

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

Present:

Councillor Stephen Barnes
Councillor Catherine Bell
Councillor Isabel Burns
Councillor Julie Laidlow
Councillor Jim Samson
Councillor Helen Tucker

Councillor Howard Beanland
Councillor Chris Bridgman
Councillor Marion Bowman
Councillor David Malloy
Councillor Gillian Telford
Councillor Richard Watson (Mayor)

Cumberland Councillor Andrew Semple
Mrs Jane Ollerenshaw (Clerk)
Anne-Marie Williams (Divest Cumbria)
James Rafferty (Divest Cumbria)
5 Members of public

19:00 Meeting opened.

052/24 Apologies None received for this meeting. The Clerk apologised to Councillor Beanland and the rest of the Council that she had omitted to pass on Cllr Beanland's apologies for the last meeting that had been submitted to her verbally. The Chair asked that councillors submit their apologies in writing to the clerk in future to avoid the possibility of this happening again. By email was acceptable.

053/24 Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 19th June 2024. Resolved to approve the minutes.

054/24 Minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting of 15th April 2024. Resolved to note as received.

055/24 Declarations of interest Cllr Tucker declared interests in item 7 as a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme, items in 9 as a reserve member of Cumberland Council's Planning Committee and 9b as the application was from a family friend.

056/24 Cumbria Divest spoke to the Council requesting that they write to Westmorland and Furness Council, asking them to divest the staff's Local Government Pension Scheme from fossil fuels. Councillors would speak to staff and raise this at a future meeting if it was deemed appropriate.

057/24 Mayor's announcements The Mayor had attended Wigton Carnival; he'd met some people working towards citizenship and learning English as a second language at Workington Library; last week he had attended the Castlegate Singers

concert; he had helped to give out prizes to children taking the Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Mayfield School.

058/24 Reports from Cumberland Councillors Cllr Tucker (Cockermouth North) and Cllr Semple (Cockermouth South) had both submitted a written report. Cllr Semple updated on the parcel lockers outside Sainsburys. It was debated whether permitted development would apply. Cllr Semple had forwarded on Cllr Beanland's email detailing those points. Cllr Laidlow asked if parents were being told about the Holiday Activity Fund and if the 10p swims were available. Cllr Tucker said schools had been told and most were informing parents via newsletters; Cllr Semple would look into the 10p swims. Cllr Burns said that the orange light by the zebra crossing on Main Street was obscured by the tree growth. Cllr Tucker asked that all things like this are sent to her Cumberland Council email address. She also asked that as many people as possible report it online as this would help to highlight a problem. On the subject of the parcel lockers, Councillors Semple, Tucker and Beanland would email Cumberland Council and an item would be brought to the next agenda if it wasn't resolved before then. Cllr Malloy said that he was waiting for the Tourism report from Cllr Tucker. He asked both Cumberland councillors what large spend was proposed for the Town, particularly in relation to the Sports Centre. He said that Keswick Town Centre was being cleaned and asked if Cockermouth would get the same. Cllr Tucker said that she had contacted Highways about the pavements as a priority and they had confirmed to her that the team would be in Cockermouth the following day.

059/24 Public participation

- Members of the public made representations about the planning application HOU/2024/0103, asking that this be called in.
- A member of the public asked about matters related to the Old Court House, but was advised that this was not a matter on the agenda, so he would need to submit his question in writing.

060/24 Planning

- **HOU/2024/0103** **Resolved** to recommend refusal and ask that this is called in to the Cumberland Planning Committee.
- **FUL/2024/0127** **Resolved** to recommend refusal.
- **APP/F0395/W/24/3345573** **Resolved** that no further comments be submitted.
- **WTPO/2024/0021** **Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **HOU/2024/0112** **Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **HOU/2024/0111** **Resolved** to recommend approval.

061/24 Planning Decisions Under Delegated Authority. Resolved to note the decisions.

062/24 Terms of Reference and Membership of the Climate Emergency Group (CEG). Resolved that Cllrs Beanland, Bridgman, Burns and Tucker be appointed as members, alongside Cllr Barnes who is the Chair of the CEG. Up to 4 non-councillor members may be asked to join the CEG. Those members to be decided by the CEG. The proposed terms of reference to be accepted.

063/24 Directorship of CALC. Nobody wished to be nominated for a directorship.

064/24 Letter to Stagecoach regarding cancellations. Resolved Cllr Burns and the Clerk to agree the wording and write to Stagecoach on behalf of the Council.

065/24 Towers Lane Hedge Planting. Resolved to approve the proposed planting.

066/24 Taste Cumbria Donations. Resolved To confirm the donations provisioned for in the budget.

067/24 Events Working Group. Resolved that an informal working group be established to review and plan events. All councillors and admin staff are invited to meetings to be arranged by the Clerk as required.

068/24 Fun Day 2025. Resolved to confirm the date as 21st June 2025.

069/24 Unacceptable Behaviour Policy. Resolved to adopt the proposed policy with an amendment to replace the word “customers” with “individuals” and to personalise the document for Cockermouth Town Council. Clerk to also source a “Dignity at Work” Policy.

070/24 Agenda Request Form. Resolved to adopt the suggested form for submitting items for the agenda.

071/24 Letter to National Highways – Path Beside the A66. Resolved clerk to write to National Highways and raise the issue with them.

072/24 Financial Report – Budget Comparison. Resolved to agree the report.

073/24 Payments for Approval. Resolved to agree the schedule of payments.

074/24 To Note Pre-approved Payments Made. Resolved to note the payments

075/24 Clerk’s Report. The Clerk’s report had been circulated. No actions arising.

076/24 Exclusion of Press and Public. Resolved that due to the confidential nature of matters being discussed that the press and public be excluded under the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960.

077/24 Allotment Boundary. Resolved That the Clerk write to the allotment holder and ask that the fence is reinstated and that it is returned to cultivation.

078/24 Staffing Committee Updates.

- The Clerk would attend the CALC run CiLCA sessions and be given time off to complete modules after each session.
- It was suggested that the Town Hall official opening times could be changed from 8am until 3pm, to 9am until 4pm. It was felt that this would better suit customers' needs and give an opportunity to generate extra income by accommodating an extra wedding in the afternoon. Flexible staff working hours would still be possible. **Resolved** That the Clerk speak to the Town Hall staff to discuss their views on the possible change and find out what their needs were, how the change might impact them.

079/24 Date of next meeting. Confirmed as Wednesday 21st August 2024.

21:09 Meeting closed.