

Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 15 January 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Laidlow (Mayor)
Councillor S Barnes
Councillor G Bennion
Councillor I Burns
Councillor A Kennon
Councillor D Malloy
Councillor S Nicholson
Councillor A Semple
Councillor A Smith
Councillor C Smith
Councillor A Tyson
Councillor R Watson

Also Present: 2 members of the public, a members of the press, Linking Lives & Cumbria Woodlands

129 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 18 December 2019.

130 Declaration of Interest

Councillor A Smith declared a personal interest in all planning applications due to being a member of the Development Panel.

Councillor A Tyson declared a personal interest in all planning applications due to being a member of the Development Panel.

Councillor A Semple declared a personal interest in all planning applications due to being a substitute member of the Development Panel.

Councillor D Malloy declared a prejudicial interest in item 8 due to being employed by United Utilities and planning application FUL/2019/0298 due to being a shareholder of Mitchell's.

Councillor A Kennon declared a personal interest regarding item 9c due to living next door to the applicant.

131 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had attended the following functions since the last meeting:-

- Christmas visit to all care homes with the Mechanics Band
- Carols round the tree

132 Police Report

The police report was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

There was no Police representative present.

133 Public Participation

There was no public participation

134 Presentation from Linking Lives

Sue Gorman and Terry Peate gave a detailed presentation regarding how Linking Lives were combating social isolation in Cockermouth and the surrounding area.

Cockermouth Linking Lives is a new befriending service generally aimed at those over 60 who find themselves requiring some extra friendship and support.

They match volunteers with people who would like to see a friendly volunteer on a regular basis and perhaps go out for short outings to local places of interest.

Volunteers do not need any special skills as they receive full training, support and advice for their role.

There are currently 705 residents of Cockermouth who live alone.

The use of one of the Town Council's public seat as a chat benches was also discussed

Resolved – (a) That Linking Lives be thanked for their informative presentation.

(b) That Linking Lives view the benches in the Memorial Gardens and let the Town Council know if they find a suitable bench for use as a Chat bench.

135 Tree planting proposals from Cumbria Woodlands

Resolved – Further to minute number 106 (2019/20), consideration of this item be deferred pending the receipt of detailed plans for all areas of land recommended.

136 Planning Matters

136a Planning Applications

The following planning application was circulated for comments due to time constraints:-

FUL/2019/0278

Replacement of timber framed single-glazed windows with UPVC double-glazed sash windows and replace two timber doors front and rear with UPVC

1 The Fallows

Recommended – Approval

The following planning applications were considered at the meeting:-

FUL/2019/0298

Change of use of redundant offices to café and replacement roof covering to Warehouses

Mitchell's Antiques and Fine Art, 47 Station Street

Recommended – Approval

FUL/2019/0273

Proposed gym

Cockermouth Rugby Club, Strawberry How Business Centre

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2019/0246

First floor extension on top of existing garage

4 Loweswater Close

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2019/0248

Proposed porch extension

3 Riversdale Drive

Recommended - Approval

136b TPO No. 16 2019

Agreed – That the contents of the temporary six month Order be noted.

136c Tree Works

Recommended – That the mature birch tree, 17 Waterloo Street be reduced.

137 Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £3,113.88 be formally approved for payment.

138 Correspondence

138a Consultation regarding Allerdale Borough Council's Budget for 20/21

Over the next 3 years (2020/21 to 2022/23), Allerdale need to deliver savings or find alternative ways of generating income to address a funding gap of £2.2m.

This is in addition to delivering recurring savings of £1.3m during 2019/20 and a further £0.7m during 20/21 and 2021/22.

Subject to the outcome of this consultation Allerdale were proposing to limit the increase in their portion of the annual council tax bill to 1%. This would mean an extra £1.73 a year on a band D property.

Other options currently being considered were in relation to the future delivery of waste and recycling services. These included introducing a charge for garden waste collection, introducing a charge for replacement bins and moving to fortnightly collections for general household waste.

Responses will be analysed and reported to the Executive.

Resolved – That due to diverse views and length/complexity of the online response form, Councillor's agreed to respond individually to the consultation by 20 January 2020 deadline date.

138b Royal Garden Party

Resolved – That Councillor J Laidlow be nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party on 27 May 2020.

139 Clerks Report

Agreed – That the content of the report be noted.

140 Library Statistics

The statistics showed that 340 adults and children had benefitted from the Wednesday late night opening to 5pm.

Agreed – That the latest statistics be noted.

141 Metalcraft

Metalcraft have a proud tradition of providing financial support to local organisations and are looking to extend this to the parish of Cockermouth. Metalcraft hope the fund will help to ensure a diverse range of organisations can continue to operate and grow. The launch was to be held on 4 February 2020 in the Town Hall.

Resolved – That Councillors D Malloy, A Kennon and The Mayor be nominated to the Fund.

142 Precept

Resolved – That the 2020/21 budget and precept be set at £210,990.

The meeting closed at 8.32 pm