

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Cockermouth, on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7.00pm

Present:

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

Councillor Chris Bridgman  
Councillor Julie Laidlow  
Councillor James Samson  
Councillor Gillian Telford

Mrs Jane Ollerenshaw – Clerk  
Mrs Amy Jeffrey – Administration Assistant  
Members of the Public: 4

19:00 meeting opened.

**104/25 Apologies** Cllr Bell and Cllr Bowman had submitted apologies.

**105/25 To approve the minutes of the Cockermouth Town Council Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025.** An amendment to minute 087/25, changing 'Spalding' to 'Sparling' was agreed. **Resolved** to approve the minutes as amended.

**106/25 Declarations of interest** Cllrs Burns, Laidlow and Malloy declared an interest in item 14 due to being members of the Europe Prize Scholarship Fund. The Clerk also made it known that she was secretary and treasurer for the Fund.

**107/25 Exclusion of Press & Public** No matters required the exclusion of press and public.

**108/25 Mayor's Announcements**

Cllr Malloy attended the Mayor of Millom's Civic Service and also presented the 'Best Garden' trophy to the winner of the Children's Society Garden Trail.

**109/25 Reports from Cumberland Councillors**

A written report was received from Cllr Helen Tucker (Cockermouth North) prior to the meeting. Cllr Laidlow requested that Cumberland be pressed regarding the replacement of the tree on Station Street. Cllr Burns reported that Cumberland had identified the owner of the Gallowbarrow/Sullart Street path and suggested the same approach be taken to establish ownership of the footpath from Bellbrigg to Windmill Lane.

**110/25 Public Participation**

Two questions had been received from Alan Clouston which were addressed to Cllr Malloy.

**Alan Clouston:** “The last time you were Mayor, you put in an invoice for the allowance on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May which was 13 days before you were appointed. How come?”

Cllr Malloy responded that the Mayor does not personally submit an invoice and that the process was carried out by staff prior to the new Mayor's appointment. He was unable to answer whether it was standard practice to pay the allowance before the formal appointment.

**Alan Clouston:** “Second question. It wasn't paid into your account it was paid into your wife's account. How come?”

Cllr Malloy stated that he could not recall why this had happened, as the payment occurred seven years ago.

Mr. Clouston expressed disappointment in the handling of the Mayoral Allowance. Cllr Burns responded that it was only five to six years ago that the procedure had been revised.

#### **111/25 Planning**

- **ADV/2025/0011 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **HOU/2025/0142 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **FUL/2025/0117 Resolved** to recommend approval, but to point out to planning that there were no pictures of what the replacement windows would look like, so the recommendation was based on it being a like-for-like proposal.
- **LBC/2025/0022 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **HOU/2025/0146 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **CAT/2025/0032 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **FUL/2025/0126 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **HOU/2025/0150 Resolved** to recommend approval, but that a condition should be included that prevented overnight occupation due to concerns that given the inclusion of a shower room within the plans, that it may be used as additional accommodation.
- **FUL/2024/0026 Resolved** to recommend refusal for all of the reasons previously stated. The additional information does not address the concerns previously raised by the Town Council.

#### **112/25 Climate Emergency Group.**

- **Createc.** Cllr Telford had highlighted the efforts of the company in creating attractive surroundings to the building. **Resolved** to send a letter of recognition.
- **Tivoli.** **Resolved** to invite representatives to attend a meeting and explain how their policies relating to their carbon footprint are applied within Cockermouth.
- **Isel Road.** Clerk to obtain a quote to make good the access to the site and repair the ground underneath the swings. **Resolved** to erect a sign confirming the site is owned and maintained by Cockermouth Town Council.
- **Greyrigg Play Area.** Cllr Beanland had devised a questionnaire to gather local opinion. Cllr Bridgman would prepare an online survey to be linked from the Council website and social media.

- **Station Street Trees.** Clerk to write to Cumberland Council to suggest that the missing trees on Station Street should be replaced shortly. Cllr Watson suggested Aspen trees as a more suitable option for the site, and the end of November would be the best time to plant them.

**113/25 Community Led Plan Group** Cllr Bridgman advised that a public launch and visioning day is planned for 8th November. Activities will also be held in local schools to gather young people's views and ideas on the future of Cockermouth.

**114/25 Call for Sites.** Cllr Telford had attended the online briefing. She advised that in addition to identifying potential sites, consideration should be given to sites that are earmarked for protection and the types of buildings needed in the area. Councillors were asked to submit their suggestions to the Clerk by 10<sup>th</sup> October for these to be collated and considered at the next meeting.

**115/25 Grant request from Citizens Advice, Allerdale. Resolved** to approve a grant of £500.

**116/25 CALC AGM. Resolved** that Cllrs Bowman, Bridgman and Telford attend the CALC AGM.

**117/25 Grant request from the Europe Prize Scholarship Fund.** Cllr Samson took the Chair and Cllrs Burns, Laidlow and Malloy did not take part in discussions. **Resolved** to approve a grant of £500. At the request of Cllr Smith there was a recorded vote. In favour: Cllrs Beanland, Bridgman, Samson, Smith, Telford and Watson. Abstention: Cllrs Burns, Laidlow and Malloy.

**118/25 CCTV.** The Council considered the quotations received for the CCTV installation. **Resolved** to accept quotation A. The Clerk confirmed that the supplier was Walker Fire.

**119/25 Payments for Approval. Resolved** to approve the payments.

**120/25 Pre-approved Payments. Resolved** to note the schedule of payments.

**121/25 Clerk's Report.** The Clerk's report had been circulated.

- Gote Road allotment Plot 20a had been vacated by the tenant, who terminated their lease with immediate effect. The tenant of plot 20b has also informed staff of their intention to terminate their tenancy by the end of the year. Councillors had previously raised concerns about the access to plot 20a, so it was agreed that the plots would be merged back into one, plot 20. A new tenant will be permitted to begin work on the lower section of the combined plot immediately, with access to the upper section once the current tenant has vacated.
- Representatives from Jennings Brewery were unable to attend the meeting and had asked that questions are sent to them. Cllrs agreed that they had no specific questions but were simply interested to hear their vision and long-term plans. The Clerk would write again to try to explain the nature of the

opportunity being offered.

- The issue with the fencing and lack of response from Sainsbury's has been escalated to the local MP. He would raise it directly with them and keep the Council informed of any response.
- There was still accommodation required for one family for the twinning trip and councillors were asked to share information with friends.
- The insurance renewal had been received too late for inclusion on the agenda but was due prior to the next meeting. The council was still within a three-year deal that had been negotiated. The year-on-year increase was slightly over £100 and the council agreed that this was reasonable. Payment would be made between meetings to ensure that cover was maintained and the payment formally ratified at the next meeting.

#### **122/25 Councillor Matters.**

- Cllr Telford reported an outdated Cumbria County Council sign in Memorial Gardens and a tree in poor condition. The Clerk would investigate the sign and confirmed that the biannual tree inspection was due shortly.
- Cllr Smith said there had been complaints regarding student travel to Lakes College and a lack of a direct bus service. Cllr Samson stated there were proposals to reinstate the 600 route. The Clerk advised that the tender period had been extended, but it was still showing within the tender documents that services were due to begin 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The Clerk was asked to seek an update from Cumberland Council.
- Cllr Smith had attended a meeting with Age Concern and formerly T'Gether. Age Concern had appointed a part-time coordinator and they would handle the finances for the groups. There may be future grant applications to the Council.
- Cllr Smith said that Taste Cumbria, scheduled in two weeks, appears low-key and as the Town Council is a sponsor, it would be appreciated to have prior notice of what would be taking place. The Clerk would raise their concerns with the organisers.

#### **123/25 Date of next meeting.**

Confirmed as Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

20.10 meeting closed.