

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 6.00 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,
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.	Cllr Alan Reay	
2. Mayors Announcements/Updates:	<p>Cllr Maxwell apologised for the cancellation of two Parks & Allotments meetings due to illness. These were scheduled for 7th March and 16th March. Another date to be confirmed.</p> <p>On Monday 13th March an accident occurred whereby the Town Council van was damaged, a quote for the repair work was acquired and Town Clerk contacted the other party who agreed to payment for repairs. Changes are to be made at the council meetings which now take place at the earlier time of 6pm. Each subject will be addressed by the Chair and any input from Councillors will be welcomed, however this must be done one at a time and respect others to speak. Any disputes between Councillors will be taken to a vote. All in agreeance.</p> <p>Training courses are available for new councillors to attend, Town Clerk to provide further information on the courses available for the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Gregory highlighted large amounts of rubbish distributed at Aspatria Library. Town Clerk reported this and asked for an update on the developments of the library. An email was received stating the rubbish has been reported and unfortunately the developments have been delayed but work should begin in the next few weeks and will last for the next few months.</p> <p>Staff appraisals are due, time and dates to be confirmed.</p>	Payment received. Van to be repaired.
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	None.	

Registerable Interests) relating to any items on the agenda.		
4. Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held Tuesday 21st February 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>As per point 6 of last month's minutes, a new bench will replace the damaged one near the Masonic Hall. This bench is a commemorative bench from Allerdale Borough Council as the council changes in April. This has been ordered and awaiting delivery.</p> <p>The drain at the entrance to Queen Street car park has been reported however has not yet been attended to. Town Clerk to chase up.</p> <p>The tree located at the wall behind the Lawson Monument is causing damage. Town Clerk contacted Allerdale to investigate the ownership of the wall as it has been advised the tree should be removed. Cllr Thurlow to investigate further.</p> <p>As per point 10 of last month's minutes the council will celebrate the King's Coronation by planting a tree at Brandraw car park, this will take place during April.</p> <p>Point 11 of February minutes – Cumberland FA attended St Mungo's Park and advised we have the pitch verti-drained twice a year to help with the flooding problem. The Clerk is to acquire two quotes for this work to be carried out however following a report from Unblock Cumbria it appears the drains are damaged and tree roots inside the drains are causing problems with water not able to drain away. Town Clerk to research any funding available to assist the council in rectifying the problem.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>KT</p> <p>TC</p> <p>TC</p>
6. Public Participation:	Cllr Smith has been approached by several local people complaining about Homegroup offering housing to people from outside the catchment area of Aspatria. Town Clerk to write an official letter to Homegroup.	TC
7. Highways:	Cllr Blackburn informed the meeting of a sunken drain and a pothole outside Brandraw House. Town Clerk to report.	TC
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	<p>Several drains have been attended to throughout the town, areas include Ellengarth, West Street and North View. The work to clear the drains is being carried out over a two-week period.</p> <p>Cllr Thurlow advised the councillors to report any issues with potholes and drains to the highways department as well as the Clerk.</p>	

<p>9. Financial Matters:</p>	<p>Financial Matters.</p> <p>(i) Expenditure and Income Schedule for February 2023:- RESOLVED that the income and expenditure detailed for February 2023 in the attached schedule be approved.</p> <p>Councillors also agreed the following payments to be made:- NPower - Electricity Brandraw Toilets (1.2.23 to 28.2.23) £44.37 groGreen - Lawn Sand etc for Bowling Green £433.20 Brayton Services - Van MOT £50.00 Aspatia Farmers - Wire Brushes and Toilet Rolls for Changing Rooms £44.76 LR & JA Allen - Fuel £134.39 Steves Paints - Paint and Wood Stain £69.60 HD Systems Aspatia Ltd - Monument Wall - £950.00 HD Systems Aspatia Ltd - Brae Lamp £450.00 Cumbria Pest Services - Allotment Rodent Control (April 23 - June 23) £145.20 (to be paid in April 2023)</p> <p>(ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 28th February 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> <p>The RFO expressed her concerns to the Councillors regarding the diminishing level of bank balances this financial year and reminded the Council that we have budgeted to use balances to support spending in the next financial year, (2023/2024). The RFO explained that the Council needs to be even more prudent when approving expenditure going forward and ensure we understand any further financial implications all decisions may have.</p> <p>Given the current situation, the RFO recommended that grant applications be frozen with immediate effect until the financial position of the Council is better understood for the coming financial year. As the finances are continually reviewed, the RFO explained that should the financial position be better than anticipated, the freeze on grants could be removed. In the interim, should any grant applications be received, the applicant could be informed that grant assistance is currently not available but their application will be held on file and reviewed should grant funding become available.</p> <p>RESOLVED: it was agreed that funding for grant assistance be frozen with immediate effect and any applications received will be held on file and reviewed should the Council be in a position to offer grant funding going forward. The RFO will continue to</p>	
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	report the Council's financial position each month and notify Members when grant funding could be offered. RFO leaves at 7.55pm	
10. Grant applications:	None	
11. Park Play:	Town Clerk attended a meeting with two members of Park Play. With 43 Park Play programmes running throughout the country, Aspatria has the second highest attendance and the highest in Cumbria. The initiative is to run until June 2023 however if funding is acquired this will continue. Cllr Rose advised Park Play should apply to ADCCA for a grant. As the council have agreed to freeze grants at the moment an application will be accepted but held on file until further notice.	
12. Town Flowers:	Town Clerk to contact two contractors for quotes to supply flowers throughout the town. Alongside this, quotes will be received for the watering of the flowers.	TC
13. Carnival/events:	Aspatria's PCSO contacted the Town Clerk for any dates of events or carnivals as to provide extra police support. There will be no parade again this year however there will be a family fun day held at Aspatria Rugby Club. Town Clerk to inform the PCSO.	TC
14. Christmas lights/date of switch on:	It was felt last year the town Christmas lights were switched on too late in December. Town Clerk suggested the switch on be on the last Sunday in November. Cllr Gregory proposed this year the switch on will take place on 26 th November, seconded by Cllr Thurlow. Cllr Smith suggested a sub-committee be created to discuss the towns Christmas lights and events and should begin to meet in July. The subcommittee will be decided at June's meeting.	
15 Memorial plaque for miners:	Town Clerk has contacted a local business to supply the council with two memorial plaques in memory of the miners of Aspatria. These are now on order.	Ongoing
16. Monument Cleaning & Brae Lamp:	Cllr Thurlow has contacted various tradesmen for quotes to paint the Brae Lamp. Awaiting on quotes.	Ongoing
17. Parks & Allotments:	The date for the Parks & Allotments meeting has been confirmed and will be held on Monday 27 th March at 5pm at the Letters Inn. Cllr Maxwell will stand in as Chair if required. As some allotment holders have terminated their tenancies this year, the Town Clerk suggested, having spoken with Dreamscheme that a plot be donated to them for use with the 'Men in Sheds' programme they provide. This will benefit many within the community. All were in agreeance. Town Clerk to contact Dreamscheme.	
18. Fly-tipping/Rubbish:	Rubbish continues to be deposited at Queen Street car park. Allerdale Borough Council are collecting refuse from the bins however aren't collecting it all. Cllr Blackburn uses the large blue bins on the car park as Brough Street use black liners, the large bins are	

	over-flowing and black bags are being placed next to the bins however these aren't being collected. Town Clerk to contact Allerdale.	TC
19. Anti-social behaviour:	PCSO's have made a presence throughout the town.	
20. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.		
21. Applications for Development:	None	
22. Items submitted by members:		
23. Items for the next meeting:		
24. Confidential items:	None.	
25. The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday 18th April at 6.00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall, Aspatria.		

The meeting ended at 8.00pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

