

Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermonth Town Council held virtually on Thursday 21 May 2020 at 7.00pm

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

Also Present: A member of the press

**1 Minutes**

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 April 2020.

**2 Minutes**

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last special planning meeting held on 7 May 2020.

**3 Declaration of Interest**

None declared.

**4 Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor had attended the following functions since the last meeting.

- Laying of a wreath at Cenotaph for VE Day

**5 Police Report**

There was no Police representative present at the meeting.

**6 Public Participation**

There was no public participation

## **7 Planning Applications**

There were none.

## **8 Schedule of Payments**

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £15,938.91 be formally approved for payment.

## **9 Audit Commission Return for the Year ended 2020**

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/RFO.

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/RFO will send the documentation required the external auditor as soon as practicable prior to the 30 June 2020.

## **10 Internal Auditors Report**

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

## **11 Correspondence**

### **11a Calc Circular**

Agreed – That the content of the April/May 2020 Calc circular be noted.

### **11b Reply from Police and Crime Commissioner**

Further to minute number 184 (2020/21) the Police and Crime Commissioner advised that the Constabulary now publishes a monthly newsletter which details issues within our community and advises of officer engagement in our local area.

Inspector Gale has requested that if we wish for an officer to attend future

meetings, we need to contact her or PCSO Clare Parker directly.

Those present agreed that the content of the new monthly newsletter was meaningless.

Recommended – That the Town Clerk contacts CALC to gauge the views of the other 59 parishes in Cumbria regarding the contents of the new monthly newsletter and the findings be presented to the PCC.

## **12 Clerk's Report**

Agreed – That the content of the report be noted.

## **13 Memorial Seat**

Councillor Burns asked remaining members of Cockermouth Town Council if they were willing to fund a memorial seat in memory of Kevin Twigg.

Resolved – That the request be granted.

## **14 Measures to help with social distancing and re-locating road space to pedestrians and cyclists**

Cumbria County Council are currently reviewing various measures around the County to help with social distancing and the re-location of road space to pedestrians and cyclists. Ideas were being collated for consideration.

Recommended – a) That the temporary widening of the pavement from the Co-op to just past Firms on Station Street be considered subject to adequate parking being provided for deliveries to shops.

b) That a temporary pavement along whole of South Street be considered.

c) That the placement of 2m markers be placed along footways in the town be considered.

d) That users of Station Street and South Street only be allowed to travel in one direction e.g. upwards on one side and downwards on the other side of the street to facilitate social distancing.

## **15 Sewage Running into Strawberry Beck**

Councillor Watson expressed his concern that raw sewage was being discharged in Strawberry Beck.

The matter had been reported to the relevant authority.

Agreed – That it be noted that Allerdale Borough Council were investigating the Issue and tracking the sewage back to source.

Resolved – That under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be removed for the following items of business due to contractual issues being discussed.

## **15 Rent Free Period**

Resolved – (a) That the U3A be given a 3 month rent free period due to hardship caused by the coronavirus.

The meeting closed at 19.53 pm