

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20th December 2022 at 7.00 p.m. at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatria.

PRESENT: Councillor A Maxwell (Chair)

Councillors: Cllr S Maxwell, Cllr B Blackburn, Cllr K Thurlow, Cllr R Gregory, Cllr A Hankin

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 A Reay, Cllr K Smith, Cllr M Rose, Cllr D McRea, Mr Jim Lister	
2. Mayors Announcements/Updates:	<p>Cllr Maxwell welcomed our newest councillor, Mr Adam Hankin to the meeting. Cllr Maxwell gave thanks to Cllr Stephanie Maxwell (Deputy Mayor), Town Clerk and the RFO for their continued help and support throughout the year.</p> <p>Cllr Alan Maxwell was invited to the opening of a new production line at First Milk, which included a tour of the premises followed by an event held at the Rugby Club. The production line creates employment for approx. 60 employees. Cllr Maxwell was very impressed with the equipment.</p> <p>Cllr Alan Maxwell and Cllr Stephanie Maxwell attended the town carol service held at the Methodist Church. This was said to be a lovely event however, it was not as well attended as hoped.</p>	
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 15th November 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:	The Parks & Allotments Committee are to confirm a meeting date early in the new year. Town Clerk to investigate the CCTV being placed at Dreamscheme	TC

	to overlook Brandraw car park. The library is now closed for the developments to be carried out. They are currently providing services from the Sure Start building near the Rainbow rooms.	
6. Public Participation:	Cllr Blackburn has been approached by a member of the public regarding Aspatria not displaying a memorial tree along with a star at Christmas time in memory of those no longer with us. It is possible this could be placed at the rear of St Kentigerns Church, however this would have to be discussed with Stewart Fyfe and Matt Richards of the Church. Cllr Thurlow also requested a memorial for miners of Aspatria who died whilst working in the mines. Cllr Maxwell suggested placing this in the Memorial Gardens at St Mungos Park. Cllr Thurlow to retrieve the names of the miners and Town Clerk to investigate a naming slate.	Ongoing KT & TC
7. Highways:	Town Clerk has 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. These are being dealt with appropriately. Cllr Gregory and Cllr Blackburn were in agreement of the sunken drain located at Queen St car park causing issues on entering the car park.	TC to report
8. To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors: 1.1 Councillor Jim Lister 1.2 Councillor Kevin Thurlow	None	
9. Financial Matters:	(i) Income and Expenditure for November 2022: RESOLVED that the income and expenditure detailed for November 2022 in the attached schedules be approved. Members also approved the following payments to be made: npower - Toilet Block £40.84 Aspatria Farmers £65.72 Cumbria Pest Services - Allotment Rodent Control £132.00 Orion - Annual Service of Fire Extinguishers £42.00 Jean Airey - Six Months Audit £109.90 Gwen Atkinson - Civic Buffet (Two Years) - £285.00 LR & JA Allen £120.22 Shane Buchanan - Instal Bench Station Road - £200.00 Shane Buchanan - 3 x Allotment Fencing and 2 Gates £1000.00 (ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 30th November 2022: RESOLVED that the circulated Bank Reconciliation be	

	<p>confirmed and accepted as a true record.</p> <p>(iii) Internal Audit Report to September 2022: RESOLVED that the half yearly financial audit report be accepted. No recommendations were made for implementation.</p> <p>(iv) Proposed 23/24 Budget and Appendix A: The RFO talked through each line of the 2023/24 proposed budget and requested guidance from Councillors in respect of any future works which may be planned, specifically costs associated with a rebound wall within the play area. RESOLVED the Councillors requested that an additional £4,000 be added to the Play Equipment budget line to cover any potential installation of a rebound wall. A proposed 2023/24 budget amounting to £103,770.00 was then approved with Councillors noting that this will require a contribution from balances of £18,710.00 should no increase in precept be agreed for the next financial year. It was also acknowledged that this 2023/24 budget does not include:- - any expenditure or income in relation to a proposed second asset transfer (toilet block) or - expenditure relating to any increase in the allotment rent paid to the land owner.</p> <p>The RFO informed Councillors that the precept setting report would be brought to the January 2023 meeting based on this approved budget.</p>	
10. Allerdale Borough Council Civic Dinner Invitation:	Cllr Alan Maxwell and Cllr Stephanie Maxwell have been invited to Allerdale Borough Council's Civic Dinner. This is to be discussed at the next meeting.	
11. Christmas light event & Senior Citizens Christmas treat:	Apologies were given by Cllr Maxwell (Mayor) and Cllr Maxwell (Deputy Mayor) as they could not attend the Christmas light switch on event held on 4 th December. Excellent turn out and thanks was given to everyone involved. The Senior Citizens Treat was the first event for three years. This was another excellent event which was well attended. Thanks was given for some brilliant raffle prizes donated by local businesses and local people. Both Christmas events were a credit to the council.	
12. 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. Town Clerk to request more information on the sizing of the banners and this will be discussed at the next meeting.	TC
13. Proposal of bench installation:	Town Clerk had written to a local business in order to gain permission to install a bench outside the property, however the business owner replied stating this decision was not viable. Cllrs were in agreeance to replace the bench at Outgang Road with the new bench, as this is used often and is in disrepair. Town	TC

	Clerk to contact the groundsman.	
14. EV Chargers:	Town Clerk is awaiting on further information for this to be discussed. Next meeting.	
15. Brandraw Car Park Barrier:	The RFO updated the meeting the funds for repairing the damaged barrier have not yet been reimbursed to the council. Town Clerk to contact again.	TC
16. Grant application:	None	
17. Monument Cleaning:	Cllr Maxwell informed the Cllrs the cleaning of the monument has been delayed due to the adverse weather conditions. Cllrs are impressed with the work carried out so far. It has been established the wall at the rear of the monument does not belong to Allerdale Borough Council therefore this would not be included in the remedial work being carried out. It was agreed Aspatria Town Council would retrieve a quote for the wall to be completed alongside the Brae Lamp, which is also owned by Aspatria Town Council.	Ongoing
18. Queen Street car park toilets:	Due to the changes taking place at Allerdale Borough Council, the ownership of the toilet block is to be revisited later in the year. Several Cllrs voiced their concern on Queen St car park regarding litter being distributed in the shrubbery area. Town Clerk to contact Allerdale.	Ongoing TC
19. Parks & Allotments:	A Parks and Allotments meeting is to be confirmed in the New Year. One item to be discussed is the replacement of hedgecutters for our town caretaker. It was confirmed by the RFO, having discussed this with our insurance company that Mike Blair is covered personally to work on any land whereby it is not owned by Aspatria Town Council. Mike Blair attends to land which has property of the council situated there. Any land or grassed areas not owned by the council are therefore not council responsibility.	Ongoing
20. Anti-social behaviour:	It is felt ASB seems to have quietened down throughout the town. Town Clerk informed the meeting of a new PCSO circulating the town both via vehicle and on foot. The PCSO has been visiting local businesses/retail outlets to familiarise herself. This seems to be having a positive outcome.	
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:		

25. Confidential items:	None.	
26. The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday 17 th January at 7.00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall, Aspatria.		

The meeting ended at 8.35pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

