

Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermonth Town Council held virtually on Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 7.00pm

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 C Smith
Councillor A Tyson
Councillor R Watson

Also Present: Mark Jenkinson MP & 4 members of the public.

124 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 December 2020.

125 Declaration of Interest

Councillors A Smith & 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.

Councillor Barnes declared an interest in item 11 due to being a trustee of the Bee Keepers Association.

126 Mayor's Announcements

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

The Lancaster Court Development Opening
Prize giving for the Window Spotting Competition

127 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

128 Planning Applications

These planning applications were circulated prior to our meeting due to time constraints:

HOU/2020/0203

Proposed second storey extension above existing garage. Alterations to driveway and single storey rear extension

7 Gable Avenue

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2020/0518

Addition of a glazed screen to the gable, addition of an oak frame porch, increase width of parking area, refurbishment of existing balcony and flat roof with addition of bridge to higher land behind house and double doors on the flat roof extension increased in line with the glazed side panels

Double Mills House

Recommended - Approval

FUL/2020/0512

Proposed continued use of upper area as additional parking for Mitchells Auction Company

Lakeland Agricultural Centre

Recommended – Approval.

The following planning applications were discussed at our meeting-

HOU/2021/0002

Re-submission of application HOU/2020/0147 for proposed single rear extension and terrace, two storey side extension and replacement garage

47 Castlegate Drive

Recommended – Approve

129 Tree Works

Recommended – That the various tree works, 11 The Parklands be approved.

130 Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £2,380.03 be formally approved for payment.

131 Budget & Precept Setting

Resolved – That our budget/precept for 2021/22 be set at £253,230.

132 Calc Newsletter

Agreed – That the content of the November/December 2020 newsletter be noted.

133 One Way System on Station Street

Those present considered a complaint from an elector, Mr Jenkinson regarding his disappointment in observing Councillor Laidlow ignoring the covid-19 rules in place on Station Street.

Councillor Laidlow apologised for not observing the one-way system on Station Street and encouraged everyone to observe the guidance.

Resolved – That the apology be accepted.

134 Clerk's Report

Agreed - That the content of the report be noted.

135 Climate Emergency Sub Committee

Councillor Watson requested an update from the Climate Emergency Sub Committee. He encouraged the sub committee to meet as soon as practicable so that we could progress our green agenda.

Councillor A Smith informed those present that tetrapak recycling was no longer undertaken anywhere in Cumbria.

The Town Clerk gave an update on our tree planting application. Tivoli had supplied the tender costs and these had been submitted to Cumbria Woodlands for consideration.

Councillor Malloy expressed his disappointment that those costings did not include works proposed at Towers Lane or the Memorial Gardens. He also suggested that biodegradable tree protectors and an alternative to weedkiller be used. Above all,

he reminded those present that we had agreed that the whole scheme be cost neutral.

These comments had been passed on to Cumbria Woodlands by the Town Clerk.

The Chairman of the Climate Emergency sub-committee asked that a meeting be scheduled as early as practicable in February.

Resolved – That the Town Clerk schedule a meeting of the Climate Emergency Sub Committee as soon as practicable.

136 The Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill

Without more significant and sustained action, the world is set to exceed the Paris Agreement's 1.5 degree Celsius limit between 2030 and 2040. The UK target of Net zero by 2050 is not satisfactory. It is too little too late.

This Bill requires the Prime Minister to achieve climate and ecology objectives; gives the Secretary of State a duty to create and implement a strategy to achieve those objectives; establishes a Citizens' Assembly to work with the Secretary of State in creating that strategy and gives duties to the Committee on Climate Change regarding the objectives and Strategy.

Mark Jenkinson MP stated that as the Bill proposed passing control to a separate body he therefore would be unable to support the Bill.

Resolved – a) That Cockermouth Town Council supports the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.

b) That we inform local media of this decision.

c) That we write to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organiser's of the campaign for the Bill, expressing our support.

The meeting ended at 7.34pm