

Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 7.00 pm

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

Suzanne Elsworth & Ellie Jones were present for item 10.

There were two members of the public present and one member of the press also present.

31 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

32 Minutes

The minutes of the special planning meeting held on 7 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

33 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor had attended the following events since his inauguration:-

Civic Service
Laying up of the British Legion Standard at All Saints
Mayor of Wigton – Civic Service
Broughton Carnival
Concert at Christchurch featuring The Castlegate Singers

34 Declaration of Interest

Councillors A Smith & A Tyson declared personal interests in item 7 due to being members of the Development Panel.

Councillor A Semple declared an interest in item 8e due to being a Director at the Kirkgate.

Councillor G Bennion declared an interest in item 8b due to her husband being a Scout Leader.

Councillor I Burns declared an interest in item 8a due to her children owning short term holiday lets in Cockermouth.

Councillor S Nicholson declared an interest in item 10 due to carrying out the road closure for Taste Cumbria.

35 Public Participation

There was none.

36 Planning Applications

FUL/2022/0122

Removal of existing timber hinged doors and replacement with glazed sliding doors to main entrance and removal of existing timber doors and replacement with glazed hinged doors. Re-location of font to the exterior grounds north of the site including grilles.

Christ Church, South Street

Recommended – Refusal materials out of character i.e. glazed doors

FUL/2022/0151

Detached smoothie hut

Allerdale Customer Care Centre, Fairfield Car Park, South Street

Recommended – Approval

2/22/9004

Extension and alteration of existing school to form a sixth form campus for pupils from Mayfield School, Whitehaven, including new vehicle turning circle and external Works

St Joseph's School

Recommended – Approval

37 Finance

Resolved – (a) That payments in the amount of £8,575.67 be authorised.

(b) That the Town Clerk enquires if the ladybird larvae placed in the town's trees will be monitored by Cumbria County Council.

38 Short Term Lets

Mark Jenkinson MP was encouraging all town and parish councils to contribute to an enquiry calling for evidence on the benefits and challenges of short term lets across the UK.

A discussion ensued regarding the number of short term holiday lets in the Town and their impact on the housing market and local community.

Resolved – a) That the contents of the letter be noted.

b) That the Call for Evidence on short-term holiday letting in England be placed on our social media page.

39 1st Cockermouth Scout Group – Funding Application

Those present considered an application for funding to replace the existing kitchen at Cockermouth Scout Centre.

Resolved – That a grant of £200 be awarded.

40 Notice In Library

Councillor Watson suggested that a notice be prominently displayed in the library showing the division of the town into wards and which councillors represent each of those wards and their contact details would be helpful.

Resolved – That a list of photos, names, ward and email addresses be placed in the library and potentially on our new noticeboard on Main Street.

41 St Joseph's RC Primary School

The Head of Mayfield was keen to attend a future meeting of Cockermonth Town Council to outline their vision.

Resolved – That the Head be invited to our September 2022 meeting.

42 Kirkgate Centre

The Kirkgate were ready to submit an application to the National Heritage Fund for the In My Shoes Project. The project is about the diversity of heritage in our area which will involve training volunteers in recording oral histories with local people, finding out where their ancestors came from to settle her, there'll be a day of different cuisines at a food court at the Kirkgate, youth theatre shows, exhibitions (particularly one about Millers Shoes Factory).

The application has a greater chance of success if letters of support are provided.

Resolved – That Cockermonth Town Council supports this project.

43 Calc News

Resolved – That the contents of the May & June 2022 edition of Calc News be noted.

44 LGR Newsletters

The Executive for the Shadow Authority met for the first time as it begins the process of laying the foundations for the new Council ahead of it starting to deliver local services from 1 April 2023. Programme Director, Kim Rennie gave an overview of work to date as well as confirmation of the Implementation Plan going forward and the team set-up to deliver it.

Councillor Semple had been nominated onto the Appointment Panel for the new Chief Executive.

Resolved - That the contents of the 17 June, 23 June & 7 July 2022 newsletters be noted.

45 Clerks Report

Those present considered the contents of the report.

Resolved – a) That the winner of the best pollinator allotment be chosen by

Councillor Barnes.

b) That Stephen Coates be removed as a signatory from our investment account with the Cumberland due to his death. Clerk to explore adding a new signatory.

46 Use of Memorial Gardens for Taste Cumbria

Ellie Jones, Events Manager, Allerdale Borough Council gave a detailed presentation regarding use the Memorial Gardens for Taste Cumbria 2022.

To ensure no repeat of damage caused in 2019, a number of measures were proposed. These included:-

A small festival bar which has the festival stage inside the marquee with flooring
Assessing the weather and moving to Wakefield Road Car Park
Creating a production route around the site using standard vehicle trackway, anyone not using this will be charge accordingly
Use of paved areas as much as possible
Use of hay or straw if certain areas got wet and muddy.

Those present asked a number of questions regarding, the kind of music, use of straw, protection of the boundary line, siting of activities etc.

The majority of those present still felt that despite the mitigation measures proposed, the Memorial Gardens were not suitable for an event of this type so late in the year. A more central town centre location was preferred.

Resolved – That permission to use the Memorial Gardens for Taste Cumbria 2022 be refused.

47 Incredible Edibles

The Rotary would like permission to plant 12 fruit trees on Harris Park Extension.

They would take responsibility to plant and maintain them and promote the scheme and promote awareness across our community.

Resolved – That permission be granted to plant 12 fruit trees in Harris Park Extension.

Resolved – That under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings Act 1960, the public be removed due to the following item of business containing contractual information.

48 Changing Places Toilet Funding

Further to minute 26, Day Cummins had suggested that conversion would save around one third of the cost but that the design would be compromised.

Councillor Tyson proposed that that given the cost we simply spent 30k – 40k improving the existing toilets ourselves.

Councillor Smith seconded the proposal and suggested that as part of the improvements a disabled toilet and baby changing facilities be added.

Councillor Malloy added that a pathway from the gate was also essential.

It was resolved that – a) Day Cummins be asked to survey the existing building and provide existing drawings.

b) That Day Cummins sketch scheme for refurbishment and alteration of existing building

c) That the QS at Day Cummins cost the proposed scheme.

d) That changing places funding be not pursued due to cost.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm