

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the council chamber,
Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillor Howard Beanland

Councillor Marion Bowman

Councillor Isabel Burns

Councillor Stephen Barnes

Councillor Cath Bell

Councillor Chris Bridgman

Councillor Julie Laidlow (chair)

Councillor David Malloy

Councillor Jim Samson

Councillor Gillian Telford

Councillor Helen Tucker

Councillor Richard Watson

220 Apologies None

221 Minutes of last meeting These were agreed, though the mayor did not consider the minutes to be an accurate record. In accordance with Standing Order 12(d) she therefore agreed to sign the minutes and include a paragraph to the effect that she did not agree but that her view was not upheld by the meeting.

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

223 Declarations of interest Cllr Helen Tucker declared that she is a substitute member of the Cumberland Council Development Panel.

224 Mayor's announcements The mayor had attended the carol-singing on Main Street on December 24th. The mayor thanked Cllrs Burns and Malloy for their support. The collection will be split between the town band and the mayor's charity fund.

225 Public participation None

226 Planning applications None

227 Reports from Cumberland Councillors Cllr Andrew Semple (Cockermouth South) had sent in a written report. Cllr Helen Tucker (Cockermouth North) gave a verbal report. With regard to the partially-collapsed Old Courthouse there are legal issues being pursued by Cumberland Council before any remedial works can begin.



With regard to the Sidings development it is understood that further reports have been called for before any work will commence.

228 The 80th anniversary of D-Day, Thursday June 6th 2024:

Resolved: that to mark this historical occasion the town council will:

- put up union flag bunting
- communicate with the Scouts as to whether the beacon on The Hay could be lit
- ask that the church bells be rung and lights displayed on the tower of All Saints church
- investigate whether the cascade of lights on the town hall could be coloured red, white and blue for the occasion.

229 Financial matters:

- a) The schedule of payments made since the last meeting was approved
- b) The financial budget comparison report 01/4/23 – 31/12/23 was noted.

There was a discussion about the training budget. Cllr Howard Beanland suggested that councillors undertaking training should feed back to the rest of the council as appropriate, either via email or by giving a verbal report at a subsequent meeting.

Resolved: that any councillor undertaking training paid for by the council should expect to feed back the learning from the training to the rest of the council either in writing or in person.

230 Correspondence None

231 Acting Clerk's report The contents of the acting clerk's report were noted. The new planters for Main Street have been ordered. It was noted that Cockermouth received £670 from the Lakes to Sea Community Panel towards the purchase and that other organisations across the area received much larger sums. There was a discussion as to whether we had been too modest in our request for funding and should be more ambitious in future.

232 Climate Emergency Actions

Resolved: that we invite Nick Robson, the chair of Cockermouth Climate Action Now (CAN) to a future town council meeting, perhaps in March. Cllr Richard Watson said that Cockermouth CAN was now established as a small charity and members were active in undertaking a range of projects in the community.



233 To appoint Jane Ollerenshaw as Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

It was noted that this minute may be useful for example in asking banks to add Jane as a signatory.

Resolved: that Jane Ollerenshaw be duly appointed as Town Clerk and RFO as of 1/2/24, and also that she be approved as a bank signatory.

The mayor moved that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960 the public be excluded for the following item of business due to contractual and personal information relating to staff being discussed. This was agreed. A member of the public in attendance left the chamber.

234 Update from staffing committee Cllr Richard Watson gave an update following the meeting of the committee on Monday 15 January.

The committee recommended that the contract of employment for Jane Ollerenshaw and the induction programme for her first few days in post be adopted.

Resolved: that the above documents be adopted.

It was agreed that the updated draft Terms of Reference for the staffing committee would be discussed at a future meeting as councillors had not had time to peruse the document.

The committee recommended that Jane's request to continue work with Ennerdale and Kinniside Parish Council for a specified period after her appointment be agreed.

Resolved: that the request of the new clerk, Jane Ollerenshaw, to continue working for four hours per week for the above-name council be agreed subject to the conditions that it be:

- outside of her contracted hours
- for a period of four months only
- and that in the event of a clash of dates, Cockermouth be given priority.

The committee recommended that for a period of two months after the new clerk is in post the assistant (and current acting clerk) Kirstie Goodger be awarded an honorarium in recognition of the role she will be expected to play in bringing the new clerk 'up to speed' on a range of council issues.

Resolved: that Kirstie Goodger be offered such an honorarium and that Cllr Isabel Burns be delegated to speak to her with regard to the details.

The meeting closed at 8.08pm

Handwritten notes:
jmlardlw - 21/02/24 JL.
Cllr Mallon requested a referral Re: town clerk objectives, but wasn't added.