Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 15 June 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor A Semple (Mayor)

Councillor G Bennion

Councillor A Kennon

Councillor J Laidlow

Councillor D Malloy

Councillor A Smith

Councillor A Tyson

Councillor R Watson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I Burns, S Barnes, S Nicholson & C Smith.

**15 Minutes**

The minutes of the AGM held on 19 May 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

**16 Minutes**

The minutes of the special planning meeting held on 31 May 2022 were agreed as a

correct record.

**17 Mayors Announcements**

The Mayor had attended the following events since his inauguration:-

Platinum Jubilee Concert, exhibition and Picnic

Unveiling of the railway plaques commissioned by the Civic Trust

**18** **Declaration of Interest**

Councillors A Smith & A Tyson declared personal interests in item 7 due to being

members of the Development Panel.

**19 Public Participation**

There was none.

**20a Planning Applications**

**HOU/2022/0082**

Demolition of existing garages and construction of new garage with annex above

11 Crown Street

Recommended - Approval

**20b Tree Works**

Recommended – That the various tree works proposed at South Lodge,

Simonscales Lane be approved.

**20c Tree Works**

Recommended – That the removal of the dead/dying lime tree from back garden of

Kirkgate House, Kirkgate be approved.

**21 Finance**

Resolved – That payments in the amount of £5771.97 be authorised.

**22 LGR Newsletters**

There had been a whirlwind of activity since the Elections. Member induction days

had been held and political groups had decided on their leaders and cabinet

members. An inaugural meeting of the Shadow Authority had been held.

Agreed – That the contents of the latest LGR Newsletters be noted.

**23 Clerks Report**

Councillor Smith stated that the fun day had been well attended and well received.

He suggested that the fun day become a regular town council event.

Councillor Laidlow asked if it could be tied in with next year’s carnival.

The Summer Solstice was also suggested as a possible date.

Councillor Smith informed those present that he had received complaints from

members of the public regarding photos being taken where children were present.

Clerk to investigate this issue.

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

b) That the allotments be judged as soon as practicable

c) That the bunting remains up until after Cockermouth Live!

d) That the fun day become an annual Town Council event

**24 Service Level Agreement (SLA)**

Written consent was required to novate our library SLA so that when Cumberland

Council come into being on 1 April 2023, the terms of the SLA continue between

the new Authority and Cockermouth Town Council.

Resolved – That written consent to novate the library SLA be authorised.

**25 Towers Lane**

Further to minute number 10b (2022/23), Councillor Malloy proposed that should

funding become available part of the Towers Lane Play Area be identified as a

potential site for renewable energy. This was seconded.

Councillor Tyson reminded those present that the site was given to Cockermouth

Town Council by Allerdale Borough Council and was covered by a recreational

use covenant. He also expressed his concerns regarding safety due to the two

conflicting uses on the site.

The Town Clerk explained that the production of energy and selling of the energy

produced was only available to town and parish councils who had the General

Power of Competence. Removal of the covenant and planning permission would

also be required.

Resolved – That should funding become available part of the Towers Lane Play

area be identified as a potential site for renewable energy.

Resolved – That under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings Act 1960, the public be removed due to the following item of business containing contractual information.

**26 Changing Places Toilet Funding**

Changing Places toilets are larger accessible toilets for severely disabled people

with equipment such as hoists, curtains, adult sized changing benches and space

for carers.

£30m Changing Places Toilet funding was announced by the Government in 2021.

Cockermouth Town Council submitted an expression of interest for Changing

Places funding to Allerdale Borough Council on 20 August 2021.

Allerdale Borough Council had recently confirmed that their bid had been

successful and that Cockermouth Town Council had been awarded £44k of

Changing Places Funding.

The Town Clerk had arranged a number of informal visits with approved suppliers

and obtained indicative costings to demolish the old toilet block in the Memorial

Gardens, install a new path and to supply, deliver and commission a new modular

toilet block. She had also estimated the ongoing revenue implications.

Those present also considered a quotation from a suitably qualified consultant

to oversee the tender/evaluation process, planning process and project

management of the scheme.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding whether or not the scheme was needed,

the potential costs and location of the scheme.

Resolved - That the Town Clerk explores the suitability and costs of converting the

existing building prior to any decision being made on demolition/new build.

The meeting closed at 8.18 pm