

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the council chamber,
Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 20 December 2023 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillor Julie Laidlow (mayor)
Councillor Howard Beanland
Councillor Isabel Burns
Councillor Stephen Barnes
Councillor Cath Bell
Councillor Chris Bridgman
Councillor David Malloy
Councillor Gillian Telford
Councillor Jim Samson
Councillor Helen Tucker
Councillor Richard Watson

196 Apologies

Councillor Marion Bowman

197 Minutes

The minutes of the special meeting held on 8 November 2023 were agreed and signed by the mayor.

198 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting on 15 November 2023 were agreed and signed by the mayor.

199 Minutes

The minutes of the staffing committee meeting on 27 November 2023 were noted.

200 Minute-taker

In the absence of a permanent clerk Cllr Richard Watson agreed to take the minutes using standing order 3(t) [i-vii] as a guide.

201 Declarations of interest

Cllr Helen Tucker declared that she is a substitute member of the Cumberland Council development panel.

202 Mayor's announcements

The mayor had attended / officiated at the following events:

- The lights switch-on on 19 November.
- Judging the Christmas window spotting competition.



- Awarding prizes to children who had taken part in the library Christmas activities.

203 Public participation

There was no public participation. One member of the public was present.

204 Planning applications

An application for side and rear extensions at 15 Parkside Avenue was agreed.

An application for a replacement sign at 1 Castlegate was agreed.

205 Anti-social behaviour

Cllr Gillian Telford gave an update on vandalism on the Laureates estate and Joe's Walk. She had met PC Shona Pattinson who had stepped-up patrols in the area.

Resolved: that we ask the new clerk, once in post, to invite PC Pattinson to a town council meeting to meet councillors and talk about her role.

206 Financial matters

The schedule of payments was agreed. It was noted that several gas/electricity bills delayed due to the switch from Cumbria CC to Cumberland Council had all arrived simultaneously.

207 Correspondence

- a. The contents of a letter from Peter McCall, police and crime commissioner, were noted.
- b. The contents of an email from Danni Armstrong at Cumberland Council were noted.
- c. The contents of a letter from Great North Air Ambulance were noted.
- d. The contents of the Cumbria Police Focus Newsletter were noted.

Resolved: that in future the newsletter referred to in d) above would be emailed to councillors by town hall staff rather than placed on the agenda.

208 Clerk's report

The contents of the acting clerk's report were noted.

Resolved: that we go ahead with the acting clerk's proposal to book the stage for the annual lights switch-on event with SJ McGuckin Ltd for the next two years (minimum) at a discounted price.

Resolved: that the fireworks go ahead on Sunday 3rd November next year.

209 Report from Cumberland Councillors



Cllr Tucker gave a verbal report and answered questions from councillors. She focussed upon the following areas of activity:

- The reopening of the road over Cocker Bridge.
- The Lakes to Sea Community Panel which had agreed funding for Fairfield school and additional planters for Main Street.
- The recent Taste Cumbria Christmas event.

Cllr Tucker noted that the request for a reduction in business rates to help those businesses affected by the road closure was still under discussion by Cumberland Council. Cllr Laidlow agreed to forward Cllr Tucker details of a matter that had been raised with her by a local trader.

210 Climate Emergency Actions

Cllr Richard Watson informed the meeting that as agreed by a previous meeting the planting of three areas at Towers Lane with a variety of small fruiting trees and shrubs had taken place.

Cllr Gillian Telford had spoken to the owner of land on Low Road about work being carried out.

The meeting closed at 7.41pm.

Jm Laidlow

17.01.2024.

I do not believe that the minutes of the meeting held on Wed 20th December 2023, are a correct record, as a question put to a town, Cumberland Councillor was not minuted, even though it was repeatedly requested both during the meeting, and after.

Jm Laidlow