Memorial Gardens

Agreed – That the acknowledgement of receipt be noted.

8c Tree Works

Recommended – That no objection be raised to works to a leylandis, St Helen's Dental Practice, Market Place.

8d Tree Works

Recommended – That no objection be raised to works to various trees, Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team Base, Station Road.

8e Tree Works

Recommended – That no objection be raised to various tree works, 11, Longcroft, Cockermouth.

9a Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £23,392.65 be formally approved for payment.

9b Internal Auditors Report

Agreed – That the contents of the year end report by our Internal Auditor be Noted. There were no matters arising.

9c Cockermouth Live

Resolved – (a) That the Annual Report for 2018 be noted.

(b) That £500 be grant be given to Cockermouth Live to help fund this year's event.

9d Audit Plan

Resolved – That the 2019/2020 Audit Plan be agreed.

9f Audit Commission Return for the Year ended 2019

Resolved – (a) That Section 1 of the annual return relating to the Annual Governance Statement be formally certified and the accounts approved and duly signed by the Clerk/RFO and the Chairman.

(b) That section 2 of the Annual Return relating to the Accounting Statements be also formally approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

(c) That it be noted that Section 4 of the Annual Return has been duly completed by our internal auditor.

(d) That it be noted that the required notice concerning the appointment of date for the exercise of elector's rights will be displayed.

(e) That it be noted that the Clerk will send the documentation required by the external auditor as soon as practicable prior to the 30 June 2019.

9g Fairfield School

Resolved – That Fairfield School be given £250 to assist staff to attend

the TES Award Ceremony in London following their nomination. The Head and staff had worked particularly hard to introduce new programmes for healthy living including regular parent/children 'active families' activity sessions on Saturdays alongside numerous running, rugby, football and fun clubs.

10 Correspondence

10a Calc

Resolved – That the contents of the April 2019 newsletter be noted.

10b Traffic Commissioner

The Government wishes to introduce formal tribunal rules to allow traffic commissioners to deal with cases fairly and justly.

The Department for Transport has issued a new consultation on the vehicle operator licencing system which is due to come in force by April 2020.

Nalc will be responding to the consultation and is interested in our sectors views.

Recommended - That we respond as follows:-

Question 1 – We agree with changing PSV operator licence procedures so that applications can have operational approval at the earliest opportunity subject to normal safeguards.

Question 3 – That we agree that introducing formal tribunal rules will be beneficial to the Traffic Commissioner's tribunal functions.

10c A66/A595 Fitz Roundabout – Improvements for Cyclists

The planned works at Fitz Roundabout will include the provision of additional crossing points for cyclists. With regard to the current cycling provision on Low Road, specifically the missing link between the UU Water Treatment Works and the Laureates Housing Development, Highways England were currently working alongside CCC to determine the best option to provide a continuous cycle route from Fitz Roundabout into Cockermouth.

Recommended – That the provision of a continuous cycle route from Fitz Roundabout into Cockermouth be welcomed and supported.

10b The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018

Agreed – That the impending publication of a model accessibility statement by Nalc be noted.

10c Banner Poles

Resolved – That Cockermouth Festivals Group be allowed to use 10 banner poles to advertise Cockermouth Live between 7 June and 1 July 2019.

10d Safe Places Scheme

Resolved – That Cockermouth Library continues to be part of the Safe Places Scheme.

10e Eat, Drink & Engage

The Big Lunch can make it easier to build connections, over 80% of participants agree that it helps people feel less lonely and 4.5 million new friendships were made at Big Lunches over the last year alone.

Resolved – That Cockermouth Town Council takes part in this year's Big Lunch Event for the first time and that Town Clerk invites a range of 'green' organisations from within the Town to the Town Hall for lunch.

11 Clerks Report

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

(b) That Christine Smith be re-elected as a trustee on Cockermouth & Papcastle Recreational Trust.

The meeting closed at 7.48 pm