

Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 18 January 2023 at 7.00 pm

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Smith & S Nicholson

There were no members of the public present.

The Mayor wished all those present a Happy New Year and welcomed them to the first Town Council meeting of the Year.

### **156 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 December 2022 were signed as a correct record.

### **157 Declaration of Interests**

Councillor A Smith declared an interest in item 6 due to being a member of the Development Panel.

### **158 Mayors Announcements**

The Mayor had attended the following engagements since his last meeting:-

Carols Round the Tree  
Rhyme Time

### **159 Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

### **160 Planning Applications**

The following planning applications were circulated prior to the meeting due to time constraints:-

Reference: **FUL/2022/0282**

Proposal: Temporary change of use in March and April and September to December for vaccination clinics

Location: Globe Hotel, Main Street, Cockermouth, CA13 9LE

Recommended: **Approval**

Reference: **HOU/2022/0174**

Applicant: Frank McGuire

Proposal: Construction of a retaining wall in pre-cast concrete blocks to provide resilience against flooding

Location: Park End, Rubby Banks Road, Cockermouth

Amendment: Amended Drawing No FRP-2 Revision A Retaining Wall Plan View 16.12.22

Recommended: Refusal – amendment does not overcome original objection

Councillor A Smith informed those present that the Development Panel had subsequently refused this application.

Reference: **HOU/2022/0233**

Proposal: Proposed boundary retaining wall and fence

Location: 93 The Parklands, Cockermouth CA13 0XJ

Recommended: **Approval**

Reference: **HOU/2022/0231**

Proposal: Single storey flat roof extension to rear with part first floor balcony

Location: 37 Woodville Park, Cockermouth, CA13 0GW

Recommended: **Approval**

Reference: **HOU/2022/0230**

Proposal: Single storey flat roof extension to rear with part first floor balcony

Location: 36 Woodville Park, Cockermouth, CA13 0GW

Recommended: **Approval**

Reference: **2/22/9008**

Proposal: Extension and alteration of existing school to form a sixth form campus For pupils from Mayfield School, Whitehaven including new vehicle access and external works.

Location: St Joseph's School, Mountain View, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval

Resolved – That the Town Clerk writes to Cumbria County Council regarding the fallen tree outside Wordsworth House and ask if there are plans to replace it and to request that the remaining trees be inspected.

## **161 Finance**

Resolved – (a) That payments in the amount of £3,874.83 be authorised.

## **162 Cockermouth & District Chamber of Trade**

Those present considered a request from Cockermouth & District Chamber of Trade to assist in the funding of a Marketing and Administration Manager Position for a further two years.

Increasing their time to two days per week will incur a cost of £10,000 per annum.

The Chamber's funds were sufficient to pay 50% of the cost.

Resolved - That the request be not supported at this time due to financial constraints.

## **163 Budget and Precept 2023/24**

Those present considered the draft budget and precept for 2023/24.

A discussion ensued regarding the cancellation of the fireworks and the use of that budget to support a Halloween event, Easter celebration and Midsummer celebration. This idea was not supported.

Resolved – a) That our budget and precept for 2023/24 be set at £290,812.

b) That an Easter event be explored.

#### **164 LGR Newsletters**

The Board had looked at the key principles in the target operating model and the Cumberland Council Plan as well as communications over the coming 3 months.

Agreed - That the contents of the 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 LGR newsletters be noted.

#### **165 Calc News**

Agreed – That the contents of the November & December 2022 Calc News be noted.

#### **166 Draft Technical Advice Note on Dark Skies in Cumbria**

As part of the Dark Skies Cumbria Project, Friends of the Lake District has been working with local planning authorities to produce a Technical Advice Note to provide guidance to planners, developers, architects, contractors and lighting professionals with the aim of better conserving and enhancing the dark skies in Cumbria through planning decisions.

Agreed – That the advice note be noted.

#### **167 Clerks Report**

Those present considered the contents of the report.

Agreed - That the content of the report be noted.

#### **168 Annual Parish Meeting**

Resolved – That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Wednesday 22 March 2023.

#### **169 Unlocking Your Place Potential**

The High Streets Task Force visited Cockermouth on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to undertake an Unlocking Your Place Potential diagnostic visit.

The purpose of the visit was to diagnose the main barrier to transformation.

As a result of that diagnostic process, the Expert had identified the need for a collaborative new vision as the main barrier to transformation in Cockermouth.

Although the town and its people have many strengths it was recommended that:-

**Repositioning** – A collaborative new vision is needed for the town to get behind and to ensure it stands out amongst its neighbours. This needs to be followed up with the construction of a delivery plan to ensure that key actions are progressed.

**Reinventing** – There are gaps in the towns offer for the less affluent, home workers and visitors. A series of regular new animation is need to create a Reason to visit particularly on Sundays.

**Rebranding** – There is a strong commitment to communication that would be supported and maximized with a clear, consistent message as to what the town if for.

**Restructuring** – A clear passion and ambition by a wide range of stakeholders could be harnessed through a town task force to drive forward change collaboratively.

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

b) That the Destination Manager be asked about next steps.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm