

Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held virtually on Wednesday 15 July 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: Councillor Rebecca Hanson & Tracy Walker

29 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 June 2020.

30 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last special planning meeting held on 2 July 2020.

31 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Laidlow declared an interest in item 9b due to owning a business on Station Street.

Councillors A Smith and A Tyson declared an interest in item 7 due to being members of the Development Panel.

Councillor Semple declared an interest in item 7 due to being a substitute member of the Development Panel.

32 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had attended the Cockermouth Live Virtual Concert since the last Meeting.

33 Public Participation

There was no public participation

34a Planning Applications

The following application was circulated due to time constraints: -

HOU/2020/0102

Proposed: Proposed single storey porch extension to side of property

17 Willow Lane, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

VAR/2020/0010

Variation to condition 1 on approved application FUL/2019/0115, to amend plot 1 to allow attic space

Land on the North East Side of Lorton Road, Cockermouth

Recommended – Refusal, overdevelopment

FUL/2020/0126

Change of use from Beauty Business (Suis Generis) to Financial and Professional Services (A2) and additional wall mounted inverted heat system

39B Market Place, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

HOU/2020/0104

Single storey flat roof extension to rear

68 Woodville Park, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

FUL/2020/0145

Proposed detached three bedroom house

Land to rear of 56 Slatefell Drive, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

HOU/2020/0103

Proposed two storey side extension

6 Parkhouse Lane, Cockermouth

Recommended – Refusal, overdevelopment

34b Tree Works

Resolved – That the various tree works outlined in CAT/2020/0020 be approved.

35 Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £4,361.48 be formally approved for payment.

36 Correspondence

36a Cumbria Dark Skies Project

The main aims of the Cumbria Dark Skies Project are to celebrate and raise awareness of the value of dark skies, prevent more light pollution and to reduce existing levels of light pollution.

A Lighting Audit and Action Plan (LAAP) would be produced to provide a baseline assessment of external lighting, identify the main contributors to light pollution and identify priority actions to mitigate the effects of stray/obstructive light on sky glow.

A small team would then approach businesses, organisations where light pollution was a major issue and try and fix the problem.

Resolved – That the Cumbria Dark Skies Project Officer be invited to come along to our next meeting.

36b About Face Campaign

Those present considered a request from an elector to put out a statement encouraging the use of facemasks or covering in town shops.

Agreed – That it be noted that the Government had announced that face coverings be compulsory in shops from 24 July 2020.

37 Clerk's Report

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

b) That the judging of the allotment and private gardens competition be held as soon as practicable.

c) That arrangements be made to open Harris Park toilets for the Summer holidays.

d) That switch on day be cancelled this year due to covid-19

e) That fireworks be cancelled this year due to covid-19

f) That the two allotment holders who have not paid their rent be evicted

38 Proposed National Code of Conduct

Eighteen months after the Committee on Standards in Public Life reported to the Prime Minister on improving ethical standards in Local Government, the National Association of Local Council's in conjunction with the Local Government Association have recommended an updated national model code of conduct for all tiers of Local Government.

Resolved – That councillor's reply to the lengthy and detailed consultation individually.

39 Social Media

Councillor Barnes requested that we re-consider the use of social media to share useful information about Cockermouth using platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to encourage comment and feedback which is polite and constructive.

Resolved – That a 3-month trial of Facebook be implemented.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm