

Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Town Hall,
Cockermouth on Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 7.00pm

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

Also Present: One member of the public and one member of the press were present.

94 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 September 2021.

95 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last special planning meeting held on 7 October 2021.

96 Declaration of Interest

Councillors A Semple & A Tyson declared an interest in item 7 due to being a member of the Development Panel.

Councillors A Kennon & A Smith declared an interest in item 7 due to being substitute members of the Development Panel.

97 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had attended the following social engagements since the last meeting:

- Allerdale's Civic Service
- His own Civic Service

98 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

99 Planning Applications

HOU/2021/0220

Conversion of garage to form replacement bedroom including extension

1 Newlands Road

Recommend – approval

HOU/2021/0210

Demolition of existing lean to and erection of 2 storey side extension, including over cladding main elevation with insulated render

Beckside Cottage, Skinner Street

Recommended – approval

100a Welcome Back Fund

Allerdale Borough Council had secured funding from the Government's Welcome Back Fund. They wished to work with Cockermouth Town Council as a delivery partner to use £10,000 of funding to put in place additional measures to create and promote a safe environment for local trade and tourism, particularly in high streets as local economies grow over covid.

All work funded by the Welcome Back Fund must be completed by 31 March 2022.

Those present also discussed a proposal forwarded by Cockermouth & District Chamber of Trade.

Resolved – a) That we agree to act as a delivery partner.

b) That the Chamber of Trade be awarded £1500 for their Christmas Campaign.

c) That the Town Clerk cost up pride banners, a new stage and flower beds for the Main Street.

100b Tree Works

Recommended – That the removal of T1, T2 & T4 and reduction and shaping of T3, 18, Derwentside Gardens be approved.

100d Variation to a premises licence, Aldi

Aldi wished to sell alcohol from 06.00 hours to 00.00 daily.

Recommended – That an objection be raised to the variation due to the close proximity of residential properties and elderly residents. It was recommended that varying the hours to 7am – 10pm was more acceptable as this would prevent crime and disorder, protect public safety and prevent public nuisance to those living nearby.

101a Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That payments in the sum of £20,688.25 be approved.

101b Insurance Renewal

Resolved – That the content of the policy renewal be agreed and the renewal fee be paid.

101c Completion of the limited assurance review for the year ended 31 March 2021

Resolved – (a) That the completion of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ended 31 March 2021 be noted. No matters had been arising.

(b) That it be noted that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit detailing the rights of inspection had been prepared and published as required.

102 Correspondence

102a Draft Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan

The Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan (CTIP) has been developed by Cumbria County Council and Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership to set the policy framework for the role of transport and connectivity in supporting sustainable and inclusive growth for Cumbria for the period 2022 – 2037.

The Plan sets out a vision for improving transport and infrastructure in Cumbria that provides for the needs of residents, businesses and visitors as well as respecting our special environment.

Feedback is sought by 25 October 2021.

Resolved – That a small task group comprising of councillors Bennion, Tyson & Semple be given delegated powers to comment upon the plan on the Town Councils behalf.

102b Consultation on the potential closure of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

The school's governing body, the Diocese of Lancaster and Cumbria County Council have been working very hard to keep the school thriving and successful over recent months.

At the end of the summer term 2021, there were only 27 children on the roll at the school (four years ago there were more than 75 children). Only 2 applicants had registered for September 2021 reception entry.

The Governing Body has taken the difficult decision to consult on closure.

If agreed, the school would officially close on 31 August 2022.

Recommended – That the school be not closed and that a new Head be appointed and parents re-assured.

103 Clerk's Report

Councillor Bennion enquired if our events would take place given the rising number of cases. She was reassured that Government Advice would be Closely followed.

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

b) That Councillor Malloy approaches the Rotary regarding underplanting the Bed at Gote Road with daffodils.

The meeting ended at 7.58 pm