

Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 18 March 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Laidlow (Mayor)  
Councillor S Barnes  
Councillor I Burns  
Councillor A Kennon  
Councillor D Malloy  
Councillor A Semple  
Councillor A Smith  
Councillor C Smith

Apologies: S Nicholson, G Bennion, R Watson & A Tyson

Also Present: Two members of CERG

**165 Minutes**

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 February 2020.

**166 Declaration of Interest**

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

**167 Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor had attended no functions since the last meeting. All had been cancelled due to corona virus.

**168 Police Report**

There was no Police representative present at the meeting.

**169 Public Participation**

There was no public participation

**170 Tree planting proposals from Cumbria Woodlands**

Neville Ellstone was not present at the meeting. Staff at Cumbria Woodlands had ceased all face to face contact due to concerns about the corona virus.

Resolved – That the Town Clerk contacts Cumbria Woodlands to request plans and costings.

## **171 Planning Matters**

### **171a Planning Applications**

HOU/2020/0022

Demolition of garage and erection of 2 storey extension

2, Princes Road, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2020/0043

Proposed ground floor sunroom/utility room to rear elevation

Garthwhins, Mayo Street

Recommended – Approval

FUL/2020/0052

To provide temporary weather protection to a section of the left (southern) river bank of Bitter Beck, Wasdale Close which has undergone mass wasting. The proposals will provide temporary weather protection whilst a long term slope stabilisation scheme is being developed.

Bank of Bitter Beck North of Wasdale Close

Recommended - That no formal response be made as Castle's and Coasts had been liaising with the Town Council over the use of Town Council owned land at St. Helens Street Allotments to access works on the slope.

### **171b Tree Works**

Resolved – That the various tree works, Tanners Lodge, Longcroft be agreed.

## **172 Schedule of Payments**

Resolved – That the schedule of payments in the sum of £6791.98 be formally approved for payment.

## **173 Correspondence**

### **173a Footway Lighting**

Those present discussed the details contained in the letter from the Deputy Leader.

The new administration at Allerdale have agreed to continue to maintain, repair and own the lights with just the electrical costs being transferred to parish councils. The charges will be introduced in April 2021 and it is anticipated that the average light cost will be around £39.20 per year. Town and Parish Councils are to be given a chance to review the locations of lights to decide if any are no longer required.

The Clerk advised those present that without details of the numbers and locations of footway lighting within our Parish she was unable to make any necessary preparations.

Members noted that CALC were seeking a legal opinion over the proposed transfer.

Agreed – That the content of the letter be noted.

### **173b Local Electricity Bill**

Those present considered a request to support the Local Electricity Bill.

The Bill, if made law, would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply. This is currently impossible because of the huge setup and Running costs involved in doing so.

The benefits of doing this would be:-

1. Local communities and businesses could buy their electricity from a local energy company
2. Building more local renewable energy would be financially viable
3. Communities would benefit from the revenues that new local energy companies would generate, such as more local skilled jobs, energy efficiency schemes and investment in local facilities.

Resolved – a) That Cockermouth Town Council supports the Local Electricity Bill, supported by a cross-party group of 115 MP's during the 2017-19 Parliamentary Session and

b) That the Town Clerk contacts the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People to express our support.

### **174 Training**

Councillor Bennion gave written feedback relating to her attendance at an Effective Councillor course last December.

She suggested that all town councillors disseminate their learning to the rest of the Town Council at the earliest Town Council meeting possible.

Resolved – That Councillors wishing to disseminate their learning do so by emailing all councillors.

### **175 Youth Engagement**

Councillor Bennion suggested that a sub-committee of self-appointed youth meet with councillors to discuss what they would like to see in their town and that an ideas event inviting representatives from clubs and groups be held.

Those present expressed concern regarding raising expectations particularly if suggestions fell outside the Town Councils remit/budget.

They agreed to consult our youth on specific town council schemes.

Resolved – That this suggestion be not pursued.

### **176 Breast-Feeding Awareness and Peer Support Groups (BAPS)**

Councillor Bennion proposed that the Clerk writes to CCC to ask if they can set up/facilitate a BAPS Group in Cockermouth Library.

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of space/private space in the library.

The Community Services Officer confirmed that groups had to follow strict standards and guidelines from UNICEF to be implemented and that Cockermouth Library had not been included in the BAPS roll out due to the fact that areas of need had been addressed first and that there was an existing well established group at Wild Zucchini's.

Resolved – That due to the lack of space and there being an established BAPS group in Cockermouth, the idea be not pursued.

### **177 Big Lunch**

Councillor Watson proposed that this year's 'Big Lunch' event focus on the Library.

Resolved – That this year's 'Big Lunch' be cancelled due to the corona virus outbreak.

### **178 Coach Parking, Wakefield Road**

Those present discussed whether or not to continue to fund coach parking in Wakefield Road Car Park given the new coach parking installed nearby.

Resolved – That the legal situation regarding use of the new coach parking be investigated with Cumbria Highways.

### **179 Use of Memorial Gardens for Taste Cumbria/Northbound**

Those present considered an application from Allerdale Borough Council to use the Memorial Gardens between 25 September 2020 – 29 September 2020 for Taste Cumbria/Northbound.

Additional measures to mitigate damage to the grounds more effectively had been added.

Those present did not feel that the Memorial Gardens was a suitable site for an event of this type so late in the year. They suggested that the combined event be either split into two events held on the Main Street/Market Place or Wakefield Road Car Park be used instead.

Resolved – That permission to use the Memorial Gardens for Taste Cumbria/Northbound be refused.

The meeting closed at 7.44pm