

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the council chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 21st August 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillor Stephen Barnes
Councillor Catherine Bell
Councillor Isabel Burns
Councillor Julie Laidlow
Councillor Jim Samson
Councillor Helen Tucker

Councillor Howard Beanland
Councillor Chris Bridgman
Councillor Marion Bowman
Councillor David Malloy
Councillor Gillian Telford
Councillor Richard Watson (Mayor)

William Moore & Joe Murray – Cockermouth Chamber of Trade
Catherine Clark & Rachel Atkinson – Cumberland Council

19:00 Meeting opened.

084/24 Apologies Councillor Semple, Cumberland Council had a prior commitment.

085/24 Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 17th July 2024. Resolved to approve the minutes.

086/24 Minutes of the Special Planning Meeting of 1st August 2024. Resolved to approve the minutes.

087/24 Declarations of interest Cllr Tucker declared interests as a substitute member of Cumberland Council's Planning Committee and as a Cumberland Councillor where it might relate to item 10.

088/24 Mayors Announcements. The Mayor had attended the Charities Week with the Deputy Mayor and had visited all the stalls. He had attended Broughton Carnival which had been great fun. He had attended the Place Making Seminar which had been very valuable and a report and recommendation from the meeting would be issued by the consultants in due course.

089/24 Reports from Cumberland Councillors Cllr Tucker (Cockermouth North) had submitted a written report.

- I. Cllr Laidlow requested that the Council was kept updated regarding the lockers by Sainsbury's.
- II. Cllr Tucker added had reported the issue of the epicormic growth on the trees to Highways and had also queried the missing tree outside Wordsworth House.
- III. Cllr Laidlow asked about the tree on Station Street. Cllr Tucker would look into it.

- IV. Cllr Malloy queried the scope of this agenda item. Cllr Watson suggested that if the Town Councillors gave Cumberland Councillors a week's notice of questions, they would be able to research the matter and hopefully provide an answer to the meeting. The original resolution for this standing item would be checked.
- V. Cllr Malloy asked what the latest news was relating to the Old Courthouse. Cllr Tucker said that a lengthy letter had been received from the building's owner which raised no new points. Adjacent buildings had been advised that there was no structural danger and they could return to their properties. Cumberland Council's hands were tied as it is a privately owned building.

090/24 Cockermouth Chamber of Trade. William Moore, Chair of the Cockermouth Chamber of Trade shared some details about the organisation, membership and reach. They were publishing the Town magazine, three editions a year. They had organised a Town Centre Spruce Up event. Charities week had raised £20,000. There had been a sponsored town boundary walk. The annual Spirit of Christmas event is the flagship shopping event for the town. Future plans include a new video advert, an upgraded website, and a mobile map app. They were keen to see better signage around the town and a banking hub. They asked the Council to push for a banking hub as they were unable to submit representations as businesses. The former MP had started a survey but they did not think the data would be available.

- I. Cllr Laidlow suggested that shops consider opening to coincide with the Council's fireworks event. Cllr Malloy said that 4-5 thousand people come into town, so this was a good opportunity for them to encourage extra sales.
- II. Cllr Tucker asked that they contact her with her Cumberland Council email address regarding the banking and signage.
- III. Cllr Telford said that the Chamber had been doing a lot of good work within the town.
- IV. Cllr Malloy complimented them on the magazine, which he said was fantastic. Mr Moore said that traders had confirmed that they had received increased sales and enquiries as a result of the publication.

091/24 Public participation. None present.

092/24 Exclusion of Press and Public. Resolved that due to the confidential nature of matters being discussed that the press and public be excluded under the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960.

093/24 Library Proposal. Resolved to agree in principle that Cumberland Council would take over the running of Cockermouth library, the ownership of the building to be transferred to them, staff would transfer to Cumberland Council and be protected by a TUPE agreement, tourist leaflets and information would still be available.

Recorded vote at the request of Cllr Malloy:

In favour – Cllrs Beanland, Bowman, Bridgman, Samson, Telford & Watson. (6)

Against – Cllrs Bell, Burns, Laidlow & Malloy. (4)

Abstention – Cllrs Barnes & Tucker. (2)

094/24 Planning

- **HOU/2024/0119** **Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **HOU/2024/0112** This was a change of description only and had previously been considered.
- **LBC/2024/0029** **Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **FUL/2024/0166** **Resolved** to recommend approval.

095/24 Planning Decisions Under Delegated Authority. Resolved to note the decisions. Application numbers to be shown on reports going forward.

096/24 Climate Emergency Group. Nothing to report.

097/24 Asset Valuation Policy item withdrawn at the request of the Clerk.

098/24 Leases and Rent Advice. Resolved to engage the services of Carigiet Cowen to review the agreements and terms of the property and office space that the Council currently lets.

099/24 Arrangements for Legal Services. Resolved that the Clerk is authorised to make enquiries with local solicitors and present a report to the next meeting.

100/24 Letters of Thanks. Cllr Telford wished to formalise a system for requesting letters of thanks to be sent on behalf of Cockermouth Town Council. **Resolved** that a standing item is added to the end of an agenda “Councillor Matters”, where requests such as this can be made and information shared.

101/24 Training Courses. Resolved that Cllrs Bowman and Telford are approved to attend the training courses requested.

102/24 Town Hall Roof Insulation. Resolved to insulate the roof while the roof is being repaired.

103/24 Use of Banner Poles. Resolved to permit Taste Cumbria to use the banner poles.

104/24 Reduced Accessibility on a Public Right of Way. Resolved to write to Cumberland Council to ask them to investigate. Cllr Tucker asked that she be copied in on the correspondence.

105/24 Payments for Approval. Cllr Beanland queried the charge for the fire alarm batteries and the cleaning of the Mayo monument. Explanations were made. **Resolved** to approve the payments.

106/24 To Note Pre-approved Payments Made. Resolved to note the payments

107/24 Clerk's Report. The Clerk's report had been circulated. Members agreed that Cumbria Wildlife Trust could have a recruitment stand within the library for a couple of times in October & November. Cllrs Beanland & Samson volunteered to participate in the TRO review and walk around Cockermouth with Cllr Semple.

108/24 Date of next meeting. Confirmed as Wednesday 18th September 2024.

20:36 Meeting closed.