

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th October 2024 at 6.00p.m at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatria.

PRESENT: Councillor S Maxwell (Chair)

Councillors: Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr K Thurlow, Cllr A Hankin, Cllr M Rose, Cllr K Smith, Cllr S Edmondson, Cllr R Gregory, Cllr A Reay, Cllr L Hunter, Cllr B Blackburn, Cllr J Marsh

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

Members of the Public: Rebecca Edmondson, John Stokoe, Hailey Stokoe

Minutes

Item		Action
1.10.24. Apologies: To receive and accept apologies and note the reasons for absence.	Cllr C Macdonald – Prior engagement	
2.10.24. Mayors Announcements/Updates:	None	
3.10.24. 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	
4.10.24. Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held 17th September 2024 :	The minutes were agreed to be of a true record of the last meeting. Approved and signed by the Mayor/Chair. RESOLVED	
5.10.24. Clerks Report:	<p>The Clerk informed the meeting of a grant application she was working on to gain funding for Ninja Trail park equipment.</p> <p>The Clerk had received a free portrait of King Charles which she had applied for, it was decided the council would donate this to the Masonic Hall – RESOLVED.</p> <p>A new office chair had been ordered and received for the Clerk.</p> <p>Old documents that were collected from a house at Fletchertown were taken to Lady Gillford House by the Clerk to be archived – RESOLVED.</p> <p>A new handle had to be purchased and fitted on the changing rooms at St Mungos Park. – RESOLVED.</p> <p>The Clerk has transferred the domain for the council email address and website to X-Net due to Fasthosts no longer supporting the .gov – RESOLVED.</p>	

	<p>A poppy wreath has been purchased and received by the Clerk for Remembrance Sunday. This will be laid at the Memorial gates – RESOLVED.</p> <p>The Clerk had contacted Cumberland Council and updated all councillors details and pecuniary interests online. RESOLVED.</p>	
6.10.24. Public Participation:	<p>It had been requested that some overgrown weeds and nettles at St Mungos Park heading to Westnewton could be cut back, however Cllr Thurlow informed the meeting this had already been completed – RESOLVED.</p>	
7.10.24. Highways:	<p>Two safety figures were stolen from the crossing at Richmond Hill School. Cllr Thurlow advised that he would purchase two new ones for the school. Cllr Rose mentioned the figures, which had been stolen were left at risk in a residential garden, Cllr Gregory suggested asking the resident of the house next to the Charity Shop in order to store them more securely. All agreed. - RESOLVED</p> <p>Richmond Hill School entrance is due to be resurfaced by Cumberland Council at half term.</p> <p>Cllr Thurlow requested a contractor to cut the hedges at the bowling club and Lawson Street allotments - RESOLVED.</p> <p>As the gym building at Market Square is currently for sale Cllr Thurlow put to the meeting the council should look to purchase this as a Town Hall or would be a possibility for the post office to relocate. Cllr Reay suggested this should be investigated further and all agreed. Ongoing.</p> <p>Cllr Reay requested the Clerk report a blocked drain up Brough Street.</p>	TC
8.10.24. To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors: 9.1 Councillor Kevin Thurlow	Nothing to report	
9.10.24. Financial Matters:	<p>(i) Expenditure and Income Schedule for September 2024:- RESOLVED that the expenditure of £13,744.76 and income of £43,787.50 as detailed in the circulated schedule for September 2024 be approved.</p> <p>Councillors also agreed the following payments to be made:- LR & JA Allen £110.02 - (Fuel) Aquatrust £151.20 - (Legionella Monitoring) Npower £65.97 - (Electricity for Brandraw Toilets 1.9.24 - 30.9.24) Aspatia Farmers £14.35 - (Various Materials)</p> <p>The RFO also gave prior notification of the proposed price increase in the annual CALC subscription for</p>	

	<p>next year (2025/26) from £471.04 to £488.53.</p> <p>The RFO fed back the conversation had with Cumbria Pest Services regarding the frequency of their service at the Council's allotments and the type of rodent control undertaken.</p> <p>(ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation and Statements as at 30th September 2024:- RESOLVED that the circulated Bank Reconciliation and corresponding Statements be confirmed and accepted as a true record.</p> <p>(iii) Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring Report - 1st April to 30th September 2024:- The RFO gave an overview of the net position for the second quarter of 2024/25 and commented on areas as recorded in the schedule, as well as requesting Members approval for the transfer of funding from the Pension Deficit Reserve, to cover the Local Government Pension Scheme exit payment, and transfers from balances to cover the utility and cleaning costs of Brandraw Toilet Bock and the invoice recently received for tending to the Christmas lights from last financial year. . The RFO highlighted those areas of the budget which may overspend due to unforeseen costs. RESOLVED that the income and expenditure position for the second quarter to September 2024 be accepted and approved and the transfers authorised.</p> <p>The RFO also informed the Councillors that an internal audit has been scheduled for Wednesday 23rd October 2024.</p>	
10.10.24. Council Policies – Freedom of Information Policy:	The Clerk has updated and circulated the Freedom of Information Policy to Cllrs prior to the meeting. This was adopted at this meeting on 15 th October 24 and will be updated on the website.	
11.10.24. Councillor Whatsapp usage:	It was reminded by Cllr Gregory, the Councillor Whatsapp group was originally set up for the Clerk to update Cllrs on matters arising and remind them of any events. Should any Cllr have any issue they should email the Clerk and this would be dealt with in the appropriate way. RESOLVED	
12.10.24. Red Lion access concerns:	Cllr Edmondson left the room due to having an interest. The council were informed the Red Lion landlords were wishing to use access across the properties of 42 and 44 West Street for deliveries however due to the owners of 42 and 44 West Street placing a barricade on the named land, this was not possible. Cllr Gregory proposed the suggestion of driving across the properties at West Street would cause further issues and previous landlords have managed without access due to stones always being located in that area. It was advised this issue was to	

	<p>be reported to the Highways Dept rather than the town council, with the possibility of this having to be dealt with through solicitors for all parties involved.</p> <p>RESOLVED. Rebecca Edmondson, John Stokoe & Hailey Stokoe leave at 6.20pm.</p>	
13.10.24. Parks & Allotments:	<p>The Town Caretaker had requested to partition his shed at St Mungos Park to divide the area into two sections, one being a workshop with desk and CCTV system and the other with the mowers and equipment due to the temperature of the shed being too low throughout winter. The Clerk received a quote for timber for the job to be completed, however Cllr Hankin is to retrieve a quote from his place of work. Ongoing.</p> <p>It was also requested to supply the Caretaker with a heater for the winter months. Two had been offered from Cllrs, Jack will see which is suitable. Ongoing.</p> <p>It was agreed the Parks and Allotments meeting would go ahead on Friday 18th October at 5pm at the Letters Inn for the P&A Committee to discuss the hiring of facilities at St Mungos Park.</p>	
14.10.24. Christmas events:	<p>The Clerk updated the meeting on what has currently been organised for the Christmas events. Over 60 letters have been distributed to local businesses for donations towards our events. The first prize of a Sealy mattress for the Christmas raffle has been confirmed. The Clerk has applied to the Charity Shop for a grant to help towards the costs of the events. New bulbs have been ordered for Christmas lights to be erected in town and the Clerk has secured a donation of two Christmas trees from Holmen (Iggesund). Organisations are underway for both events, the light switch on being Sunday 1st Dec from 3-5pm and the Senior Citizens Treat being 10th Dec at 1pm. Ongoing</p>	
15.10.24. Remembrance Sunday:	<p>The Remembrance parade and service will take place on Sunday 10th November 2024. The parade will leave Brandraw Car Park at 2.30pm and head to the Memorial Park to lay poppy wreathes. The Parade will then continue to St Kentigerns Church for the Remembrance Service. The Town Caretaker will then secure the wreathes to the gates.</p>	
16.10.24. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.		
17.10.24. Applications for Development:	None	
18.10.24. Items submitted by members:	None	
19.10.24. Items for the next	Town Clerks working hours	

meeting:	Cllr Thurlow- Town Hall	
20.10.24. Confidential Items:	Minuted on Page 2 of October minutes (15.10.24) for Councillors only.	
20.10.24. The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday 19th November 2024 at 6pm.		

The meeting ended at 8.00pm

