

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatria.

PRESENT: Councillor A Maxwell (Chair)

Councillors: Cllr A Reay, Cllr B Blackburn, Cllr K Thurlow, Cllr R Gregory, Cllr A Hankin, Cllr K Smith, Cllr M Rose

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.	Cllr S Maxwell, Cllr D McRea, Mr Lister	
2. Mayors Announcements/Updates:	Cllr Maxwell welcomed our newest councillor, Mr Adam Hankin to the meeting as some of the councillors weren't present at the December meeting.	
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 20th December 2022: To authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last Aspatria Town Council Meeting.	Approved.	
5. Clerk's Report:	At Decembers meeting it was mentioned about displaying a memorial plaque which would provide names of Aspatria miners who lost their lives whilst mining. Cllr Thurlow was to investigate the miners and provide the council with the names, however Cllr Reay suggested a general plaque for all those who passed away would be more suitable as to not exclude anyone. It was also suggested this could be placed in the Memorial Garden at St Mungos Park. To be discussed in further detail next meeting. Cllr Blackburn reminded the meeting of members of the public requesting a memorial Christmas tree each year within the church. Cllr Maxwell will approach the	

	<p>Vicar to discuss this later in the year.</p> <p>The Town Clerk emailed Allerdale in regard to Queen Street car park and the litter which has escalated at the benched area. Allerdale have attended the site to trim the shrubbery and collect litter.</p>	
6. Public Participation:	<p>Marion Fitzgerald and Richard Griffin from Allerdale GDF Community Partnership attended the meeting to inform the councillors of their nuclear waste plans for the future. The Government are looking into the disposing of waste in containers and placing these underground between 200-1000 meters below the earth with a surface area of approx. 1 square km. Cumbria as a whole County has been put forward, however the Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) investigate the areas and decide if the land is suitable. Allerdale has agreed to the community partnership but this excludes the lake district due to its natural beauty. The search area currently comprises of 13 wards, including Aspatria however from April this will be reduced to 8 Cumberland wards. The wards include: Dearham and Broughton, Maryport North, Maryport South, Harrington, Mossbay and Moorside, Seaton, St John's and Clifton and St Michael's. Aspatria will no longer be part of the search area, this was decided due to having no access to the coast and the distance/time to get there which would have an impact on cost. The GDF is a project which is likely to run for 150 years and no conclusion yet as to where GDF will be located.</p> <p>Cllr Thurlow had received a phone call from the organiser of the community service workforce requiring additional work to be carried out around the town. Councillors agreed this was a great idea to improve areas of the town. The railings at St Mungos Park were suggested, as these need attention and repainted.</p> <p>Cllr Hankin had received a complaint regarding parking at Tunnel Bridge, the Town Clerk informed the councillor this has been reported previously and looked in to.</p>	
7. Highways:	<p>Town Clerk reported two manholes within the town. One outside West St Medical Centre and one at the entrance to Brandraw car park, both of which were badly damaged but have since been rectified. A sunken drain at the entrance to Queen Street car park has also been reported. Town Clerk reported a manhole at the entrance to Sealy UK which has been completed. The road situated at Your Eyes Opticians is eroding and possibly could be dangerous, this has been reported a number of times. Another man hole outside CJ's bakery is in need of attention. TC to report.</p>	TC
8. To receive for information, reports on	<p>Cllr Thurlow was due to attend a meeting at Allerdale however this was cancelled due to having no agenda.</p>	

<p>issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors:</p> <p>1.1 Councillor Jim Lister</p> <p>1.2 Councillor Kevin Thurlow</p>		
<p>9. Financial Matters:</p>	<p>(i) Expenditure and Income Schedules for December 2022:- RESOLVED that the income and expenditure detailed for December 2022 in the attached schedules be approved.</p> <p>Members also approved the additional invoices for payment:- Aquatrust - Legionella Monitoring £131.10 Aspatia Farmers - £18.60 LR & JA Allen - Fuel £103.22 Cornerstone Methodist Church - Hire of Meeting Room (July to December 2022) £60.00 Tivoli - Outgang Allotment Clearance £336.00 NPower - Toilet Block (December 2022) £92.77 Aspatia Dreamscheme - Christmas Expenditure Reimbursements £370.81 Aspatia Dreamscheme - Fairground Rides £600.00 A Reay - Daffodil Bulbs £11.88 Christmas Light Payment to Residents £258.00</p> <p>(ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation Statements as at 31st December 2022 - RESOLVED that the circulated Bank Reconciliation Statements be confirmed and accepted as a true record.</p> <p>(iii) Quarter 3, 2022/23, Budget Monitoring Report RESOLVED that the income and expenditure position for the third quarter to December 2022 was accepted and approved. The RFO gave an overview of the net position at that date and commented on areas of budget under/over spends as recorded in the schedule. Councillors agreed to the virements made within the report.</p> <p>(iv) Precept for 2023/2024 The Council must set a precept each year by 1 March. At its meeting held on 21 December 2022, the Committee agreed, in principle, a 2023/24 Budget which totalled £103,770. Unfortunately, this figure omitted the previously agreed salary and associated cost increases as well as the recommended election expenses within the Establishment budget heading. The RFO reported that the 2023/24 Budget should have totalled £110,250 and requested Councillors approval of this revised figure for the 2023/24 budget. The RFO explained that this would require a substantial contribution from balances and reminded Councillors that a proportion of the bank</p>	

	<p>balances are required to fund the Brandraw Toilet Block. RESOLVED Councillors agreed the revised figure of £110,250.00 for the 2023/24 budget.</p> <p>Councillors were then asked to consider the figures presented to them in a report which highlighted the impact of a 0%, 3%, 5%, 10%, 11%, 12% and 13% increase on the precept and:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recommend whether or not to increase the precept for 2023/24; and - by what percentage the increase should be made, (if any), in order to assist with the Councils 2023/24 expenditure budget of £110,250. <p>Various discussions were held around what impact various levels of precept increases would have on a band D property, bearing in mind the cost of living crisis currently being experienced by many. The RFO acknowledged the current situation but reminded Councillors that the level of inflation during November/December 2022 was around 11% and that the Council were incurring ever increasing costs on all purchases they made. Again, the RFO explained that the proposed budget did require a substantial contribution from balances.</p> <p>RESOLVED It was agreed that a 5.5% increase be applied to the 22/23 precept amounting to a precept request of £77,500 for 2023/24 (rounded). Councillors understand that this is based on a draft Council Tax Base figure for 2023/24 as supplied by Allerdale, (not finalised until the end of January 2023), and that any change to this will impact the figures discussed. Councillors also agreed that requesting this level of precept will require a contribution from balances to fund the proposed 2023/24 budget.</p>	
<p>10. Town Council Address:</p>	<p>As the Town Clerk has moved address the councillors agreed to change the council address to a PO BOX address with Royal Mail. The council address will be updated on all correspondence and the website.</p>	
<p>11. Allerdale Borough Council Civic Dinner Invitation:</p>	<p>Cllr Alan Maxwell and Cllr Stephanie Maxwell have been invited to Allerdale Borough Council's Civic Dinner at £30 per person. It was in agreeance they would not attend.</p>	
<p>12. Christmas light event & Senior Citizens Christmas treat:</p>	<p>The Christmas raffle was drawn which comprised of 11 prizes. Prizes were as follows: 1st Sealy mattress, 2nd £100 cash, 3rd £50 M&S voucher from Ellenvale, 4th £50 fuel voucher for LR & J Allen, 5th & 6th half price MOT vouchers for Brayton Services, 7th £10 cheese voucher for Lake District Creamery, 8th, 9th and 10th £25 cash and 11th voucher for Sam's takeaway. All winners to be displayed in the noticeboards and on the media pages.</p> <p>Thanks was given from Cllr Reay to Dreamscheme for</p>	

	<p>an excellent event for the switch on and all their hard work. Thanks was also given to the Town Clerk for acquiring funding to help with the cost of the event. Cllr Reay expressed how well the Senior Citizens treat was attended and for the organisation of the event.</p> <p>RFO leaves at 8.45pm</p> <p>Cllr Smith and Cllr Rose leaves at 8.45pm</p>	
13. Display of banner:	The Town Clerk received an email request from the consultant at Slimming World asking for permission to erect two banners around the town for advertising purposes. Councillors agree advertising banners are not permitted to be displayed around the town and any which have been erected are to be removed.	
14. CCTV at Dreamscheme:	Cllr Reay has spoken with the team at Dreamscheme and they are happy for the council to place CCTV on their building. Councillors believe CCTV was previously placed at the Co-op with the monitor residing in the offices of the Co-op, Town Clerk to investigate.	TC
15 Bench installation:	The new bench at Station Road has now been installed. The council purchased an extra bench with funding last year, this will now be placed next to the other new one at the entrance to the churchyard at North Road.	TC
16. Brandraw Car Park Barrier:	The Town Clerk had contacted Amazon again as no funds had been received. Amazon had transferred the funds to the welding company who repaired the barrier, rather than to the council. Town Clerk contacted the welding company and this has now been resolved.	
17. Grant application:	None	
18. Monument Cleaning & Brae Lamp:	Apologies were given for the work not yet being completed due to the adverse weather conditions. The wall situated behind the monument is not currently owned by Allerdale therefore the cost of this being repointed and cleaned will be covered by Aspatria Town Council. Cllr Maxwell provided the meeting with two quotes, one for the completion of the monument and the other being for the cleaning of the Brae lamp. Approved by the councillors.	TC
19. Parks & Allotments:	<p>Cllr Thurlow and Mike Blair met with Unblock Cumbria to try and reduce the flooding at St Mungos Park. Jettors were put into the ground however they advised cameras would need to be placed into the ground to try and resolve the issue. Jubilee Walk footpath is said to still be flooding. Cumbria County Council have been made aware of this and they are now looking to raise the footpath to reduce the flooding in this area.</p> <p>Meeting date to be set for the next Parks and Allotments meeting. Cllr Hankin showed interest in joining the sub-committee.</p>	

	Town Clerk asked for permission to purchase paint and wood stain to use throughout the town, on behalf of the caretaker. This was approved.	
20. Anti-social behaviour:	Cllr Thurlow had witnessed youths setting fire to a pile of leaves underneath the Dreamscheme building. CCTV, audio recordings and pictures of the culprits have been handed to the police. Damage was also caused to the bus shelter at Brandraw car park. Town Clerk was made aware of an incident at St Mungos Park on Sunday 15 th January, where a little girl was hurt due to broken glass being smashed in the childrens play area. The Town Clerk explained to the Councillors, the youths had placed the glass on the climbing frame where young children would place their hands to climb up the frame. Pictures were sent to the Town Clerk and this has now been reported to the police.	Ongoing
21. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.		
22. Applications for Development:		
23. Items submitted by members:		
24. Items for the next meeting:	To discuss changing the time of the full council meetings.	
25. Confidential items:	None.	
26. The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday 21st February at 7.00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall, Aspatria.		

The meeting ended at 9.40pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

