

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the council chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 18th September 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present:

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

Councillor Howard Beanland
Councillor Chris Bridgman
Councillor Julie Laidlow
Councillor Gillian Telford
Councillor Richard Watson (Mayor)

Councillor Andy Semple - Cumberland Council
Mrs Jane Ollerenshaw – Clerk
Members of the public – 2

19:00 Meeting opened.

109/24 Apologies Councillors Bowman and Malloy had both sent apologies.

110/24 Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 21st August 2024. An amendment was suggested by Cllr Watson to minute 093/24, as the reason for confidentiality no longer applied. The amendment was debated, and an alteration made. The revised amendment proposed was to change the wording from “resolved to agree to the proposal contained in the confidential report accompanying the agenda” to “resolved to agree in principle that Cumberland Council would take over the running of Cockermouth library, the ownership of the building to be transferred to them, staff would transfer to Cumberland Council and be protected by a TUPE agreement, tourist leaflets and information would still be available.” **Resolved** to agree the amendment and approve the minutes as amended.

111/24 Declarations of interest Cllr Tucker declared an interest as a substitute member of Cumberland Council’s Planning Committee. Cllr Bell declared a personal interest in item 7C as the application was from a relative.

112/24 Mayors Announcements. The Mayor had attended the Civic Trust walk of Pride on 23rd August when they looked at work that needed doing in the town. On 31st August he had attended the exhibition at Kirkgate about the historic contribution of people that had moved to the area. On 14th September he had been invited to a children’s fundraiser on The Parklands where the children were raising money for UNICEF to help the children in Gaza

113/24 Reports from Cumberland Councillors Cllr Tucker (Cockermouth North) and Cllr Semple (Cockermouth South) had submitted a written report jointly. Cllr Semple said that because many issues would affect both of their wards, it made sense to issue a joint report. Cllr Semple has objected to the Violet Bank planning

application and has called the decision in. He gave thanks to Cllr Beanland for all his help with the lockers outside of Sainsbury's. The Clerk stated that one of the lodges on Violet Bank was for sale and was being advertised that it could be used as a permanent residence. This was contrary to the conditions imposed. Cllr Semple would follow this up.

114/24 Public participation. None.

115/24 Planning

- **HOU/2024/0141** **Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **LBC/2024/0032** **Resolved** to recommend approval.
Cllr Bell left the meeting
- **HOU/2024/0126** **Resolved** to recommend approval.
Cllr Bell returned to the meeting
- **FUL/2024/0186** **Resolved** to recommend approval with a condition that the external Astragal glazing bars are used.

116/24 Planning Decisions Under Delegated Authority. None

117/24 Climate Emergency Group. Nothing to report, an online meeting would be arranged.

118/24 TRO Review Cllr Beanland had circulated a report. Cllr Laidlow and Cllr Burns raised issues about Windmill Lane and Beech Lane. Cllr Semple asked that if there were any suggestions for restrictions that councillors wished to make, then they should email to either himself or Cllr Tucker by October 10th. Cllrs Laidlow and Burns would email Cllr Tucker. Cllr Bell said that the size of the taxi ranks could be reduced. She said that vehicles turning out of Market Place had to inch out into the road which was dangerous.

119/24 Neighbourhood/Town Plan Cllr Malloy had been leading on this but was not present. Cllr Telford said that a forum for engagement had been suggested. Cllr Samson was concerned that we needed to move forward with this or it may be taken out of our hands. Cllr Watson said that the report from the Placemaking Event would perhaps be the start of a forum. Cllr Burns said that it should be open to anybody, not just groups or organisation. Cllr Bridgman said that there should be a proposal on the next agenda to arrange a meeting; he would submit the wording for the motion.

120/24 Insurance Renewal. **Resolved** that the renewal premium is accepted.

121/24 Town Bus Services. **Resolved** that the Clerk writes to Denise Rollo asking her to confirm the future plans for the services.

122/24 CALC AGM. Resolved that the Clerk attends on behalf of the Council.

123/24 Polling Place Review. Cllr Beanland said that people had gone to the wrong polling stations and the All Saints/South Lodge boundary was unclear. Cllr Telford said that the polling station for the Laureates was a long way. **Resolved** Cllrs to submit their own responses online.

124/24 Representation on Cockermouth & Papcastle Recreational Trust. Cllr Samson said that he would stand down. **Resolved** to appoint Cllr Burns as the representative.

125/24 Payments for Approval. Resolved to approve the payments.

126/24 To Note Pre-approved Payments Made. Resolved to note the payments

127/24 Clerk's Report. The Clerk's report had been circulated.

- Allotment & Garden Competition. This year there would just be awards for the allotment winners. They would be invited to the next meeting to be presented with their trophy or certificate.
- Isel Road play area. People had asked for seating and additional play equipment. The Clerk would put some ideas together for consideration at a future meeting.
- VE80. There would be bunting along Main Street, and the Scouts would be asked to light the beacon.

128/24 Councillor Matters.

- Cllr Telford said that Joe's Walk lights should be in place soon. She would like to thank the Chamber of Trade for the Charities Day and the Spruce up Cockermouth event. She also wanted to thank Kirkgate for their work on the exhibitions over the summer.
- Cllr Burns would like the banking hub on the next agenda.
- Cllr Samson would like to talk about a Corporate Governance Review at the next meeting.

129/24 Exclusion of Press and Public. Resolved to exclude the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the following items containing confidential and commercially sensitive information.

130/24 Report Regarding Leases and Rent. The Clerk shared the reports from the surveyor **Resolved** that the Clerk share the reports with the tenants and start discussions regarding any potential rent increases.

131/24 Nomination to attend 50th Anniversary Celebration of Cumbria at Carlisle Cathedral. A number of nominations were discussed and although all were considered very worthy candidates, it was **Resolved** to nominate Ali Desovska of T'Gether.

132/24 Date of next meeting. Confirmed as Wednesday 16th October 2024.

20:47 Meeting closed.

DRAFT