

Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Town Hall,
Cockermouth on Wednesday 20 April 2022 at 7.00pm

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S Barnes

Councillor A Semple chaired the meeting until the Mayor arrived.

183 Minutes

Resolved – That the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 March 2022.

184 Minutes

Resolved – a) That the minutes of the Special Planning Meeting held on 7 April 2022 be signed as a correct record.

b) That applications HOU/2022/0068 & OUT/2022/0006 which were deferred due to low attendance be determined as follows:-

Reference: **HOU/2022/0068**

Proposal: Concrete tile roof to be replaced with standing-seam cladding, external walls to be fitted with rigid insulation boards finished with timber cladding and internal alterations with external door and window openings reconfigured accordingly

Location: Middle Ruddings, Skinner Street, Cockermouth

Recommended – Refuse modern materials out of character with the surrounding area.

Reference: **OUT/2022/0006**

Proposal: Outline application for a commercial development (use class E (g)) including access to junction

Location: Low Road, Cockermouth

Recommended – Approval

c) That May special planning be held on Tuesday 3 May 2022 due to the bank holiday.

d) That June special planning be held on Tuesday 31 May 2022 due to the bank holiday.

185 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Malloy declared an interest in planning application OUT/2022/0006 due to being an employee of United Utilities.

Councillor Smith chaired the meeting from this point onwards.

186 Mayor's Announcements

None declared

187 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

188 Planning Applications

HOU/2022/0064

Alterations to roof and incorporate a roof deck

7a Station Street

Recommended – This item was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

FUL/2022/0072

To remove roof coverings on unit 1-7 due to the deterioration of the clay tiles, battens and roofing felt and remove guttering

Lakeland Business Park

Recommended – Approval

HOU/2021/0102

Replacement Window

17, Cocker Lane

Recommended – Approval

LBC/2022/0016 & FUL/2022/0073

LBC for internal alterations for creation of a single dwelling (second floor level of Main Street Frontage Building)

Wordsworth Hotel, Main Street

Recommended – Approval

189a Schedule of Payments

Resolved – That payments in the sum of £18,358.72 be approved.

189b Financial Budget Comparison

Agreed – That financial budget comparison between 1/4/21 and 31/3/22 be agreed and noted.

189c Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Resolved – That the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 be agreed and noted.

190 Correspondence

190a Local Government Reorganisation Newsletters

Work was underway to ensure that each new Council has a robust and viable budget in place for Vesting Day.

Each Council has established an experienced working group to oversee the election arrangements. Joint Committees first meetings are scheduled.

The Cumbria Local Government Reorganisation Structural Changes Order (SCO) completed its passage through both houses of Parliament this week and has received Ministerial signature.

New websites have been set up for the Shadow Authorities for the two new councils.

Agreed – That the content of the various Newsletters be noted.

190b Cockermouth Festivals Group– Annual Report for 2020-21

Agreed – a) That the contents of the report be noted.

b) That a grant of £500 be agreed towards the cost of Cockermouth Live! 2022

190c Banner Poles

Resolved – That Cockermouth Festivals Group be allowed to put banners up promoting Cockermouth Live! 2022 on banner poles 16,8,23,27,31,15,19,22,26 & 30 from 8/6/22 to 4/7/22.

190d Greyrigg Play Area

Those present accepted Councillor Watson's kind offer to insert a couple of paving slabs next to the rubbish bin on the Greyrigg Avenue Play Park.

Resolved – That two slabs be placed flush beside the litter bin.

190e Inappropriate Shop Signage & Deteriorating Shop Frontages

Cockermouth & District Civic Trust is concerned that standards have been slipping and that Allerdale Borough Council have not been as rigorous in enforcement as they might have been.

Councillors A Smith, A Tyson & A Kennon had been invited to a meeting on 20 May 2022 to identify and agree the current issues.

Resolved – That Councillors A Smith, A Tyson & A Kennon report back.

191 Clerk's Report

Resolved – a) That the contents of the report be noted.

b) That Councillor I Burns replaces Councillor J Laidlow on the Metalcraft Community Fund panel.

c) That meetings commence around the chamber table from our AGM in May 2022

d) That the Town Clerk investigates how to raise the profile of the TIC

e) That the Rotary be congratulated on their wonderful daffodil display.

192 Balsam Pulling

Izzie Mullins from the West Cumbrian Rivers Trust attend the meeting to discuss balsam pulling in the Cockermouth area.

Members asked a number of questions about the different types of balsam, the advantages and disadvantages of balsam pulling and the best way to deal with it.

Izzie was organising Volunteer Days to help deal with the problem.

Resolved – That details of the volunteer days be advertised in our library and on our social media page.

193 Ukrainian Refugees

Councillor Watson explained that he was aware of a few families who had applied under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and wondered what if anything the Town Council could do to welcome them to our Town.

The Mayor explained that the Scheme was being run by Cumbria County Council and that as far as he was aware, no Ukrainians had yet arrived in Cumbria via this route.

Details of Cumbria Community Foundation Welcome Fund had be posted on our social media page.

Councillor Nicholson explained that he was also storing donated goods.

Resolved – That Cumbria County Council be informed of our intentions and that they be requested to keep us informed of progress.

194 Welcome Back Fund

All projects had been completed and the requisite paperwork submitted to Borough Council for payment.

The meeting ended at 7.58 pm