Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor A Semple (Mayor)

Councillor G Bennion

Councillor I Burns

Councillor A Kennon

Councillor J Laidlow

Councillor D Malloy

Councillor S Nicholson

Councillor R Watson

Councillor A Smith

Councillor C Smith

An apology for absence were received from Councillor S Barnes

There was 1 member of the press and 2 members of the public present.

**203 Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15 March 2023 were signed as a correct

record.

The site visit to view a suitable location Main Street had been deferred due to other

priorities and would be organized as soon as practicable.

**204 Minutes**

The minutes of the special planning meeting held on 6 April 2023 were signed as

a correct record.

**205 Declaration of Interests**

Councillor D Malloy declared an interest in planning application OUT/2023/0004.

Councillor A Semple declared an interest in item 7 due to being a member of the

Cumberland Council Planning Committee.

**206 Mayors Announcements**

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

Charity Golf Day

He thanked Alan Taylor, their Competition Secretary for his hard work and

announced that the Charity Golf Day had raised over £700 for Hospice at Home.

**207 Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**208 Planning Applications**

**OUT/2023/0004**

Outline application for a new building to house Mitchells Antiques and Fine Art

Auction business

Lakeland Livestock Centre, Lakeland Agricultural Centre

Recommended – Defer pending clarification of future use of the current site.

**209 Finance**

Resolved – (a) That payments in the amount of £10,040.69 be authorised.

**210 Cockermouth Festivals Group**

Those present considered the annual report from Cockermouth Festivals Group.

An ambitious, expanded programmed is planned for the weekend of 30 June to 2

July 2023 including a show case of new young talent, family ukulele workshops,

street theatre from the Fairly Famous Family and more events on Sunday.

Agreed – That the contents of the annual report be noted and that £500 grant be

given towards the festival.

**211 Budget Comparison Report**

Councillor Watson asked a number of questions which were suitably answered.

Agreed – That the contents of the comparison report between 01/04/22 and

31/3/23 be noted.

**212** **Accounts for year ended 31/3/23**

Councillor Watson asked a question which was suitably answered.

Agreed – That the consolidated balance sheet and Income and Expenditure

Report for year ended 31/3/23 be noted.

**213** **Isel Road Play Area**

Those present considered a request to sell either all or part of Town Council

owned land on Isel Road for the purposes of building a dwelling with space for an

annexe intended for a relative.

The land contains a restrictive covenant which limits its use to recreational

purposes only.

Resolved- That the land on Isel Road be not sold and be retained for recreational

purposes.

**214 Solar Made Easy**

Cumbria Act for Sustainability (CAfS) would like to run a Solar Made Easy

engagement event in Cockermouth to inform residents about solar PV, give them

the opportunity to meet installers and look at their property on a map that shows

solar potential of rooves in a location.

Resolved – That an engagements event be held in Cockermouth.

**215 Adoption of a private lighting column**

Those present considered whether or not to ask Cumberland Council to adopt

and upgrade a broken street light on the lane to the rear of 5 Ashgrove.

Resolved – That Cumberland Council be asked to adopt and upgrade a broken

street light on the lane to the rear of 5 Ashgrove.

**216 Calc News**

Agreed – That the contents of the January & February 2023 edition of the Calc

News be noted.

**217 LGR Newsletters**

Agreed - That the contents of the 10, 20, 24 & 31 March 2023 LGR newsletters

be noted.

**218**  **Clerks Report**

Those present considered the contents of the report.

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

b) That the furniture currently being stored in the former Mayor’s parlour be

declared surplus to requirements and sold off

c) That the bunting be erected on Friday 28 April at 6pm and Saturday 29 April

2023.

d) That May Special Planning be held on Wednesday 3 May 2023 (if required).

**219 Skate Park**

Councillor Malloy stated that although there had been a good discussion about the

skate park at the recent Annual Parish Meeting no firm decisions had been made.

He suggested that identifying potential Council owned land may be beneficial as

many of the sites being suggested were unlikely to come to fruition as they were in

private ownership.

Harris Park Extension, Top of Towers Lane and Harris Park (the only site not

owned by the Town Council) were given as possible locations.

He also suggested that a feasibility study be undertaken.

The Town Clerk enquired who would carry out the feasibility study and where

would the money come from?

Councillor Bennion suggested that the Group should take ownership of those

issues.

Councilor Watson reminded those present that the Group were meeting next

Monday. He also felt that the Group have to lead it and that the Town Council

should support where we can.

Councillor A Smith urged those present to be careful not to build people’s hopes

up. Costs were estimated at £78k last time a scheme of this nature was looked at.

He suggested that money be harvested from Developers under a S106

development he also urged the Group to look at the land allocated in the Local

Plan.

Councillor Watson stated that another new estate could be years off and that the

Group needed to approach Sports England and other organisations of this nature

for funding.

Councillor Laidlow suggested a public appeal for land.

Councillor Malloy recommended that Harris Park Extension, Towers Lane Play

area, Harris Park and Isel Road be considered as potential sites subject to the

requisite consents being obtained.

This was seconded by Councillor Bennion.

A vote was taken 8 in favour, 0 against.

**220 Daffodil Sculpture**

Those present discussed potential sites to permanently house the Rotary’s daffodil

sculpture.

Three locations were identified.

Flowerbed top of Gote

Opposite Wordsworth House

Kirkgate Rockery

Only one of the locations, Flowerbed, top of Gote belonged to the Town Council.

Resolved – That the Rotary be allowed to permanently house their daffodil

sculpture in the flower bed, top of Gote.

**221 Thank You for Service**

Councillor I Burns thanked Councillors A Smith, C Smith, A Kennon, A Semple & G

Bennion for their service over the last four years and wished them well in the future.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm