

Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 21 December 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor A Semple (Mayor)
Councillor I Burns
Councillor D Malloy
Councillor C Smith
Councillor A Smith
Councillor R Watson

Apologies for absence was received from Councillors Barnes, Bennion, Kennon, Laidlow & Nicholson.

There were 3 members of the public present.

128 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022 were signed as a correct record.

129 Minutes

The minutes of the Climate Change Task Group meeting held on 21 June 2022 were agreed.

130 Minutes

The minutes of the Climate Change Task Group meeting held on 20 September 2022 were agreed.

131 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor had attended the following engagements since his last meeting:-

Grand Window Judging
Mayfield Christmas Lunch
Visited all Cockermouth Care Homes accompanied by Cockermouth Mechanics Band
Coffee Morning at The Kirkgate
Presentation of The Community Shield

132 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Malloy declared an interest in item 8b due to being a shareholder in

Mitchells.

Councillor A Smith declared an interest in item 8 due to being a member of the Development Panel.

133 Public Participation

Mr K Toes asked the following question:-

What proposals have the Town Council to tackle the issue of those multiple plots which are presently not being worked in part, or in full and how is this actively being monitored?

The Mayor read out the following answer:-

Currently the Town Clerk and/or her assistant inspect all plots at the end of April/beginning of May each year. If plots are found to be untidy or uncultivated, either in part or in full, a letter is sent to the tenant giving them 1 month to rectify the issue.

The tenant may contact the Town Clerk at this point to explain the reason for non-cultivation e.g. undertaking medical treatment. If this is the case no further action is taken for the length of the treatment. If there is no reason given for uncultivation and no progress is made upon re-inspection, their tenancy may be terminated as per our allotment rules.

If upon re-inspection, some progress has been made, but more progress is required, a further month will be given. If no progress is made upon re-inspection, their tenancy may be terminated as per our allotment rules.

Councillor(s) inspect all plots when judging is carried out for the Awards Evening each July. If they find a plot to be untidy or uncultivated, either in part or in full, the process is repeated.

The few remaining large plots continue to be halved upon the termination of the tenancy and those struggling to maintain their full plots are encouraged to half their plots where possible.

In 2022

8 initial letters were sent out

2 further letters requesting further progress sent out

2 evictions sanctioned.

4 allotments were given up by the tenant for various reasons and 4 re-let.

134 Planning Applications

This application was circulated prior to the meeting due to time constraints:-

LBC/2022/0050

Listed building consent for the installation of external extraction fans to provide ventilation to the kitchen and bathroom.

5 Fern Bank

Recommended - Approval

This application was considered at the meeting:-

FUL/2022/0169

Installation of a commercial flue and flood gating to ground floor (2no) and a low level shop front windows (2 no)

64 Main Street

Recommend – Approval subject to noise and odour control due to the close proximity of residential properties.

135 Tree Works

WTPO/2022/0021

Prune back new growth on Lime Tree

Lorton Street

Recommended – Approval

136 Finance

Resolved – (a) That payments in the amount of £7,248.51 be authorised.

137 LGR Newsletters

Preparation of the financial baseline of the two new authorities is now at an

advanced stage. Various proposals for how the new authority's scrutiny function could operate were discussed.

Agreed - That the contents of the 9, 11, 15, 18 & 25 November & 1 December 2022 LGR newsletters be noted.

138 Community Energy Scheme

Further to minute number 106, the Minister of State for Climate responded regarding supporting the growth of community energy projects.

Agreed – That his response be noted.

139 Mill Public Information Boards

Cockermouth Civic Trust had produced three public information panels on Cockermouth Mills and a further public information panel on the Cockermouth Tank. The panels were close to their final versions however some minor alterations and corrections were to be made.

The Civic Trust wished to know if the Town Council were supportive of the scheme, if they intended to reprint the Water Mills of Cockermouth and Mill Trail, if the Town Council were prepared to take responsibility for erecting the tank panel (which was to be situated on land owned by Cumbria County Council) and if the tank panel could be formally unveiled as part of the Remembrance Day commemorations.

Resolved – a) That the scheme be supported.

b) That old stock of our Water Mills of Cockermouth and Mill Trail be used prior to any decision on re-printing.

c) That copies of our Water Mills of Cockermouth and Mill Trail be supplied to the library/Tourist Information Centre on a regular basis.

d) That Cockermouth Civic Trust provide the Town Clerk with all relevant information regarding the tank panel prior to her liaising with Cumbria County Council about its siting.

e) That Councillor Malloy's kind offer of assistance during the erection of the panel be accepted.

140 Calc News

Agreed – That the contents of the September/October 2022 Calc News be noted.

141 Clerks Report

Those present considered the contents of the report.

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

b) That the TIC/Library be closed on Monday 8 May 2023

c) That a picnic be held on the Memorial Gardens on Sunday 7 May 2023 to commemorate the Coronation.

142 Speed Indication Device

The Traffic Management Team Leader (TMTL) attended the meeting.

Councillor Malloy asked Steph if the Town Council could request a new speeding survey at places in Town where they perceived speeding issues to be? He also enquired who provided flashing speed indicators?

Steph agreed to a new survey provided that the Town Council gave a list of sites to Cumbria County Council so they could data gather. She explained that the Road Safety pot funded permanent flashing speed indicators but that collision data was required to qualify.

Councillor Burns asked about moving our post on Windmill Lane as she felt it had been put in the wrong place. Steph stated that CRASH had investigated this area a handful of times over the last few years and that there was no evidence of excessive speed. She promised to check if any Police devices had been issued in this area and if there was any updated data. She also advised that permission had been given for the Councils SID to be placed on a lighting column close to the bridge.

She further advised us to use our own device as often as possible and to move it around town more effectively as this would provide the best results.

143 Dates of 2023 Meetings

Resolved – a) That the meeting dates for 2023 be agreed.

b) That the APM be held prior to 1 April 2023 at a date to be agreed.

144 Resignation of Councillor Tyson

Further to minute number 126 (2022), the Senior Specialist – Elections had confirmed that no call for an election had been received.

145 Co-option

Those present considered the contents of Legal Topic Note 8 regarding elections and co-option provided by the National Association of Local Councils.

Paragraph 18 stated 'that if no by-election is called, the Council must as soon as practicable after the expiry of the 14 day period fill the vacancy by co-option. If the vacancy falls within the six month period the Council may but need not, fill the vacancy. It must still, in the latter case, give public notice of the vacancy'.

Resolved – a) That public notice of the vacancy be given.

b) That due to the vacancy falling within the six month period, the vacancy be not filled.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm