

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Thursday 19 May 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor A Smith (Mayor)
Councillor S Barnes
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: 12 members of the public

Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith outlined the highlights of his year of office, these included his NHS Thank You Event and the unveiling of the Happy to Chat Bench outside the URC Church on Main Street. He gave special thanks to his wife Christine, his fellow Councillors and staff who had supported him during his Mayoral year.

He announced that he had raised £400 each for his three charities.

He also took the opportunity to present a new Award. The Alan Smith Unsung Hero Award to worthy joint winners CERG and Allison's Chemist for their contribution during the covid pandemic.

1 Election of Town Mayor/Chairman

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Town Mayor/Chairman for 2019/20.

Councillor Burns moved Andrew Semple. This was seconded by councillor Laidlow.

Only one nomination was proposed and seconded and on being put to the vote it was:-

Resolved – That Councillor Andrew Semple be elected Town Mayor/Chairman in 2022/23.

Councillor Alan Smith then handed over the Chain of Office to Councillor Andrew Semple.

The new Mayor then read out and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took over the Chair. The Mayor thanked Councillor Alan Smith and his wife Christine for all their hard work during their Mayoral year. He also thanked fellow councillors for their nomination.

Councillor Semple announced that his wife Helen would be his Mayoress. He presented her with her chain of office.

The Mayor announced that that his charity would be West Cumbria Hospice at Home.

2 Election of Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chairman

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairman.

Only one nomination was received and seconded and on being put to the vote it was:-

Resolved – That Councillor J Laidlow be elected as the Deputy Town Mayor/Vice Chairman of the Council for 2022/23.

The Town Mayor then presented the Deputy Mayor's badge to the Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairman.

The new Deputy Mayor then read out and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked councillors for their nomination.

3 Declaration of Interest

Councillors A Smith & A tyson declared a personal interest in item 8 on the agenda due to being members of the Development Panel.

4 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held on 20 April 2022.

5 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the special planning meeting held on 3 May 2022.

6 Public Participation

No members of the public wished to speak in accordance with the public participation scheme.

8a Planning Matters

Reference: **HOU/2022/0091**

Proposal: To install up to 16 ground mounted solar PV panels (~32m², ~7kWp) in the garden

Location: Wyndham Lodge, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

Reference: **FUL/2022/0102**

Proposal: Proposed alterations to roof to incorporate roof deck

Location: 7A Station Street, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

Reference: **HOU/2022/0086**

Proposal: Alterations and extensions for living kitchen diner and utility room

Location: 6 Dunmail Crescent, Cockermouth

Amendment: Addition of the 2m boundary fences

Recommended – Approval

Reference: **LBC/2022/0015**

Proposal: Listed building consent to replace external render to front and side (incl boundary wall) and install external light over front door

Location: Kirkgate House, Kirkgate, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

Reference: **HOU/2022/0095**

Proposal: Alterations to kitchen and bathroom, door and windows amended to rear and the provision of a new external spiral staircase

Location: 26 Kirkgate, Cockermouth, CA13 9PJ

Recommended - Approval

Reference: **HOU/2022/0093**

Proposal: Extension and alterations to existing dwelling

Location: 4 Evening Hill Drive, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

Reference: **FUL/2022/0092**

Proposal: Replace hard wood sash windows with composite sash windows and wooden doors to be replaced with composite doors, east, south and west elevations to be re-rendered with K-Rend

Location: Edward Lynton Court, Croftside, Cockermouth

Recommended - Approval

9a Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £21,685.40 be formally approved for payment.

9b Internal Auditors Report

Agreed – That the contents of the year end report by our Internal Auditor be noted. There were no matters arising.

9c Audit Commission Return for the Year ended 2021/22

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.

(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 will send the documentation required by the external auditor as soon as practicable prior to the 30 June 2022.

10 Correspondence

10a LGR Town & Parish Newsletter

Agreed – That the contents of the newsletter dated 6 May 2022 be noted.

10b Rural Community Energy Fund – Feasibility Study

Sustainable Keswick (SK) has secured £25k from the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) to carry out a feasibility study into developing a community low energy project encompassing the use of solar, electric vehicle charging points and the potential for an EV car club.

The funding will pay for a consultant to carry out a feasibility study on our behalf although the community will help steer the project.

The aim of the project is to find a critical mass of buildings in Keswick and Cockermouth whose owners are willing to participate in a community project and to determine a viable financial delivery model.

The basic idea of community energy is that the community owns the solar panels (usually financed by a community share offer) and rent the roof space from the building owners via a long-term lease. The community then sells the electricity generated to the building owner and any surplus to the grid. Any profit made will pay shareholders a return on their investment.

The EV charge points and car club elements of the project are additional extras but are an important in offering integration of low carbon energy and transport solutions.

SK were looking to invite a representative from Cockermouth Town Council to join the Project Steering Group.

Resolved – a) That Cockermouth Town Council takes part in the free feasibility study and that Stephen Barnes be appointed onto the Project Steering Group.

b) That the Town Clerk enquires if land based candidate sites e.g. Towers Lane could also be considered as part of the feasibility study along side roof based schemes.

10c Parish Notice Board

Councillor Watson proposed that a notice board be purchased and place in a central position on Main Street to help make the work of the Town Council more visible to locals and visitors alike.

Resolved – That the clerk investigates the permission required and the costs.

11 Clerks Report

Resolved – a) That the contents of the Clerk's report be noted.

b) That bunting be erected on the Main Street for the Jubilee

c) That the Town Clerk requests further details of the litter picking events to be held by the Rotary.

d) That a discussion on the removal of the large concrete planters from the Main Street be deferred until November 2022.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm