

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 7.00 p.m.
at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatria.**

PRESENT: Councillor A Maxwell (Chair)

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

Also in Attendance: Mrs K Cooper (Town Clerk), Ms S Hullock (RFO), Mr J Lister (Allerdale BC)

Minutes

Item		Action
1. Apologies: To receive and accept apologies and note the reasons for absence.	None.	
2. Mayors Announcements/Updates:	Nothing to report.	
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 17th January 2023: To authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last Aspatria Town Council Meeting.	Approved.	
5. Clerk's Report:	<p>Cllr Reay requested an update on the Lawson Monument situated at Market Square as this has taken a considerable amount of time to complete. Cllr Maxwell explained the work had taken longer than expected due to the weather we have endured, and the scaffolding had in fact been removed that day and work completed.</p> <p>On receiving a brochure at the previous meeting on GDF funding, Cllr Maxwell asked Town Clerk if this was possible to apply for. Town Clerk stated enquiries were made however due to Aspatria leaving the search area in March/April time and the length of the application process, we were advised by GDF the time scale was insufficient.</p>	

<p>6. Public Participation:</p>	<p>Cllr Blackburn had received a message from a member of the public requiring grass to be cut at St Mungos Park. Several Cllrs and the Town Clerk have also received correspondence from the same party. The resident has been informed previously of a contract for the land to be cut, as this land does not belong to Aspatria Town Council.</p> <p>It has been reported the bench outside the Masonic Hall has been removed from where it is situated to across the road. Cllr Gregory investigated this and found slight damage to the bench and was not secured to the pavement. Neighbours are said to know the culprits of damage caused.</p>	<p>TC to put in writing</p> <p>TC to investigate. MB to repair bench</p>
<p>7. Highways:</p>	<p>Town Clerk previously reported two manholes, one being outside CJ's bakery and the other at Your Eyes entrance on Outgang Road. These have not yet been completed and are said to be dangerous. It was brought to the attention of the councillors, on reporting to the highways department the report is then forwarded to a contractor called Connect who complete the work on the roads on behalf of highways.</p>	<p>TC to contact again</p>
<p>8. To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Councillor Jim Lister 1.2 Councillor Kevin Thurlow 	<p>Mr Lister told the meeting the bin department at Allerdale continue to be in a deficit due to diesel bills. There are talks of strikes occurring by 1st April 2023. The refuse dept coped well with the treacherous weather conditions of late, with it being at the drivers' discretion as to collect waste on icy roads. It has been discussed bin collections are to be fortnightly to help with costs.</p> <p>Cllr Reay asked why gritters would be circulated when no frost had laid. Mr Lister stated if the forecast shows temperatures of 4 degrees and below, gritters are sent out.</p> <p>Council Tax in Allerdale is to rise to 6.7% as opposed to the maximum amount of 5% due to other areas in Cumbria previously paying more, this will equal the amount when Cumberland Council begins in April.</p> <p>The wall located behind the Lawson Monument which is owned by Allerdale has a tree planted next to it which is falling over causing damage to the area.</p> <p>Mr Lister leaves at 7.30pm.</p>	<p>TC to contact Allerdale</p>
<p>9. Financial Matters:</p>	<p>Financial Matters.</p> <p>(i) Expenditure and Income Schedule for January 2023:-</p> <p>RESOLVED that the income and expenditure detailed for January 2023 in the attached schedule be approved.</p> <p>Councillors also agreed the following payments to be made:-</p> <p>Dreamscheme - Christmas expenditure £67.96 NPower - Electricity Brandraw Toilets (1.1.23 to 31.1.23) £56.16</p>	

	<p>LR & JA Allen - Fuel £17.73 Aspatria Farmers - Replacement Sensor and Rock Salt £155.40 Unblock Cumbria - Clean/Jet Drains and Report (two Invoices) £1020.00 in total</p> <p>Although the Cumbria Coal Ltd invoice of £7,562.96 relating to Christmas lights was approved for payment, this was discussed in detail. The majority of the additional costs, (in comparison to the previous years invoice), of approx £3,000 was incurred due to installation and making operational the additional lights which were purchased under the Welcome Back Funding last financial year.</p> <p>(ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31st January 2023:- RESOLVED that the circulated Bank Reconciliation Statement be confirmed and accepted as a true record.</p> <p>The RFO answered all questions raised in relation to various payments made.</p>	
10. Kings Coronation 6th May:	<p>Cllr Smith and the carnival committee were hoping to host an event to celebrate the Kings Coronation in May with the funds left over in the Gala committee account, however the venue and the fair rides are already booked. A family day will still go ahead but not until June. Town Clerk suggested purchasing a tree and an engraved plaque to erect in celebration of the Kings Coronation. It was decided this would be placed at the Brandraw car park.</p>	TC
11. Cumberland FA:	<p>Cumberland FA attended St Mungos Park and met with Cllr Reay, Cllr Thurlow, Cllr McRea, Town Clerk and Mike Blair to discuss the pitch area and what can be done to maintain the grass. Funding is available through the FA to maintain the pitch, following a report and samples of the ground being taken. It was advised the verti-draining should be completed 2/3 times a year. Cumberland FA are to contact Mike Blair to arrange a report of the area.</p>	Ongoing
12. Aspatria Train Station Digital Display:	<p>Members of the public have contacted the council to question why Aspatria is the only line without a digital display board. Town Clerk contacted Network Rail and received an email back informing us that Northern Rail has recently completed the regulatory processes to install 2 display screens which should be completed soon.</p>	
13. Community Payback Project:	<p>The Town Clerk and Cllr Thurlow had a meeting with two supervisors from the Community Payback scheme in order to provide them several areas of Aspatria which needs attention, the first being St Mungos Park. Town Clerk completed the relevant paperwork, and the project began earlier this month. They are to be cleaning and painting the railings, wood staining the memorial garden fence and tidying up and washing</p>	

	the pathways. The Councillors are happy with this project.	Ongoing
14. Council meeting times:	Cllr Reay wanted to make a suggestion to the council in regard to the start and end time of the council meetings. The meetings are to last two hours, with all items on the agenda to be discussed. Cllr Blackburn proposed a 6pm start which was seconded by Cllr Smith. The council meetings will now take place on the third Tuesday of every month 6pm-8pm.	
15 Memorial plaque for miners:	It has been agreed two signs of A4 size will be purchased in memory of those who lost their lives down the Aspatria coal pits. One sign will be displayed on the pit cart located at Lawson Street and the other will be erected at the Memorial Garden at St Mungos Park. All Councillors were in agreeance of the wording.	TC
16. CCTV:	Dreamscheme have given the council permission to display a CCTV system on their building which will cover Brandraw car park and the toilet block. Town Clerk was advised by a police officer that funding may be available to help purchase a CCTV system.	TC to investigate
17. Bench installation and memorial bench:	Cllr Reay proposed the new bench held at Mike Blairs compound be placed in St Mungos Park near the changing rooms, as there is a space where a previous bench was located. All agreed. Aspatria is to receive a memorial bench from Allerdale to mark the end of Allerdale council. Town Clerk has retrieved a quote for a new bench and installation and forwarded this to Allerdale for payment. Cllr Thurlow suggested this new bench to be secured at the Masonic Hall to replace the damaged bench. All agreed	
18. Grant application:	None	
19. Monument Cleaning & Brae Lamp:	Cllr Stephanie Maxwell commented on how lovely the Brae lamp at Brandraw looks as it has been cleaned, however it requires being painted. Due to Health and Safety issues, scaffolding would need to be erected for the Caretaker to complete this task. Cllr Gregory proposed we gather three estimates for the lamp to be repainted. To be discussed at the next meeting.	TC
20. Parks & Allotments:	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, Cllr Thurlow produced a folder of evidence to be assessed by Cllr Maxwell. Tenancy agreements have been circulated to allotment holders for the current year. A Parks and Allotments meeting date was confirmed for 7 th March at 5pm held at the Letters Inn. It was agreed to purchase Mike Blair some new hedgecutters as the current set he has no longer work. Town Clerk will liaise with Mike to resolve this. Advertising banners were displayed at St Mungos	Ongoing

	Park railings without permission from the council to do so. Town Clerk wrote to the businesses to remove the banners, and some have been taken down. The remaining banners will be removed.	MB
21. Anti-social behaviour:	The internal door at the gents toilet at Brandraw toilet block has been damaged. Cllr Thurlow was able to repair the door however further damage has since occurred. Following the damage to the bus stop at Brandraw car park, 2 panels which were smashed need replacing.	Ongoing
22. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.		
23. Applications for Development:	None	
24. Items submitted by members:		
25. Items for the next meeting:	To discuss Christmas lights throughout the town. Fly tipping at Queen Street car park.	
26. Confidential items:	None.	
27. The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday 21st March at 6.00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall, Aspatria.		

The meeting ended at 8.55pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

