

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 6.00p.m. at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatria.

PRESENT: Councillor S Maxwell (Chair)

Councillors: Cllr R Gregory, Cllr M Rose, Cllr A Hankin, Cllr K Thurlow, Cllr D Richardson, Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr B Blackburn

Also in Attendance: Mrs K Cooper (Town Clerk), Ms S Hullock (RFO)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Item		Action
1.05.26. Apologies: To receive and accept apologies and note the reasons for absence.	None	Clerk to note.
2.05.26. Election of Mayor & Chairman: To elect Mayor for the ensuing council year 2026/27	Before the election took place Cllr S Maxwell thanked the council for the privilege of being Mayor for the previous two years. Cllr Rose proposed Cllr Gregory be elected as Mayor for the forthcoming year, this was seconded by Cllr A Maxwell. RESOLVED Cllr Smith proposed Cllr Rose be elected as Deputy Mayor however Cllr S Maxwell proposed Cllr Hankin. Following a vote, Cllr Rose was elected. RESOLVED	
3.05.26. To receive the Mayor's/Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office:	Cllr Gregory accepted the role of Mayor, and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by both Cllr Gregory and the Town Clerk. RESOLVED	
4.05.26. Vacancies on the Council: To co-opt any suitable candidates for the vacancies on the council.	No applications were received.	
5.05.26. To Appoint representatives for Sub-Committees:	Parks & Allotments Committee: The Committee comprises of Cllr A Maxwell (Chair), Cllr A Hankin (Deputy Chair), Cllr K Thurlow and Cllr R Gregory. Events Committee: The Committee comprises of Cllr S Maxwell (Chair), Cllr K Smith (Deputy Chair), Cllr M Rose, Cllr D Richardson. The Clerk also joins both committees. RESOLVED	

ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Item		Action
1.1.05.26. Apologies: To receive and accept apologies and note the reasons for absence.	None	
2.1.05.26. Mayor's announcements/updates:	None	
3.1.05.26. Review of the year – Mayor's Report:	The Mayor's report will be completed by Cllr Gregory at the end of 2026.	
4.1.05.26. Declarations of Interest: Members are invited to make any declarations of Pecuniary Interest or other Registerable Interest (other than those recorded on their Notification of Pecuniary Interests or other Registerable Interests) relating to any items on the agenda.	None.	
5.1.05.26. Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st April 2026: To authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 st April 2026.	The minutes were agreed to be of a true record of the meeting. Approved and signed by the Mayor/Chair. RESOLVED.	
6.1.05.26. Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held Thursday 16th April 2026:	The minutes were agreed to be of a true record of the meeting. Approved and signed by the Mayor/Chair. RESOLVED.	
7.1.05.26. Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held Tuesday 5th May 2026:	The minutes were agreed to be of a true record of the meeting. Approved and signed by the Mayor/Chair. RESOLVED.	
8.1.05.26: Clerks Report:	The Clerk updated the meeting on aspects of funding she has applied for, the first being to the National Lottery Community Fund in the hope we can purchase a trainer wall to be placed in St Mungos Park and a climbing wall which will be placed in Victoria Park. The second application for funding was for £2500 from David Allen, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to help the council with the updating of CCTV systems within the town and the final application the Clerk has completed is to Spar Community Fund in order to purchase additional outdoor gym equipment. We are awaiting on if any of these are to be granted. Ongoing. RESOLVED: The Clerk was pleased to announce we have been	

	granted £1000 from ADCCA for Party in the Park. The fire extinguishers have been serviced at the changing rooms. The Clerks .gov email address has been renewed for a further two years with Fasthosts. The bus shelter at Queen Street is being sorted via insurance company Aviva who are currently gathering quotes for replacement work to be carried out. Ongoing. The barrier at Brandraw Car Park has again been damaged by a member of the public. The Clerk accessed CCTV and police were called however following a post on social media, the person responsible has offered to pay for the damage however he stated the barrier had not been fixed correctly previously. The council agreed the person responsible for knocking it down should pay in full. Proposed by Cllr A Maxwell and seconded by Cllr K Smith. Ongoing. Cllr A Maxwell suggested the Mayor's chain be taken to a company in Carlisle to be repaired and engraved with the new Mayor. All agreed.	
9.1.05.26: Public Participation:	Two members of the public addressed the council with concerns at Springkell. Numerous drivers are turning into Springkell unaware there is a no through road and having to try and turn around. It was requested if signage could be erected informing drivers of this. Cllr Thurlow to contact Cumberland Council Highways. They also shared concerns of the traffic speed throughout the town, especially at Park Road with children playing in Victoria Park. The Clerk suggested the possibility of requesting a zebra crossing at the park gates, this would ensure safer crossings for the children and also make drivers aware. Cllr Thurlow to enquire. Ongoing. Members of the public left at 7.15pm.	TC
10.1.05.26: Highways:	Cllr Thurlow had requested a footpath to be placed at St Mungos Park near to the junction for Westnewton, funding has now been granted for this. Thanks were given to Cllr Thurlow.	
11.1.05.26: To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors: 1.1 Councillor Kevin Thurlow	Nothing to report.	

12.1.05.26: Financial Matters:	i) Expenditure and Income Schedule for April 2026:- RESOLVED that the expenditure of £7,686.17 (excluding the internal transfer of funds) and income of £113,758.50 be approved. The RFO explained the large amount of income was due to the annual precept being received in April as a one-off payment, rather than in two equal instalments in April and then September, as in previous years. . Members also approved the additional invoices for payment:- Fasthost - £ 6.14 & £97.94 - Mailboxes of gov.uk for RFO and Clerk LR & JA Allen - £81.60 - Fuel for van and mower Aspatia Farmers - £32.40 Various materials and item for changing room deep clean Lloyd Ltd - £90.00 - Mower - Cleaned Carburettor Beacon - £191.15 - St Mungo's Park Fire Extinguisher Check and Maintenance Npower - £68.33 - Electricity for Brandraw Toilets 1.4.26 - 30.4.26 Burnetts - £303.60 - Legal services in relation to allotment work AKN Developments - £61.50 - Replacement of lock and handles on changing room Clear Council Insurance - £1553.68 - Annual Insurance NC Associates - £332.50 - HR Support Cumbria Surfacing Limited - £2688.00 - Pipe Repair Works at St Mungos Park J Airey - £109.90 - Internal Audit for second half of 25/26 financial year (1.9.25 - 31.3.26) (ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation Statements as at 30th April 2026: - RESOLVED that the circulated Bank Reconciliation with supporting statements be confirmed and accepted as a true record. (iii) Internal Audit:Review:- The RFO informed Councillors that the Internal Audit for the second half of the 2025/2026 financial year end is to take place tomorrow, Wednesday 20th May 2026 and that the audit report would be brought to the June 2026 meeting. The RFO requested approval to pay the auditors invoice on receipt rather than wait for the June Council meeting. RESOLVED that the Internal Audit report be brought to the next meeting and that the auditors' invoice be paid on completion of the audit and receipt of the report, (invoice details in the previous section).	
13.1.05.26: Council and Van Insurance and Van Tax:	The council insurance is due for renewal from June; the renewal price is £1553.68. The Clerk also informed the meeting the council van insurance was due to be renewed. The renewal quote was less than last year due to a change on the policy. The van tax also expires on 31st May. The tax for the 12-month	

	period is £360. Cllr S Maxwell proposed we renew with the existing insurers and tax the vehicle for 12 months; this was seconded by Cllr D Richardson. RESOLVED.	
14.1.05.26: Parks & Allotments:	Allotments: The council are still waiting on solicitors to rectify two issues on the allotments. Ongoing. A member of the public asked Cllr S Maxwell if residents on Outgang Road could use the land near the allotments for parking due to yellow lines being placed on the corner. The councillors refused. RESOLVED CCTV – new upgraded systems have been placed at Brandraw car park and St Mungos Park as these were incorrectly installed. RESOLVED Park Railings and Trees. – The railings at the park require extensive work carried out to repair them. It was suggested to repair sections at a time due to the amount of work involved. This is to be discussed further at the P&A meeting. The Clerk is to contact the tree surgeon to meet with the P&A Committee to inspect the trees and plan any work required. Ongoing. Town Flowers – The flowers are to arrive w/c 1st June. The councillors are to meet on Friday 22nd May to devise a plan of action regarding planting and watering. The Clerk is also to invite Mr Young with the help of Beacon Hill pupils and Sarah Edmondson. Sarah requires we purchase new compost and equipment for the flowers, this was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Blackburn. The Clerk was also asked to retrieve quotes for watering of the flowers. Ongoing. Cllr Hankin suggested we replace the old picnic benches in the park with new recycled plastic ones. The Clerk is to get quotes for three new benches. Ongoing. The Councillors and the Clerk are to meet at the changing rooms on Wednesday 10th June to carry out a deep clean of the building as the football season is now finished. Cllr Thurlow leaves at 7.15pm	
15.1.05.26: Senior Citizens Trip:	The council is to provide the Senior Citizens with a free trip again this year. It was decided this year the trip location will be Lancaster. The trip will take place on Wednesday 12th August 2026 leaving Aspatria at 9am and returning at 5pm. The Clerk will retrieve quotes for two coaches.	
16.1.05.26: Applications for Development:	None	

17.1.05.26: Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.		
18.1.05.26: Items submitted by members:	Cllr Blackburn requested we issue Sarah Edmondson with a Certificate of Appreciation for all her efforts throughout the town. The Clerk to action.	
19.1.05.26: Items for the next meeting:	Town Appreciation Scheme.	
20.1.05.26: Confidential Items:	Confidential item was discussed and minuted. Councillors only receive the minutes, these are not made public.	
21.1.05.26: The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday 16th June 2026 at 6.00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall, Aspatria.		

The meeting ended at 8.15pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

