

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16th November at 7.00 p.m.
at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatria.**

PRESENT: Councillor A Maxwell (Chair)

Councillors: Cllr S Maxwell, Cllr A Reay, Cllr B Blackburn, Cllr K Thurlow, Cllr D King, Cllr K Smith, Cllr M Rose, Cllr J Lister.

Also in Attendance: Ms S Hullock (RFO), Mrs K Cooper (Town Clerk)

Minutes

Item		Action
1.Apologies: To receive and accept apologies and note the reasons for absence.	Cllr D McRea Cllr C Blaney	Clerk to note.
2.Mayors Announcements/Updates:	Councillor A Maxwell (Chair) introduced the new appointed Town Clerk Mrs K Cooper. Councillor A Maxwell changed the order of agenda due to public participation and website service agreement.	
3.Declarations of Interest: Members are invited to make any declarations of Pecuniary Interest or other Registerable Interest (other than those recorded on their Notification of Pecuniary Interests or other Registerable Interests) relating to any items on the agenda.	None.	
4.Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held Tuesday 19 October 2021: To authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on	Approved.	
5.Matters arising from Minutes of the last Meeting held Tuesday 19 October 2021.		
6.ATC Website Service Agreement:	Mike Little acted on behalf of ATC to acquire a service user for the ATC website. This had to be renewed by 15 th September 2021 however the previous clerk didn't bring it to the attention of Cllr Alan Maxwell and Cllr Stephanie Maxwell until 16 th October 2021, therefore according to the service user Aspatria Town Council had broken the contract between both parties and the price would increase per month fixed for 5 years. The service user then left the meeting. Cllr Alan Maxwell proposed we continue with the current	

	<p>provider for 12 months, the council agreed. The service agreement was signed and posted by the Town Clerk on 17th November 2021 with the new contract starting on 01 November 2021.</p>	
7.Public Participation:	<p>Trevor Bell attended the meeting regarding flooding at St Mungos Park. The problem has been ongoing for approx. 15 years with picture evidence. Matches have had to be postponed on many occasions due to flooding. Drain companies have attended the areas, with several methods used to try and resolve the problem but to no avail. Drains near Bowling club and Outgang Road were found to be broken.</p> <p>Cllr Alan Reay informed fellow Councillors that WW builders were called out a few years ago and the problems were repaired. It seems to be tree roots causing problems however the trees are planted for Aspatria soldiers fallen in the first world war.</p> <p>Unblock Cumbria visited on 18 June 21. The Clerk received an email on 15th November 21 stating they are waiting on dry weather to complete the request.</p> <p>A grant application was apparently applied for in June 2021</p> <p>Cllr Jim Lister informed the meeting Cumbria County Council are offering funding for play areas.</p> <p>Cllr Marie Rose brought to attention the speeding into the town at the east end of Aspatria. (Lawson Street)</p> <p>Cllr Barbara Blackburn told of a problem at Aspatria railway station where the electronic timetable is not functioning.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
8.Financial Matters:	<p>Financial Matters.</p> <p>(i) Expenditure and Income Schedule for October 2021:-</p> <p>RESOLVED that the income and expenditure detailed for October 2021 in the attached schedule be approved.</p> <p>Councillors also agreed the following payments to be made:-</p> <p>LR & JA Allen £94.19</p> <p>The Old Bank Tea Rooms £25.20</p> <p>(ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation Statements as at 31st October 2021 -</p> <p>RESOLVED that the circulated Bank Reconciliation Statement be confirmed and accepted as a true record.</p> <p>(iii) The RFO confirmed that any backdated increase to pay rates will need to be paid to the previous Clerk from the date of implementation of the increase, (usually 1st April 2021), until the Clerks date of leaving the Council's employment. It was explained that the national increase has not yet been agreed.</p> <p>(iv) The RFO informed Councillors that an Internal</p>	

	<p>Audit is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 24th November 2021. This will cover the first half of the 21/22 financial year. The RFO will feedback the Auditors report at the next meeting, if received.</p> <p>(v) The RFO informed Councillors that the proposed 2022/2023 budget will be brought to the next meeting and asked that Members give consideration to any planned expenditure, which they may be aware of, to ensure this is included. The RFO explained that a budget increase will be required to cover the increase of the Caretakers salary and associated employment costs in line with the Government's Minimum Wage Rate, (or more, if this is considered appropriate). The RFO also asked whether it would be prudent to budget for potential legal costs around the transfer of the toilet block to the Council.</p> <p>The RFO did explain however, that whilst it is necessary to include all costs in the forthcoming budget, Councillors may need to consider increasing the 2022/2023 precept by more than that in previous years, in order to cover any additional costs. Otherwise the Council are simply back to using their balances to cover the day to day running costs of the Council. However, this will be reviewed at the January 2022 meeting, when the precept will be set, following approval of the Council's 2022/2023 budget and knowledge of the Council Tax Base from Allerdale Borough Council, (which will highlight the impact of any precept increase).</p> <p>RESOLVED Councillors will highlight any items of planned expenditure for the next financial year for inclusion in the 2022/2023 budget.</p> <p>(vi) The RFO explained that following the resignation of the Clerk, (Agnes Clare McCormick), her name needs to be removed from the Council's Cumberland Building Society Account. The replacement Clerk, (Kelly Cooper), then needs to be added as a signatory. The previous Clerk has since handed back the debit card linked to this account.</p> <p>RESOLVED - Councillors agree that the necessary forms be completed to remove the previous Town Council Clerk from the Cumberland Building Society Account and add the replacement Clerk as a signatory. It was also agreed that a debit card for the account in the name of the replacement Clerk be applied for and for the Clerk to use that card in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.</p> <p>Cllr Alan Maxwell advised the council that we are to receive an additional £2050 from the windfarm. Cllr Alan Maxwell also mentioned of an invoice received from Atkinson Ritson for the completion of work on Brandraw toilets for £600 plus VAT, however work has not yet been completed.</p> <p>RFO leaves at 8.30pm</p>	
9. Police Report	None	
10. Highways:	Warning lights at Richmond Hill School are not	

	operating in a correct manner. Kerb side drains on Lawson Street are rotten and in need of replacing, job number E1/27492	
11. To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors: 1.1 Councillor Jim Lister 1.2 Councillor Kevin Thurlow	Cllr Jim Lister informed the meeting Richmond Hill have been granted £8000 for the footpath leading to North View which regularly floods. Richmond Hill to now sort. Cllr Jim Lister left at 20.35pm	
12. Brandraw toilets (Monument & Lamp)	Councillor Alan Maxwell informed the meeting after he had spoken to the Charity Commission that Aspatria Town Council has been dissolved by mistake back in 2019. To be re-enrolled proof of ATC having an income of £5000 over the last 3 years has to be provided. Chris Fleming and David Bryden from Allerdale Borough Council emailed Helen Ostle, a previous clerk last October with an offer of up to a maximum of £1100 + VAT towards the legal costs for transfer of the toilet block.	RFO dealing with this
13. Park Survey (Unblock Cumbria)	Town Clerk emailed Unblock Cumbria for an update on the status of them draining St Mungos Park on Friday 12 November which they replied to on Monday 15 November stating there is a 4" surface water drain running west to east across the rec ground, a manhole by the gate and another 110m west of this. Blockages between these manholes to be sorted in dry weather so a large jetvac can be used to clear drains. Jetvac, camera and jetting crew is £900 per half day rate.	AM to meet with TB at the park
14. Sports pitches grant application	Ongoing	
15. Park Changing Rooms	An email was received from Cllr Damon McRea to announce the work to the new kitchen at the changing rooms is now complete. Cllr McRea has volunteered more work to be done in the building at no extra cost to the council. Work included; painting the floors, changing the shower tiles for boards, plumbing work, new benches and painting the changing room walls which Cllr Alan Maxwell suggested using anti-fungal water resistant paint. A thank you letter to be sent to Cllr McRea. All equipment in the changing rooms to be PAT tested by Barry Cockton on 17 November 21 The council have no objection to these.	Clerk
16. Bench request on North Road	Ongoing	
17. Speed camera training	Next meeting	
18. Basketball court	Damon McRea to update	

marking		
19. Senior citizens lunch	Cancelled	
20. Christmas light switch on	The Christmas lights are to be turned on on Sunday 5 th December 21 at 4.30pm and turned off at 11.00pm except on Christmas Eve when they turn off at midnight and New Years Eve at 1am. The lights will then switch off on 5 th January 2022. Clerk to inform the suppliers of electricity for the lights via letter as soon as. The Christmas tree was delivered on 15 th November 21.	Clerk
21. Park Defibrillator	Ongoing	
22. Speed indicator – Outgang road	No reply has been given on this matter. Ongoing	
23. King Street parking bays	Ongoing	
24. Daffodil bulb planting	A new memorial book is required in respect of those who wish daffodil bulbs be planted in memory of loved ones.	SM
25. Jubilee footpath	Ongoing	
26. Welcome back fund – Toni Meagan	Cllr Alan Maxwell was informed on 28 September there are grants available of up to £10,000 to help with the flooding at St Mungos Park, however this could also be used for the Kubota mower, the shelter that has been discussed for the park and daffodil bulbs.	
27. Windfarm expenditure	£2000-£2500 available for council funds on the understanding they are informed on what the money is spent on.	
28. Park gates	Cllr Alan Reay has spoken to Michael Coates regarding the repairs to the park gates. Possibly can be repaired to the original design. Ongoing	AR
29. Beacon Hill	Cllr Smith informed us that since the appeal to the school they have now acquired more places for students. Mr Young, Deputy Head had expressed how pleased he was of the appeal as they weren't aware of a problem. Resolved	
30. Play Inspection Reports	Mike Blair was told from the manufacturers of the zipwire and the tyre swing that these should be inspected by them every 2 years. Both St Mungos and Victoria Park need inspected asap as a bearing on the tyre swing at St Mungos Park needs repair.	
31. 'Roll of Mayors' board	Cllr Stephanie Maxwell meeting a sign writer in January to update the Mayors board. Ongoing	SM
32. Bowling club request	Peter Pattinson has requested to erect a small shed at the corner of the bowling green to help store equipment. Council approved.	
33. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.	CALC e-mails circulated.	
34. Applications for	Application ongoing for Dreamscheme to take over the	

Development	Chapel on Outgang Road for community use.	
35. Items submitted by members		
36. Items for next meeting	Speed camera training	
37. Confidential items		
38. The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday, 21st December at 7.00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall, Aspatria.		

The meeting ended at 9pm

Chairman.....

Date.....