

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the council chamber, Town Hall, Cockermouth on Wednesday 16th October 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillor Stephen Barnes
Councillor Catherine Bell
Councillor Chris Bridgman
Councillor Julie Laidlow
Councillor Jim Samson
Councillor Helen Tucker

Councillor Howard Beanland
Councillor Marion Bowman
Councillor Isabel Burns
Councillor David Malloy
Councillor Gillian Telford
Councillor Richard Watson (Mayor)

Mrs Jane Ollerenshaw – Clerk

Before the meeting started, the Mayor presented awards to the winners of the allotment competitions.

19:03 Meeting opened.

141/24 Apologies Cumberland Councillor Andy Semple had sent apologies.

142/24 Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 18th September 2024. Resolved to approve the minutes as a correct record.

143/24 Minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting of 15th July 2024. Resolved to receive the approved minutes.

144/24 Declarations of interest Cllr Tucker declared an interest as a substitute member of Cumberland Council's Planning Committee and a planning application submitted by her employer. Cllrs Bowman and Telford were friends of the Kirkgate Arts and Heritage Centre. Cllr Bell had a pecuniary interest in a licensing application to be discussed.

145/24 Mayors Announcements. The Mayor had started a bike ride event organised by Cockermouth Climate Action Now (CCAN). He had attended the High Street Task Force event sponsored by Cumberland Council. On 28th September, there had been the launch of the Taste Cockermouth event with a cooking exhibition. South Street Church Rooms had hosted the 5th anniversary event of the Linking Lives project on 4th October.

146/24 Reports from Cumberland Councillors Cllr Semple (Cockermouth South) had submitted a written report. Cllr Tucker would forward her report shortly. The Environment Agency was working to remove the scaffolding from the river, and it was also working to strengthen the wall opposite.

147/24 Public participation. None.

148/24 Planning

- **FUL/2024/0191** Cllr Tucker left the room. **Resolved** to recommend approval. Cllr Tucker returned to the room.
- **LBC/2024/0038** **Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **WTPO/2024/0028** **Resolved** to recommend refusal in the absence of an expert's report and no confirmation of landowner consent.
- **WTPO/2024/0030** **Resolved** to recommend approval.

149/24 Planning Decisions Under Delegated Authority. None

150/24 Climate Emergency Group. Resolved That the Clerk write to Denise Rollo and Darren Crossley, asking that the recycling bins at Sullart Street are emptied more frequently, and the area is kept tidier. Also to request that the site is better signposted and that there is a campaign to publicise the correct way to recycle.

151/24 Neighbourhood/Town Plan Cllr Malloy said that Cumberland Council were currently reviewing the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan would need to work within that. There would be a need for consultation which would have cost implications. **Resolved** Clerk to invite Julie Ward to come and speak to the Council.

152/24 Code of Conduct. Resolved to adopt the new code of conduct, with the requirement to leave the room added to Appendix B, Paragraphs 7 & 9.

153/24 Ward boundaries review. Resolved that the Clerk writes to Lee Jardine to invite him to come to discuss a community governance review with the Council.

154/24 Footpath on Gable Avenue. Resolved that the Clerk writes to the senior highways officer to raise the issue and ask them to take enforcement action if it is not their responsibility.

155/24 Flooding in Poland. Resolved the Clerk respond to the letter received from the Mayor of Lublin expressing sympathy.

156/24 Pedestrian access to Fairfield car park. Resolved that the Clerk writes to ask that the access is reviewed as well crossing points between Lidl and Sainsbury's due to safety concerns.

157/24 Response to CALC Surveys. Resolved councillors to complete 17b individually. Clerk to complete 17a.

158/24 Permission to plant a Sycamore Gap sapling in Memorial Gardens. Resolved that if CCAN are awarded a sapling, that they will be permitted to plant it in Memorial Gardens.

159/24 Staffing Committee Budget Recommendation. Resolved that the budget for the 2025-2026 financial year is £145,000.

160/24 Payments for Approval. Resolved to approve the payments.

161/24 To Note Pre-approved Payments Made. Resolved to note the payments

162/24 Clerk's Report. The Clerk's report had been circulated.

- St Helen's allotments. A tenant had complained that somebody had been trespassing and damaging fencing. Cllr Malloy would ask the school to mention it.
- Kirkgate arts & heritage centre had asked for a letter to support a grant application. Agreed for Clerk to write in support.
- Cllr Bell left the room. There was an application for an alcohol licence for the Papershop on Main Street. Resolved to recommend approval. Cllr Bell re-entered the room.
- There is to be a £2.4m bus service improvement plan in the County and a formal consultation would begin on 21st October.
- Cllr Semple had asked planning to chase the matter of the barriers along the footpath besides the A66 in a meeting earlier today.
- The clerk answered questions on the half-year budget comparison figures.

163/24 Councillor Matters.

- Cllr Telford said that the signage had still not been changed in Wilko's car park.
- Cllr Telford said she would bring to a future agenda, ideas for a regular celebration or recognition of people's efforts.
- Cllr Beanland said that the agenda request form deadline needed to be amended given the change in the date that the agenda is being issued.
- Cllr Burns said that two disabled parking bays had appeared in her ward. She would take a photograph and send it to Cllr Tucker's Cumberland email address for her to check if they had been authorised by Cumberland Council.
- Cllr Bell asked if there was any News on the Wilko building. There had been local rumours, but nothing had been said by an official source.

164/24 Date of next meeting. Confirmed as Wednesday 20th November 2024.

20:51 Meeting closed.