

Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermonth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermonth on Thursday 18 July 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 S Nicholson
Councillor A Semple
Councillor A Smith
Councillor A Tyson
Councillor R Watson

An apology for absence was received from Councillor C Smith.

Also Present: 7 members of the public & a member of the Press

32 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 June 2019.

33 Declaration of Interest

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.

Councillor S Nicholson declared a prejudicial interest in item 14 due to being related to the contractor.

34 Mayor's Announcements

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

- Civic Reception for the Chernobyl Children
- Civic Reception for Marvejols visitors to Woolfest
- Cockermonth Harmonic Society Summer concert
- Chernobyl children's farewell concert
- Castlegate Singers Summer Concert
- Civic Service

35 Police Report

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

The format of the report had altered and there was less detail about individual crimes. More detail requested.

36 Public Participation

Len Davies asked the following question:

‘Will Cockermouth Town Council explore the installation of solar panels on its buildings and the installation of electrical charging points in Town’

The Mayor thanked Mr Davies for his question and replied that we would look into the installation of solar panels on our buildings and the installation of electrical charging points in Town. Mr Davies to be informed that there is an electrical charging point at the Euro Garage.

An elector asked the following question:

‘Is the Town Council aware (a) that 2/2018/0537 has gone to appeal and that (b) views are required on OUT/2019/0028 at the Fitz’.

The Mayor answered yes and yes. OUT/2019/0028 would be considered at our Special Planning Meeting on 1 August 2019.

An elector asked the following question:

‘What can the Cockermouth Vision Group do to help with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan’

The Mayor replied that the development of a Neighbourhood Plan would be discussed further on in the agenda and that she had noted their offer of assistance.

37a Planning Matters

These planning applications had to be circulated due to time constraints:-

LBC/2019/0017

Listed building consent to regularise the replacement of x1 rear kitchen window and door from Crittal to UPVC

21 Kirkgate

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2019/0123

Two storey side extension amended to incorporate rear single storey offshoot
(re-submission of HOU/2018/0191)

17 Dale View

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2019/0130

Demolition of existing rear extensions and rebuild new two storey rear
extension

76 Brigham Road

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2019/0126

Installation of new door and replacement window dining room

42 Mountain View

Recommended – No objections

LBC/2019/0018

To replace front door with identical designed door

2, Castlegate

Recommended – No objections

HOU/2019/0134

Demolition of attached flat roofed single garage and replace with proposed
sitting room and vestibule

14 Brackenhill Lane

Recommended – No objections

CAT/2019/0017

Remove oak

Wyndham Hall Caravan Park, Castlegate Drive

Recommended – prefer to see Oak crown reduced rather than removal

CAT/2019/0016

Various tree works

Bridge House, Gote Road

Recommended – Approval

WTPO/2019/0022

Reduce the size of seven trees

5, South Lodge, Simonscales Lane

Recommended – approval

The following planning applications were considered at the meeting:-

HOU/2019/0145

Laying of driveway via existing drop kerb and erection of garage

49 Fitz Road, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval

FUL/2019/0115

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

Land to the North East Side of Lorton Road, Cockermouth

Recommended – Refusal design out of character

VAR/2019/0021

Non-compliance with condition 2 of application 2/2017/0161 for an increased roof height and new dormer window.

29a Fitz Road

Recommended - Approval

37b Tree Works

Recommended – That the ash and conifer in the garden of 55a Kirkgate be removed.

38 Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £7,019.01 be formally approved for payment.

39 Correspondence

39a Domestic Abuse Training

The Rotary were arranging Domestic Abuse Training and inviting town councillors and staff to attend in the hope that 60 community champions would be able to advise those experiencing domestic abuse within our area.

Agreed – That the free training sessions on offer be noted.

39b TES Awards

Those present were delighted to find out that Fairfield Primary School were successful in the 'Healthy School of the Year' category. Judges were impressed with their innovative whole school approach to mental and physical wellbeing.

Agreed – That the letter of thanks from Fairfield Primary School for our financial support allowing attendance at the recent TES Awards for Education in London be noted.

39c Nalc Legal Update

Those present considered the contents of a Nalc Legal update.

Resolved – (a) That it be noted that the model accessibility statement has been issued.

(b) That individuals speaking at Council meetings should be named in the minutes subject to the Town Clerk obtaining their agreement.

39d New Community Cancer Nurse Service for North Cumbria

A new community cancer nurse service will be launching in the near future, with

Support from Macmillan, and clinicians and health leaders would like input to make sure it provides the support that is needed.

Drop in sessions were taking place to allow a unique opportunity to shape the future of community health care and cancer services for North Cumbria.

Agreed – That the opportunity be welcomed and the drop-in sessions be noted.

39e Use of the Memorial Gardens

Taste Cumbria had submitted an application to use part of the Memorial Gardens for Taste Cumbria between 27-29 September 2019.

Resolved – That consideration of this application be deferred pending more information.

40 Clerks Report

Resolved – (a) That the content of the report be noted.

(b) That eviction proceedings commence regarding Plot 16, the Gote due to the non-payment of rent despite several reminders.

41 Tarn Close Sports Ground – Update

Tarn Close continues to be well used.

Significant investment has been made to date, over £2,500 per annum on pitch maintenance, £10,000 on goals and equipment and £10,000 installing a tarmac entrance and water line. However, the site still has no toilet or changing facilities.

An architect has been engaged and the concept design and specification for the changing facilities is complete. The Football Association is supportive and engaged. Costs have been estimated between £200-£250k.

Agreed – That the update be noted.

42 Library Services – Looking to the Future

Councillor Bennion suggested the setting up of a sub-committee/advisory Committee to give users of the library a greater input, work with the Friends of the library, make small purchases, improve community engagement and try out volunteer activities. She also expressed her frustration at the lack of events in the library during the holiday period and how they were promoted. Councillor Watson supported this idea and suggested that the sub-

committee/advisory committee could also look at what services could be provided and at extending opening hours.

The Town Clerk explained for the benefit of new councillors that that the hub was a partnership and that each partner had a distinct role. The Town Council owned and staffed the building and operated the Tourist Information Centre, Cumbria County Council ran the library service and that Allerdale operated their area office from the library. Mechanisms were in place to allow users to contact the relevant body direct.

Cumbria County Council were currently conducting a survey in all libraries about what services users would like to see in their local library. They had promised to share the findings.

Those present agreed to defer further discussion until the results of Cumbria County Council's survey were known.

Resolved – (a) That the Town Clerk contacts Cumbria County Council regarding the number of holiday activities being held in the library in Cockermouth and details of how these events are promoted by Cumbria County Council.

(b) That Cumbria County Council be asked when the results of the survey would be announced.

43 Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor A Smith suggested that Simon Sharpe from the Planning Department at Allerdale Borough Council be invited to a future meeting of the Town Council to discuss Neighbourhood Planning.

Those present, particularly our newer members, welcomed this idea.

Resolved – That Simon Sharpe be invited to attend a future meeting of the Town Council.

44 Use of Depot

Those present reviewed the use of Tarn Close Depot.

Resolved – That we continue to use Tarn Close Depot until the current Christmas lights contract ends in 4 years' time.

The meeting closed at 8.29 pm