

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the council chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillor Stephen Barnes
Councillor Catherine Bell
Councillor Chris Bridgman
Councillor Julie Laidlow
Councillor Jim Samson
Councillor Gillian Telford

Councillor Howard Beanland
Councillor Marion Bowman
Councillor Isabel Burns
Councillor David Malloy
Councillor Alan Smith
Councillor Richard Watson (Mayor)

Mrs Jane Ollerenshaw – Clerk
Members of the public: Eight

19:00 Meeting opened.

287/24 Apologies None.

288/24 Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 19th February 2025. Resolved to agree to an amendment to minute 261/24, the addition of the sentence “This will be open to the public”, and to approve the minutes as amended as a correct record.

289/24 To note receipt of the minutes of the staffing committee meeting of 7th October 2024. Resolved to note received

290/24 Declarations of interest None

291/24 Mayors Announcements. The Mayor had no announcements this month.

292/24 Reports from Cumberland Councillors

- Cllrs Semple and Tucker were not in attendance but had submitted a joint written report.
- Cllr Smith said that there had been no consultation on the TRO. Cllrs Bowman and Telford recalled being asked for, and providing comments to Cllr Semple last year, which he passed on. Cllr Burns said that the consultation had only been with councillors.
- Cllr Laidlow passed the details of a Highways report from 2024 to the Clerk for forwarding to Cllr Tucker.

293/24 Public participation. No questions or petitions had been received.

294/24 Planning

- **WTPO/2025/0010 Resolved** to recommend approval

- **HOU/2025/0024 Resolved** to recommend approval
- **FUL/2024/0191 Resolved** to recommend approval
- **FUL/2025/0036 Resolved** to recommend approval
- **HOU/2025/0027 Resolved** to recommend approval

295/24 Planning Decisions Under Delegated Authority. Resolved to note the schedule as received.

296/24 Climate Emergency Group. Cllr Barnes asked if there was any progress on the window repairs and the Clerk said that it would be looked at in the new financial year. Cllr Beanland had investigated changing to a green energy electricity supplier. Cllr Barnes said that they were investigating the possibility of changes to the path in the Greyrigg play area. Cllr Beanland said that this was similar to the Isel Road play area, so it was agreed that this would be looked at together. Cllr Barnes would arrange a meeting for a working group to look at the sites. All councillors would be invited.

297/24 Community Led Plan. Cllr Bridgman said that the meeting had been well attended, and a steering group would be formed at the meeting to be held on Monday 24th March. Cllr Telford offered thanks to Cllr Bridgman for his work on this project.

298/24 Grant Policy and Application form. Resolved To adopt the policy and application form

299/24 Policies A to R – Appendices to the handbook. Recommendation from the Staffing Committee and subsequently amended. A syntax error was corrected by Cllr Bowman **Resolved** to adopt the updated policies.

300/24 Isel Road recreation area. Resolved to include within the Greyrigg play area considerations.

301/24 Proposed bus route and schedule. Resolved. To recommend the existing route, over six days. Monday to Saturday, running from 8.30am to 4.30pm.

302/24 Cross in Memorial Gardens. Resolved to grant permission to the combined churches to place a cross in Memorial Gardens over the Easter weekend.

303/24 Invitation to the 70th Anniversary of the Europe Prize assembly. Resolved to send apologies. .

304 Risk Assessment. Resolved to include a section on complaints and reputational risk and to review the complaints procedure as soon as possible. **Resolved**, to approve the risk assessment with the amendment.

305/24 Payments for approval. Resolved to approve the payments. Clerk to check coverage of CCTV camera.

306/24 Pre-approved payments. Resolved to note the schedule of payments.

307/24 Clerk's Report. The Clerk's report had been circulated.

- Since circulating the report the Clerk had been notified by a member of the public that they had written to the Secretary of State to call in the Sidings planning application.
- The Clerk was asked to get a quote for replacing the curtains in the meeting room.
- A response had been received regarding the Yewdale Ward closure. They had offered to come to speak to the Council. The Clerk was asked to invite them to speak at the start of the April meeting.
- Cllr Smith asked for an update on the planters. The police had CCTV which they had said that they would share on Facebook.

308/24 Councillor Matters.

- Cllr Telford had been approached by a member of the public who were unhappy with the banking hub being in the scout hut. She had explained that it was a temporary private arrangement which did not involve the Council
- Cllr Telford was concerned about potentially dangerous railway arches near Lloyds garage. Cllr Laidlow suggested that the Civic Trust might be able to assist in this. **Resolved** The Clerk would write to Lloyds and copy to the Civic Trust raising the concerns and advising that grants may be available.
- Cllr Telford offered thanks to the Civic Trust, Chamber of Trade and others who had helped with repairing the planters and had recently also carried out a litter pick.

309/24 Date of next meeting. Confirmed as Wednesday 16th April 2025.

310/24 Exclusion of Press and Public. Resolved to exclude the press and public under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings Act (1960) due to the following items containing contractual details, personal information related to [private individuals, and staffing matters.

311/24 Groundworks and Planters Contract. Resolved to award the contract for both schedules of work to Tivoli for the 2025/2026 year. Clerk to ask if Tivoli have a plan to move away from fossil fuel use.

312/24 Proposal from a trader regarding Christmas lights switch on event. Resolved to reject the offer.

313/24 Allotment complaint. An allotment holder had raised a problem with an apple tree on the boundary their plot. **Resolved** Cllr Malloy would contact the plot holders and try to resolve the issue.

314/24 Draft of the heads of terms agreement. Resolved that the Clerk negotiate the best terms possible for the points raised, and the terms are agreed. At the request of Cllr Laidlow there was a recorded vote. In favour: Cllrs Beanland, Bowman, Bridgman, Samson, Telford and Watson. Against: Cllrs Barnes, Bell, Burns, Laidlow, Malloy and Smith. The Chair used his casting vote to vote in favour.

315/24 Clerk's additional employment, recommendation from the Staffing Committee. Resolved that the Clerk is given formal permission to continue to work for Ennerdale and Kinniside Parish Council as long as is required.

316/24 Response to a letter of complaint, recommendation from the Staffing Committee. Resolved to agree the recommended response.

317/24 Clerk's Salary, recommendation from the Staffing Committee. Resolved to agree the recommendation to increase the Clerk's salary by two spinal column points effective from 1st April 2025.

20:53 Meeting closed.