

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 6.00p.m at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatria.

PRESENT: Councillor S Maxwell (Chair)

Councillors: Cllr K Thurlow, Cllr A Hankin, Cllr K Smith, Cllr S Edmondson, Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr A Reay, Cllr E Yates, Cllr B Blackburn

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

Members of the Public: None

Minutes

Item		Action
1.03.25. Apologies: To receive and accept apologies and note the reasons for absence.	Cllr Ray Gregory – Illness Cllr Marie Rose – Prior engagement	
2.03.25. Mayors Announcements/Updates:	Cllr Stephanie Maxwell informed the meeting of Jennifer Marsh’s resignation as a Councillor. RESOLVED	
3.03.25. 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	
4.03.25. Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held 18th February 2025:	The minutes were agreed to be of a true record of the meeting. Approved and signed by the Mayor/Chair. RESOLVED.	
5.03.25. Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Extraordinary Meeting held 5th March 2025:	The minutes were agreed to be of a true record of the meeting. Approved and signed by the Mayor/Chair. RESOLVED.	
6.03.25. Clerks Report:	The Clerk had received a reply from the insurance company regarding the trees in St Mungos Park. The insurance company requested bank details for the council to issue the claim of £1000. RESOLVED The strings of Christmas lights are to be removed from residents’ homes tomorrow (19 th March) by a certified contractor. The lights will be reused within the town. RESOLVED The Spring Clean Litter Pick is to take place between 21 st March-6 th April. The Clerk will circulate on social	

	<p>platforms. RESOLVED The Clerk received notification of the Kubota mower not being taxed with DVLA, however the mower is not used on the road therefore the mower has been declared SORN. RESOLVED Following the 'Town Appreciation' letter sent to Harry Ward, with his help following the storm, he gave thanks and offered further help/assistance in the future. RESOLVED Staff holidays will take place as follows; Town Caretaker will be on annual leave from 30th April-19th May and the Town Clerk will be on annual leave from 11th April-22nd April, however the Clerk will attend the park on bank holiday Monday (21st April) to assist with the Easter day.</p>	
<p>7.03.25. Public Participation:</p>	<p>The Clerk had received a request from an allotment tenant for a skip to be hired at Lawson Street allotments paid for by the council. The tenant had taken on the plot last year which had rubbish from the previous tenant. The plot was re-let to the new tenant free of charge for several months on the understanding they would clear the plot. The councillors agreed as this had been the understanding no skip would be hired, however Cllr Thurlow and the Caretaker agreed to remove the rubbish as and when they could. The Clerk will inform the tenant of the decision. RESOLVED Cllr Smith has been approached to see if the council are celebrating VE Day on 8th May. To be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr Yates informed the council of the unpleasant smell on Lawson Street. This is thought to be from the sewers or the railway bank. Clerk to report to the Environmental Health. Ongoing Following a post on Facebook regarding the Royal Mail issues, Ray Gregory is investigating this from a personal aspect and is visiting Wigton Sorting Office and contacting our local MP Markus Campbell-Savours. Ongoing.</p>	
<p>8.03.25. Highways:</p>	<p>Cllr Maxwell reported the pavement outside the Letters Inn as the surface is in disrepair. The Town Clerk will also report this.</p>	
<p>9.03.25. To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors: Councillor Kevin Thurlow</p>	<p>It was reported the school patrol lights at Richmond Hill School were flashing for too long before and after school drop off/pick up time however guidance states they should continue to flash in order for pedestrians to walk safely home. RESOLVED Cllr Thurlow had a meeting with a Cumberland Council employee to discuss the possibility of installing a footpath at St Mungos Park, which would begin at Cemetery Row and lead round onto North Road near the junction for Westnewton. Ongoing Cllr Thurlow informed the meeting our local MP Markus Campbell-Savours will be holding a surgery in the Letters Inn for anyone to attend on Saturday 21st</p>	

	June 25 between 10am-12.30pm.	
<p>10.03.25. Financial Matters:</p>	<p>i) Expenditure and Income Schedule for February 2025:- RESOLVED that the expenditure of £9,371.85 and income of £1,993.63 be approved.</p> <p>Members also approved the additional invoices for payment:- K Thurlow - £855.00 - Cleaning Toilets from December 2024 to February 2025 Aspatia Farmers - £142.33 - Various Materials NPower - £94.75 - Electricity for Brandraw Toilets (1.2.25 - 28.2.25) LR & JA Allen - £139.24 - Fuel Orion - £47.26 - Service of Fire Extinguishers CALC - £90.00 - Councillor Training Wicksteed - £2,481.13 - Repair and Maintenance of Play Equipment</p> <p>(ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation Statements as at 28th February 2025: - RESOLVED that the circulated Bank Reconciliation Statements be confirmed and accepted as a true record.</p> <p>(iii) Precept 2025/2026 The RFO read out an email received from Cumberland Council which explained that, as from this April 2025, the precept is to be paid as a one-off payment at the beginning of the financial year it relates to, rather than in two instalments, (April and September). It was explained that this was to bring the former Allerdale parishes in line with all other parishes under the new Cumberland Council regime. The RFO explained that as the full precept is to be received at the outset of each financial year, it may be beneficial transferring this into the Council savings account and transferring amounts back to the Council's current account when required, thereby accruing interest. RESOLVED that the email be noted and accepted and the RFO looks into transferring monies between the Council's current and savings account to take advantage of the interest available.</p> <p>(iv) Financial Regulations The RFO explained that NALC/CALC had circulated an update to the Financial Regulations, which suggested some minor amendments with reference to the new procurement legislation. The RFO requested that these amendments be incorporated into our Financial Regulations. RESOLVED that the RFO update the Council's Financial Regulations accordingly and that these be approved and accepted by the Council for implementation.</p>	

<p>11.03.25. Parks & Allotments:</p>	<p>Cllr Thurlow has taken the draft lease from Brockbanks Solicitors, which is to be between Aspatria Town Council and the landowner of Lawson Street allotments to his personal solicitor for verification on information within the lease. Ongoing. It was agreed by Cllrs to purchase the Caretaker three high-visibility vests to wear over current uniform.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Due to damage caused at the footpath in St Mungos Park near the previous shelter, it was advised this be repaired as soon as possible. The Town Clerk received a quote for the work to be carried out and Cllr Thurlow also retrieved a quote. However, following reports from a contractor who has had cameras below ground, there are currently draining rods stuck in the area and therefore it would not be cost effective to lay a new path with the possibility of needing this path broken up to investigate further. Cllr Thurlow and the contractor levelled off the path making it safe for the time being. Three quotes were given to tarmac the area once drainage work has been carried out. It was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Maxwell to go ahead with the drainage works. To be discussed at next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Thurlow and the Town Clerk have been in discussions about placing a rebound wall within the park, this would benefit children who wish to and can play alone with a ball. Ongoing.</p> <p>The Ninja Trail which was purchased with the £20,000 funding from The National Lottery Community Fund acquired by the Clerk is to be installed near the play area at St Mungos Park. The contractor met with councillors and two places were discussed. The Clerk spoke with the contractor following the walkaround and it was decided to place the trail with the existing play equipment on the flat ground near the gate at Cemetery Row. RESOLVED</p> <p>The Clerk asked the councillors if it is possible to place a bike track in Aspatria. The land in St Mungos Park which was previously the putting green seemed to be the preferred area. The Clerk had enquired on prices and would try and allocate funding for this project. The Councillors agreed it would be of benefit to people of the town. The Clerk is to contact the Deputy Head at Beacon Hill School in order to see if we can work together. Ongoing.</p> <p>Cllr Thurlow leaves at 19.15pm</p>	
<p>12.03.25. Town Flowers:</p>	<p>Cllr Reay expressed how disappointing the towns flowers have been over the past couple of years. Cllr Edmondson agreed to provide the Clerk with a list of flowers required for the town and the Clerk would retrieve quotes. It was suggested the Clerk try Maryport Aggregates and Tivoli, getting quotes for the supplying of flowers and in addition, the watering of them. Ongoing</p>	

13.03.25. Land at Crookey:	<p>The council owned land at Crookey was initially rented out on a ten-year lease, however due to the tenant no longer being with us, the Clerk was contacted by a neighbour who would like to rent the land. It was agreed the council would re-let the land however this would be on an annual basis rather than a ten-year lease. RESOLVED</p> <p>Jack Baker leaves at 8pm</p>	
14.03.25. Aspatria Neighbourhood Watch:	<p>There have been several complaints made to councillors and the Clerk regarding strangers in the town who have shown worrying behaviour. Reports have been made to the police on occasions and following several posts on social media the councillors are concerned for the safety of people in the town. It was agreed the Clerk will liaise with our local MP Markus Campbell-Savours, contact Homegroup to find out if people being housed in town have to have a connection to the area and also contact Cumbria police. Ongoing.</p>	
15.03.25. Data Protection Policy:	<p>The Councillors received the policy prior to the meeting. This was agreed and adopted at this meeting on 18th March. The policy will be updated on the council website. RESOLVED</p>	
16.03.25. Railway 200 Competition:	<p>To celebrate and mark the 200th anniversary of the modern railway it was decided at a previous meeting to involve Richmond Hill School and get them to design/paint/draw a train. Each year group in juniors (year3,4,5,6) would participate and a winner from each year group would be chosen. The competition was judged by the councillors, the Clerk and the RFO. The winners would receive £10 book token each and their pictures displayed on social platforms, in our noticeboards and also on a banner erected at the station provided by the Railway Committee. The winners are as follows; Year 3 was Leonie Hetherington, Year 4 was Kylie Walsh, Year 5 was Hollie Arrowsmith and Year 6 was Toby McClellan.</p>	
17.03.25. Town Events:	<p>To be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	
18.03.25. Town Council Appreciation Scheme:	<p>It was agreed to send a letter of appreciation to Jennifer Marsh to thank her for her help on the council. RESOLVED</p>	
19.03.25. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.		
20.03.25. Applications for Development:	<p>Applicant: St Cuthberts Garden Village Plans. To be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	

21.03.25. Items submitted by members:	None	
22.03.25. Items for the next meeting:	VE Day 8 th May 2025 St Cuthberts Garden Village Plans	
23.03.25. The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 6pm.		

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.

