

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the council chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillor Stephen Barnes
Councillor Howard Beanland
Councillor Cath Bell
Councillor Marion Bowman
Councillor Chris Bridgeman
Councillor Isabel Burns
Councillor Julie Laidlow (Mayor)
Councillor David Malloy
Councillor Jim Samson
Councillor Richard Watson
Mrs Jane Ollerenshaw (Clerk)

Invited Speakers – Daniel Flint, Ellie Jones, Nick Robson & Julia Robinson.

Members of the Public – Nil

19:00 Meeting opened.

269 Apologies Councillor Gillian Telford and Councillor Helen Tucker were unwell.

270 Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 21st February 2024. Resolved to approve the minutes.

271 Minutes of the Special Planning meeting of 7th March 2024. Resolved to approve the minutes.

272 Declarations of interest None.

273 Mayor's announcements There had been no engagements to report.

The Mayor changed the order of the agenda and item 7 was heard next.

274 North Lakes Half Marathon. Daniel Flint spoke about the half marathon that was scheduled for 9th February 2025. In previous years this had started from Graysonside Guest House and headed out towards Lorton, but it was proposed to start from Market Place in 2025. Councillors raised concerns regarding road closures, parking and infrastructure, but were generally supportive of the plan. Mr Flint would speak to Cumberland Council and discuss traffic management and road closures with them, then would come back to a future Town Council meeting to share the updated plans.

275 Taste Cumbria. Ellie Jones from Cumberland Council had submitted a report and asked for permission to stage the event in Memorial Gardens. Councillors were concerned that in previous years the ground had been damaged and not repaired by Allerdale Borough Council. They had also failed to take the mitigation steps that they had promised, including using the car park if the ground wasn't suitable. Cllr Bowman suggested that we needed an indemnity agreement in writing if we were to give permission. Cllr Malloy suggested that it should be the Town Council's decision on the Monday as to whether the ground was suitable, or whether the car park should be used. This would be on the next agenda for a decision. Councillors would send any queries they had to the Clerk by 3rd April. Clerk to forward on to Ellie Jones for answers in time for the next meeting.

276 Cockermouth Climate Action Now (CAN). Nick Robson and Julia Robinson reported to the Council about their current and future plans. They are constituted as a charity. Four action groups had been established to address different subject areas: Nature and Wildlife, Transport, Home & Energy, Lobbying & Communications. They were hoping to start an e-bike hire scheme and would lobby for better bus links. They had been planting trees in conjunction with the schools and scouts and would look to work with local landowners too. Advice would be offered to homeowners on energy efficiency. The Great Big Green Week is 8th-16th June and events would be organised. They hoped to promote local food production and improve community spaces. A town plan had been discussed. Cllr Malloy suggested that an approach to United Utilities. Cllr Laidlow suggested an application to Metalcraft. Clerk would forward the application form. Cllr Laidlow invited them to return in two to three months with any updates. In the meantime, they would email any news to the Clerk for circulation.

277 Public participation None

278 Planning

- **FUL/2024/0036** **Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **HOU/2024/0027** **Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **HOU/2024/0038** **Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **CAT/2024/0007** councillors wanted to revisit the site and take additional time to consider. No report from a tree surgeon to support the claim of risk had been included with the application. They would make further enquiries and submit their views to the Clerk who would respond under delegated authority.

279 Reports from Cumberland Councillors Cllr Semple (Cockermouth South) had a prior commitment but had submitted a written report covering details about the Lakes to Sea Community Panel and the Planning Committee. Cllr Tucker (Cockermouth North) had sent apologies as she was unwell. Cllr Burns said that a

number of potholes had been reported several times and nothing was happening. Cllr Malloy said that we should be writing as a Council. The Clerk was asked to write to Denise Rollo.

280 Boundary Review. Cllr Samson had contacted electoral services about the potential boundary changes, but they were not going to look at these until after the election. He would contact them again after 2nd May. Councillors could send suggestions to him.

281 Schedule of Payments. Resolved to approve the schedule of payments.

282 Clerk's Report. The Clerk's progress report had been circulated. There were two additions: An appointment with Newcastle building society to look at potential use of the library, an invitation to a coffee morning had been received. Cllr Bowman asked the Clerk to check if the building society using the library might create an additional risk.

283 Exclusion of Press and Public. Resolved That under the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960, the press and public be removed due to the following item containing confidential information relating to a contract. No members of the public were present.

284 Update on the Library SLA. The Clerk updated the Council on the initial meeting that had taken place with two Library Services Officers from Cumberland Council. They were reporting back to their senior officers and would make contact again. **Resolved** To authorise the Clerk to continue with negotiations.

285 Date of next meeting. Confirmed as Wednesday 17th April 2024.

20:37 Meeting closed.