

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 6.00p.m at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatria.

PRESENT: Councillor A Maxwell (Chair)

Councillors: Cllr S Maxwell, Cllr K Thurlow, Cllr A Hankin, Cllr K Smith, Cllr M Rose, Cllr L Hunter, Cllr S Edmondson, Cllr R Gregory, Cllr D McRea, Cllr A Reay, Cllr C Macdonald, Cllr J Marsh

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

Minutes

| Item | | Action |
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| 1. Apologies: To receive and accept apologies and note the reasons for absence. | Cllr H Barker – Prior engagement The Town Clerk informed the meeting Chris Wilkinson has resigned as a Councillor. | |
| 2. Mayors Announcements/Updates: | No updates or announcements. | |
| 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 20th February 2024 : | The minutes were agreed to be of a true record of the last meeting. Approved | |
| 5. Clerks Report: | As per item 10 of the minutes from February meeting, the taps in the Brandraw toilets have been repaired by the Town Caretaker. Resolved. As per item 14 of February minutes, the Clerk has requested an extra bin from Cumberland Council to be erected at Lawson Street allotments. | |
| 6. Public Participation: | It has been brought to the attention of Cllr Smith, the condition of the rear of Beacon Hill School being very untidy. Rubbish, moss and dirt has accumulated over time making the school look very unwelcoming. The Town Clerk is to make contact with the school to voice concerns. Cllr Reay informed the meeting, the benches which reside at Brayton Park have been in place for many years, belong to Home Housing. These are in need of repair in order for the Senior Citizens to use them throughout warmer weather. Town Clerk to contact | TC |

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| | <p>Home Housing.</p> <p>The Clerk has received an email regarding the bench near the speed limit signs at Brayton Park as this is broken, it was agreed the Town Caretaker will repair the bench.</p> <p>Cllr Marsh has received a complaint about the large tractor parked on the land where the Brae Lamp is located. This land, in previous years was owned by the Council, investigations will be ongoing to prove ownership of the land.</p> | TC |
| 7. Confidential Items: | None | |
| 8. Parks & Allotments: | <p>The two mowers are due to be serviced by Lloyds this week, these will be done on site. It was agreed the council would purchase a new hand mower to replace the current one, which is no longer working and also to purchase a pressure washer.</p> <p>The CCTV in the changing rooms at St Mungos park have been repaired however the quality of the cameras are not great. It was agreed the Clerk will acquire quotes for four new cameras to be erected. Cllr McRea stated the Football Club will contribute towards the cost of the cameras, as these will be beneficial to those using the park for training/matches.</p> <p>The Clerk has secured a large amount of funding through Pitch Power to improve the two pitches. In order to receive the funding, two volunteers must complete a groundsmanship course. It is felt the football club should be heavily involved as this is to benefit all teams. Cllr McRea will speak to coaches to gather interest for participants to attend the course. The Clerk will also contact the FA for further assistance.</p> <p>The majority of agreements and rentals payments for the allotments has now been received, leaving six plots available at the moment. The Town Clerk will contact those on the waiting list to get these plots re-let.</p> <p>The Town Caretaker has requested some green paint in order to paint the bus shelters in the town, it was agreed to contact a trade company in Carlisle to open an account for the paint and brushes to be purchased.</p> <p>Town Caretaker leaves at 7pm.</p> | |
| 9. Highways: | <p>On 20th January several Councillors met with a member of MP Mark Jenkinsons office to address the condition of the road through Aspatria and also the road at Arkleby. Cllr Maxwell relayed a letter received from MP Mark Jenkinson stating some road defects have been attended to however further repairs are due to be looked at in the future. The Department of Transport has allocated an additional £148 million to Cumberland Council to improve the local roads.</p> | |

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| | <p>Jubilee Walk footpath will be closed over the Easter Holidays for resurfacing work to be carried out. Cllr Thurlow reminded the Councillors of the lengthy process in reporting the potholes in the roads and often the highways will patch the surface until they are scheduled to carry out a full repair.</p> <p>The safety crossing patrol at Richmond Hill School has been visited by Cumbria Police, who have provided him with a bodycam to help reduce the concerns whilst crossing children and parents to and from school. Any incidents recorded will be sent to the police. Extra standing figures are also being purchased to place on the zig zag area to stop vehicles parking in the restricted area.</p> <p>Cllr Thurlow leaves at 7.30pm</p> | |
| <p>10. To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors: 9.1 Councillor Kevin Thurlow</p> | <p>As per item 9 on this agenda.</p> | |
| <p>11. Financial Matters:</p> | <p>i) Expenditure and Income Schedule for February 2024:- RESOLVED that the expenditure of £8,814.21 and income of £1,590.00 be approved.</p> <p>Members also approved the additional invoices for payment:- Parakeet Print - £315.00 Graphics to van Npower - £71.67 Electricity for Brandraw Toilets 1.2.24 - 29.2.24 P Glaister - £70.00 Repayment of Allotment Rent Duplicate Payment</p> <p>(ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation Statements as at 29th February 2024: - RESOLVED that the circulated Bank Reconciliation Statements be confirmed and accepted as a true record.</p> <p>(iii) Water Rate for Brandraw Toilets:- The RFO explained that having supplied all the necessary information, she has now been given online access to the water account and has submitted the latest water meter reading. This should generate a bill which will be reported to the next meeting.</p> <p>(iv) Grant and Financial Assistance:- The RFO was asked whether the Council are now in a position to offer grant assistance to the public following the temporary freeze on these. The RFO reminded Councillors why this freeze was implemented following the consistent use of Council balances to fund day to day operations. The RFO</p> | |

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| | <p>continued to state that as the 2023/2024 financial year end is approaching, this will enable the year end financial position to be finalised. In addition, the 2024/2025 precept should also be confirmed by Cumberland Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED once the 2023/2024 year end bank position is finalised and confirmation of the 2024/2025 precept is received, the Council will be in a better position to establish whether the temporary freeze on grant assistance can be lifted for the coming financial year (2024/2025).</p> | |
| <p>12. Council's Policies: Policies to be reviewed, adopted and updated on the council website.</p> | <p>The Town Clerk updated and circulated the Risk Assessment/Risk Management Policy prior to the meeting. All Councillors were in agreeance this policy be adopted at tonight's meeting on 19th March. This will be updated on the council website.</p> | TC |
| <p>13. Christmas Lights and Events:</p> | <p>The Clerk is waiting on a reply from Cumberland Council regarding the power source if the Christmas lights are to be fixed on to the street lights. Ongoing.</p> <p>The Clerk provided the council with the menu choices and price for the Senior Citizens Treat, it was all agreed to go ahead with the new menu for the event.</p> | |
| <p>14. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.</p> | | |
| <p>15. Applications for Development:</p> | None to be discussed. | |
| <p>16. Items submitted by members:</p> | None | |
| <p>17. Items for the next meeting:</p> | | |
| <p>18. The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 6pm.</p> | | |

The meeting ended at 8.05pm

