

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 7.00 p.m.
at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatria.**

PRESENT: Councillor A Maxwell (Chair)

Councillors: Cllr S Maxwell, Councillor A Reay, Cllr B Blackburn, Cllr K Thurlow, Cllr R Gregory, Cllr K Smith, Cllr M Rose, Cllr D McRea

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

Minutes

Item		Action
1. Apologies: To receive and accept apologies and note the reasons for absence.	Mr Jim Lister	
2. Mayors Announcements/Updates:	Cllr Maxwell gave thanks to Cllr Thurlow for his input with the highways on completing the damage to the pavement outside Beacon Hill School. The Mayor's noticeboard which was displayed in the library has been taken down due to the library undergoing construction, the board has been stored in Dreamscheme along with some historical framed pictures dating back to 1931. Cllr Maxwell asked the Clerk to correspond with C Bouch regarding installing a new bench outside their premises for bus users.	TC
3. 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. Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held Tuesday 18th October 2022: To authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last Aspatria Town Council Meeting.	Approved.	
5. Matters arising from Minutes of the last Meeting held Tuesday 18th October 2022.	The Clerk informed the meeting new blue badge parking bays were being painted on Queen St car park and the potholes are also due to be attended to soon. Cllr Maxwell asked if we had received the invoice from Tivoli for work carried out at Outgang Road, however	Ongoing

	<p>we have not yet received this. Cllr Reay is to action the CCTV being erected at Dreamscheme. Following our audit, the Clerk explained moving forward there will not be a 'matters arising' section on the agenda, this will be replaced with 'Clerks report'.</p>	
6. Public Participation:	<p>It was brought to our attention, as Brough Street are now using black refuse bags for their waste, these are being left outside properties and due to poor street lighting, can be hazardous. This is to be reported to Highways.</p>	BB
7. Highways:	None	
8. To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors:	<p>Issues have arisen with the waste collectors and the shortage of staff; this is due to the lack of budget to supply agency staff. Agency staff receive higher payment than those employed, therefore employees at the waste department are terminating their contracts to attain new employment elsewhere.</p>	
	<p>1.1 Councillor Jim Lister 1.2 Councillor Kevin Thurlow</p>	
9. Financial Matters:	<p>Financial Matters. (i) Expenditure and Income Schedule for October 2022:- RESOLVED that the income and expenditure detailed for October 2022 in the attached schedule be approved.</p> <p>Councillors also agreed the following payments to be made:- groGreen £264.80 Firpress £106.80 Ministry of Doing £2450.00 & £290.00 LR & JA Allen £222.06 Mike Dowling Contracting Ltd £336.00</p> <p>(ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation Statements as at 31st October 2022 - RESOLVED that the circulated Bank Reconciliation Statement be confirmed and accepted as a true record.</p> <p>Confidential Item (iii) Pay Rate Review The RFO presented a paper which calculated the annual financial impact to the Council of the backdated Salary Award recently announced by Nalc RESOLVED that (a) the circulated paper be accepted and the salary award be applied and backdated to April 2022 for the Clerk and RFO and (b) the Caretaker's salary be reviewed next year on the anniversary of the pay increase (July 2023).</p> <p>(iv) The RFO informed Councillors that the proposed 2023/2024 budget will be brought to the next meeting and asked that Members give</p>	

	<p>consideration to any planned expenditure, which they may be aware of, to ensure this is included. The RFO explained that a budget increase will be required to cover the cost of elections, as advised by Calc as well as the increased employer contribution to the Local Government Pension Scheme for the Caretaker, (increase from 20.7% to 22.2%).</p> <p>The RFO did explain however, that whilst it is necessary to include all costs in the forthcoming budget, Councillors may need to consider increasing the 2023/2024 precept by more than that in previous years, in order to cover any additional costs. Otherwise the Council are simply back to using their balances to cover the day to day running costs of the Council. However, this will be reviewed at the January 2023 meeting, when the precept will be set, following approval of the Council's 2023/2024 budget and knowledge of the Council Tax Base from Allerdale Borough Council, (which will highlight the impact of any precept increase).</p> <p>RESOLVED Councillors will highlight any items of planned expenditure for the next financial year for inclusion in the 2023/2024 budget.</p> <p>(v) Meter Readings The RFO asked whether the weekly reading of the electricity meter in the changing rooms could be reduced to monthly as all readings appear to be in line with that anticipated. A monthly reading will still be taken so this can be uploaded onto the suppliers website to ensure charges are based on actual usage and not estimates.</p>	
<p>10. Hedgecutters:</p>	<p>Mike Blair informed Cllr Maxwell and the Clerk his hedgecutters stopped working in October. These have been owned by the council for at least 10 years and repairing the cutters seems to be more expensive than purchasing new ones. The Parks & Allotments sub-committee are due to meet, and this item will be on the agenda to be discussed further.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>11. Christmas light event & Senior Citizens Christmas treat:</p>	<p>Thanks was given to Silloth Rotary Club for their offer of ATC using their sleigh, it was agreed a donation would be given to the Rotary Club and pictures of the event displayed on our social media page giving thanks. Dreamscheme are to decorate the school hall, turning this into Santa's grotto. Cllr Reay is to contact Sealy for fabric to use as snow and this will be stored in Beacon Hill School garage until it is needed. Santa and two elves will be in Harriston at 5.30pm, and leaving the Business Park shortly after, being lead up the main street by the fire engine. Free fair rides, hot drinks, mince pies and live music will be provided at Brandraw car park and in the school hall.</p> <p>Prizes and donations are currently being received from local businesses for the Christmas lights and the</p>	

	<p>Senior Citizens treat. Mike Blair will be providing the bingo machine and Councillors will be helping set up the event and serving food. It was agreed helpers from Beacon Hill School receive £10 each.</p> <p>Raffle tickets for houses displaying lights will be distributed before New Year's Eve with the draw taking place at the January council meeting.</p> <p>The Christmas tree at Brandraw car park was erected on Monday 14th November.</p> <p>Cllr Thurlow requested Christmas lights be displayed around the toilet block on Brandraw car park. Town Clerk to contact Eric Nicholson. Letters to residents supplying the electricity for the lights will be posted this week.</p>	
12. New Councillor Application:	The Town Clerk received an application from Mr Hankin to become a Councillor. Mr Hankin's application was read out to the Councillors and Cllr Reay proposed we accept; this was seconded by Cllr Gregory. Town Clerk to send out relevant documents and invite Mr Hankin to the next council meeting in December.	TC
13. Brandraw Car Park Barrier:	Town Clerk informed the meeting she had managed to locate the Amazon driver who had caused the damage to the barrier in August. They are to reimburse the council.	Ongoing
14. Grant application:	<p>A grant application was received from Dreamscheme and St Kentigern's Church for a new scheme 'warm hub' which takes place in the community hall. It was agreed to grant £500 following receipt of a bank statement.</p> <p>Cllr Smith asked why the scheme is taking place in the community hall rather than the chapel building owned by Dreamscheme, Cllr Reay informed this was due to the central location of the community hall.</p> <p>RFO left at 8.10pm</p>	TC
15. Website update:	Town Clerk has started training to run the new site and following on from our audit on Wednesday 9 th November, the auditor was most impressed with the new site and the accessibility of information provided.	Ongoing
16. Monument Cleaning:	The Property Services Manager at Allerdale met with a local builder to view the monument and discuss work to be completed to restore the monument to its original fascia. Allerdale have approved the quote supplied and work will commence shortly. Cllr Maxwell has also asked the local builder to provide Aspatria Town Council with a quote to clean the Brae Lamp.	Ongoing
17. Queen Street car park toilets:	Cllr Thurlow has proposed Aspatria Town Council take ownership of the toilet block at Queen Street car park. These were originally offered to the council in 2017, along with the car park however due to Covid nothing	Ongoing

	was finalised. Cllr Thurlow is to investigate this further. It is thought the toilet block could be converted into one toilet and make use of the remaining building for storage or commercial purposes. Cllrs are to discuss this being including within the budget with the RFO.	KT
18. Parks & Allotments:	A letter has been received from a solicitor on behalf of their client, who now owns the land in which Lawson Street allotments reside. The Clerk has replied giving information on how much the tenants pay per annum and how many allotment plots are on site. A Parks and Allotments meeting date is to be confirmed.	Ongoing
19. Anti-social behaviour:	It is felt ASB seems to have quietened down throughout the town.	
20. Policing throughout town:	Cllr Gregory has concerns from reading the Allerdale Neighbourhood Newsletter as Aspatria has no mention once again. There have been incidents in St Kentigerns Church where items have been moved and earlier this month graffiti has taken place at Richmond Hill School. It is understood the enormous pressure the police are under however a police presence throughout the town would be beneficial. Police no longer have contact with the public as they function digitally, whereby reports are made online or via email. Cllr Gregory believes having a police officer/PCSO walking around the town one day a week talking to residents would help build a rapport and a sense of continuity. It was proposed a meeting be held with the Mayor and the police commissioner, all were in agreeance.	
21. Park:	Cllr Thurlow has requested the council provide a rebound wall in St Mungo's Park. This will provide fun for those wanting to play alone. Following some research, the costing for this would be around £20k however Cllr Thurlow has liaised with a firm who supply concrete panels and steel supports, this would be at a fraction of the price. This is to be discussed with the RFO to include in the budget. Cllr McRea is in contact with our groundsman to provide a compound in St Mungos Park where the new football nets will be securely locked away when not in use.	Ongoing Ongoing
22. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.		
23. Applications for Development:	Two applications for planning permission were received. Ref: HOU/2022/0196 Ref: FUL/2022/0254 Councillors welcomed these applications.	

24. Items submitted by members:	Queen Street toilets	
25. Items for the next meeting:		
26. Confidential items:	None.	
27. The next meeting of Aspatia Town Council will take place on Tuesday 20th December at 7.00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall, Aspatia.		

The meeting ended at 8.35pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

