Minutes of a Meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Thursday 22 September 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor A Semple (Mayor)

 Councillor S Barnes

 Councillor G Bennion

 Councillor I Burns

 Councillor A Kennon

 Councillor J Laidlow

 Councillor D Malloy

 Councillor S Nicholson

 Councillor C Smith

 Councillor A Smith

 Councillor A Tyson

 Councillor R Watson

There was one member of the press present.

**79 Minutes**

 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2022 were signed as a correct

 record.

**80 Minutes**

The minutes of the special planning meeting held on 1 September 2022 were

 signed as a correct record.

**81 Mayors Announcements**

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

* Children’s Society Garden Trail
* Civic Service, Aspatria
* Proclamation of the King, Allerdale House
* Evening of Reflection

 The Mayor thanked the Mechanics Band for their contribution at the Evening of

 Reflection.

**82** **Declaration of Interest**

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

 members of the Development Panel.

**83 Public Participation**

 There was none.

**84a Planning Applications**

 **HOU/2022/0165**

 Rear extension and raised deck to provide additional living space

 61, Mayo Park

 Recommended – Approval

**84b Applications for tree works**

Recommended – a) That CAT/2022/0026, Memorial Gardens be approved.

 b) That CAT/2022/0024, Memorial Gardens be approved.

 c) That CAT/2022/0025, Memorial Gardens be approved.

 d) That WTPO/2022/0017, Tanners Lodge be approved.

 e) That CAT/2022/0018, Brewery Lane be approved.

 f) That WTPO/2022/0015, Amenity area, Harrot Hill be approved.

 **85a Finance**

 Resolved – (a) That payments in the amount of £28,362.26 be authorised.

**85b Budget Comparison Report**

Agreed – That the contents of the budget comparison report between 1/4/22 –

 31/8/22 be noted.

**85c Wedding Fees**

Due to the time taken in dealing with re-scheduling wedding bookings and chasing

 late payment it is proposed that fees be introduced to cover staff time.

 Resolved – a) That a £30 admin fee be payable if a wedding has to be re-

 scheduled.

 b) That a £20 late payment fee be added if applicant’s fail to make payment 8

 weeks prior to the ceremony.

**86a LGR Newsletters**

Almost 600 staff from all 7 councils came together for the first LGR staff Q&A

 session.

 Consultation started on 19 August 2022 regarding future staffing structures. The

 intention is that senior roles are appointed before 1 April 2023 to ensure that

 Councils have strong leadership in place to support the next steps of their

 transition to the two new councils.

Agreed - That the contents of the 12 August, 18 August, 26 August &1 September

 2022 newsletters be noted.

**86b Cumbria’s Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

 Cumbria County Council is asking for feedback on proposals to improve the Local

 Flood Risk Management Strategy.

 The Strategy outlines how local flood risks will be managed in Cumbria, who will

 deliver them and how they will be funded.

 Consultation ends on Friday 30 September 2022.

 Agreed – That the contents of the Flood Risk Management Strategy be noted.

**87 Completion of the limited assurance review for the year ended 31 March**

 **2022**

Resolved – (a) That the completion of the Annual Governance & Accountability

 Return (AGAR) for the year ended 31 March 2022 be noted. No matters had

 been arising.

 (b) That it be noted that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit detailing the rights of

 inspection had been prepared and published as required.

**88 Clerks Report**

Those present considered the contents of the report.

 Councillor Tyson moved that Carols round the Tree remain at its traditional time

 and that a road closure be obtained from the Brown Cow up to the traffic lights at

 Gallowbarrow.

 Councillor Nicholson left the meeting at this point due to Cumbria Coal being a

 traffic management contractor.

 This proposal was seconded by Councillor Kennon.

 A discussion ensued regarding the need for a closure, what was involved in a

 formal closure and the potential costs.

 A vote was taken, 3 in favour of a formal closure and 8 against. The motion was

 lost.

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

 b) That eviction proceedings be taken in respect of plots 15 & 17, The

 Gote

 c) That Carols round the tree remain as is.

**89 Presentation regarding Mayfield’s vision for St Joseph’s RC Primary School**

 The concept for St Joseph’s RC Primary School was a sixth form centre to prepare

 16 – 19 year old pupils for adulthood. Their vision included integration into the

 community and local businesses, a café in school and a catering kitchen.

 It was hoped that planning would be determined next week and that tenders for

 work required would be sent our shortly.

 An initial cohort of 23 pupils were due to arrive in school before Easter. It was

 anticipated that pupil numbers would increase to 60-70 pupils over the next few

 years.

 Those present were pleased that the site would remain an Educational Centre and

 wished them well.

**90 Warm Banks**

Plans are being drawn up all over the Country for communal heat banks to be set

 up to help people unable to afford their heating this winter.

Councillor Watson proposed that we work with community organization’s and

 partners to set up warm places that people can go to if they need to.

 Resolved – a) That the Town Clerk be requested to invite CERG, CAB, Age

 Concern and Churches Together to a meeting as soon as practicable to discuss

 what could be done to help our most vulnerable.

 b) That potential funding be explored.

**91 Greenway Barriers**

 Councillor Watson proposed that we write to Allerdale Borough Council to request

 the removal of the metal barriers situated at various points along the Greenway to

 improve access for wheelchairs, prams and mobility scooters.

 Councillor A Smith informed those present that he had complained to Allerdale over

 12 months ago, about the removal of metal barriers at this location and several

 others. Money had been agreed in the budget and it was anticipated that work

 would be carried out soon.

**92 Clever SID**

The Highways Department have issued all manner of rules and regulations

 associated with the control of our SID until further discussions have taken place.

Despite several requests to arrange a meeting the matter remains unresolved.

 Resolved – That the Town Clerk writes to the Highways Department to resolve the

 issue.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm