

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 6.00p.m at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatria.

PRESENT: Councillor A Maxwell (Chair)

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

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

Minutes

Item		Action
1. Apologies: To receive and accept apologies and note the reasons for absence.	Cllr C Wilkinson – illness Cllr S Edmondson – Prior engagement Cllr H Barker – Prior engagement Cllr D McRea	
2. Mayors Announcements/Updates:	The Mayor’s end of year review will be uploaded to the website by the end of the year. The carol service held at the Methodist Church on Sunday 17 th December was well attended and several Councillors agreed it was a lovely service. Cllr Maxwell had met with the Town Caretaker to finalise the employee contract, and these were signed by the Town Clerk and the Town Caretaker.	
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 21st November 2023:	Approved.	
5. Clerks Report:	The Town Clerk applied to DVLA for details of the driver who caused damage to the barrier at Brandraw car park, awaiting a reply. Cllr Maxwell has taken photo evidence of the Mayor’s board which was on display in the library, of all the previous Mayor’s, this will be used to engrave the Mayor’s and Deputy Mayor’s chains. The Town Caretaker is on annual leave from 9 th January - 24 th January 2024. The ‘Entrance’ and ‘Exit’ signs at Queen St car park were previously reported to Cumberland Council as they need replacing, this is going to be looked at immediately.	

6. Public Participation:	Nothing	
7. Confidential Items:	None	
8. Highways:	Cllr Gregory has filed a complaint to the Highways Dept regarding the A596 road from Brayton Road to the junction heading to Hayton at West Street. Several drain covers are in disrepair, with the drain outside the Post Office being constantly blocked and numerous potholes forming. Cllr Gregory has also provided photo evidence.	
9. To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors: 9.1 Councillor Kevin Thurlow	The corner at St Mungos Memorial Park heading to Westnewton often falls victim to flooding, however this seems to have been resolved due to maintenance work carried out. Cllr Thurlow had a meeting regarding Jubilee Walk footpath and the possibility of the surface being tarmacked, this has gone out to tender and awaiting quotes for this. Cllr Thurlow has liaised with Castles and Coasts in connection with Harriston as no allotments are currently being let and waste from outside residents' homes needs clearing. The road between Aspatria and Hayton have been reported to highways due to potholes forming in this area, it is advised as many of the public as possible should report any issues to get these rectified.	
10. Purchasing of Christmas stock by Dreamscheme:	An invoice was received by Dreamscheme for the refreshments purchased for the light switch on event, which was of a considerable amount. Any remaining stock not used is used at the youth club and the rainbow rooms. Cllr Smith suggested less stock should be purchased to reduce the amount paid for by the council. Cllr Rose put it to the meeting the Clerk should purchase the stock with the council debit card. It was agreed in future a list of stock would be made before the event and the Clerk will make the purchase. Cllr Hunter informed the meeting it is possible we would need new Christmas trees for the grotto next year. To be discussed at the next meeting.	
11. Financial Matters:	(i) Expenditure and Income Schedule for November 2023:- RESOLVED that the expenditure of £7,499.31 and income of £3,894.82 be approved. Councillors also agreed the following payments to be made:- K Thurlow - £80.00 - (Reimbursement for Christmas Helpers) A&S Maxwell - £50.50 - (Reimbursement for Senior Citizens Christmas Hamper) B Wilson - £150.00 - (Singer for Senior Citizens Christmas Party) Donation to Silloth Rotary Club - £100.00 Donation to Eden Valley Hospice £100.00 Donation to Beacon Hill School - £100.00 Aspatria Dreamscheme - £553.87 - (Reimbursement for Christmas Light Switch On)	

	<p>Npower - £64.63 - (Electricity for Brandraw Toilets 1.11.23 - 30.11.23) LR & JA Allen - £132.71 - (Fuel) Podsigns - £144.00 - (Parking Signs) Ministry of Doing - £290.00 - (Annual Web Hosting 1.11.23 to 31.10.24) ColourGro - £129.94 - (Bedding Plants) Cumbria Pest Services - £145.20 - (Allotments Rodent Control)</p> <p>(ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation and Statements as at 30th November 2023:- RESOLVED that the Bank Reconciliation and corresponding Statements be confirmed and accepted as a true record.</p> <p>(iii) Proposed 24/25 Budget and Appendix A: The RFO talked through each line of the 2024/25 proposed budget and requested guidance from Councillors in respect of any future works which may be planned or known costs to be incurred. The RFO explained that she has left the Playground budget as the current year to cover costs associated with the repair of the play equipment. It was also explained that the budget heading of 'Cumbria in Bloom' has now been removed. RESOLVED the Councillors approved a proposed 2024/25 budget amounting to £109,250 noting that this will require a contribution from balances of £19,490 should no increase in precept be agreed for the next financial year. It was also acknowledged that this 2024/25 budget does not include:- - any expenditure or income in relation to a proposed second asset transfer (toilet block) or - backdated water rates in relation to the Brandraw Toilet Block.</p> <p>The RFO informed Councillors that the precept setting report would be brought to the January 2024 meeting based on this approved budget.</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 Data Breach Policy prior to the meeting. All Councillors were in agreeance this policy be adopted at tonights meeting on 19th December. This will be updated on the council website.</p>	<p>TC</p>
<p>13. Christmas Events:</p>	<p>The Town Clerk has been informed some of the Christmas lights in the town aren't working, this has been reported to the contractor. The Senior Citizen's treat was a fantastic afternoon enjoyed by all. Thanks was given to the singer Barbara who kept us entertained. Gratitude was given by all Councillors to the Deputy Head, Adam Young at Beacon Hill School for providing us with a choir at short notice, as well as the school council who help serve the meals and also for use of the hall for the</p>	

	<p>light switch on. It was agreed the council would donate £100 to the school to show our appreciation. Thanks was given to the Town Clerk for organising the choir at short notice.</p> <p>Thanks was given to Cllr Hunter and all the volunteers at Dreamscheme for all their hard work with the grotto and help in organising the light switch on event.</p> <p>The council also agreed to pay £100 to Jigsaw, Eden Valley Hospice children's charity for our Santa and £100 to Silloth Rotary Club for their help and use of Santa's sleigh.</p> <p>The room at the Masonic Hall is booked for next year's event and the singer for next year has also been booked.</p> <p>The caterer for the Senior Citizens treat has proposed at next years' event we provide soup, pie and peas and a choice of puddings instead of salad and various cakes. This is to be discussed further at the next meeting.</p>	
14. Aspatria Medical Group 'Melissa Bus':	<p>The Town Clerk received an email from student nurses based at Aspatria Medical Group who are to run a clinic for diabetes prevention. This will take place in a double decker bus called the 'Melissa' bus and is essentially a healthcare clinic on wheels. It was in agreeance the bus could use Brandraw car park for the day in order for the clinic to take place. The provisional date for this is 19th January – 8am-4pm. This was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Hankin.</p>	
15. Brandraw car park:	<p>Cllr Thurlow is to investigate the water meter at Brandraw toilets to ensure we are paying the correct amount.</p>	
16. Councillor Training Course:	<p>The Councillors are to attend a 'Councillor' training course in the new year. The Clerk has contacted Beacon Hill School to enquire if we could run the course from there. The Clerk is awaiting on a date from the course trainer.</p>	
17. Parks & Allotments:	<p>The council mowers are due to be serviced. The Clerk is contact Lloyds for more information, including cost, location of service and availability.</p> <p>The Clerk is to enquire about funding to possibly purchase new equipment for the play park at the Memorial Park. More information needed for this to be discussed further.</p>	Ongoing
18. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.		
19. Applications for Development:	<p>Application 2/23/9004 – New vehicular access to quarry, proposal has been withdrawn.</p>	

20. Items submitted by members:	None	
21. Items for the next meeting:	Catering for Senior Citizen treat 2024 Christmas trees for grotto Christmas lights Funding for play park	
21. The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 6pm.		

The meeting ended at 8.00pm

