

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 19 October at 7.00 p.m.
at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatria.**

Present: Councillor A Maxwell (Chair)

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

Also in Attendance: Ms S Hullock (RFO)

MINUTES

Item		Action
1/10/21 Apologies: To receive and accept apologies and note the reasons for absence.	Councillor C Blaney	Clerk to note.
2/10/21 Mayors Announcements/Updates:	<p>Councillor S Maxwell is acting clerk until position is filled.</p> <p>It was decided to interview two of the three applicants for position of Clerk. These interviews to be arranged next week in order to progress the filling of this post.</p> <p>On behalf of Aspatria Town Council, councillors A & S Maxwell attended Cockermouth Mayor's Civic Service at All Saints Church, Cockermouth on Sunday 3 October 2021.</p> <p>Inspection reports received for both Victoria Park and Memorial Park. Mike Blair to peruse these in order to evaluate what action needs to be taken. (Note: zipwire does need some maintenance)</p> <p>Speed indicator devices now installed at both the East and West ends of Aspatria.</p> <p>Work has commenced by Allerdale Borough Council on Queen Street car park to reconfigure the layout and provide additional parking spaces.</p> <p>Allerdale Borough Council visited Aspatria yesterday (18 October) in order to walk around the town with the purpose of highlighting ongoing issues.</p>	AJM/SM
3/10/21 Declarations of	None.	

<p>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.</p>		
<p>4/10/21 Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held Tuesday, 21 September 2021: To authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on 21 September 2021.</p>	<p>Approved.</p>	
<p>5/10/21 Matters arising from Minutes of the last Meeting held Tuesday, 21 September 2021.</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>6/10/21 Police Report:</p>	<p>No report. However, Councillor Reay confirmed that the police officer for Aspatria had been to Richmond Hill School regarding safety on bonfire night</p>	
<p>7/10/21 Public Participation:</p>	<p>A member of the public attended regarding:</p> <p><i>3 x public footpaths from West Street to Station Road</i> We informed him that these footpaths are maintained by Allerdale. One of these footpaths is currently closed due to a collapsed stone wall but it has been assured that this will be repaired, along with ensuring that work will be done to make the whole footpath accessible following some groundworks.</p> <p><i>Planning applications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Erection of stables and store at Lonning Head, West Street. We confirmed that we have considered this and have agreed to it. b) Wanted to make us aware of application to convert a residential property (Chapel on Outgang Road) into a community hub for Dreamscheme. ATC have no objection to this. <p><i>Toilet Block on Brandraw car park</i></p> <p>We confirmed that the transfer of this building is in the hands of solicitors and as soon as the ownership is transferred from Allerdale Borough Council to Aspatria Town Council it will be opened.</p>	
<p>8/10/21 Financial Matters:</p>	<p>(i) Expenditure and Income Schedules for September</p>	

	<p>2021:- RESOLVED that the income and expenditure detailed for September 2021 in the attached schedules be approved. The RFO informed the Members that the second half of the 21/22 precept was received from Allerdale Borough Council.</p> <p>Councillors also agreed the following payments to be made:</p> <p>A&S Maxwell £20.00 – Clerks leaving flowers M Blair £20.00 – Van key A Reay £56.00 – Bulbs Aspatia Farmers £47.04 – Materials (M Blair) LR & JA Allen £219.47 – Fuel Aquatrust £124.80 – Legionella Monitoring Cumbria Pest Control £90.00 – Remove wasp nest (Outgang Road allotments) Shane Buchanan £200.00 – Placing of new bench (Harriston Road) Web page management £10.00 groGreen £206.00 – plants and fertiliser</p> <p>(ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation Statements as at 30 September 2021 RESOLVED that the circulated Bank Reconciliation Statements be confirmed and accepted as a true record. Councillor Thurlow raised a question regarding the level of the bank balance. The RFO explained that it is prudent to retain one years' expenditure as a balance. The RFO also explained that the reserves and balances of the Council appear to be in a healthy position but reminded Councillors that some of these monies had been set aside to cover any costs associated with the transfer of the toilet block to the Town Council (as this was not budgeted for during precept request).</p> <p>(iii) Quarter 2, 2021/22 Budget Monitoring Report RESOLVED that the income and expenditure position for the second quarter of the year to September 2021 was accepted and approved. The RFO gave an overview of the net position at that date and commenced on areas of budget under/over spends as recorded in the schedule.</p> <p>Approval was sought to vire £230 from the grant retained within the Council's balances to the playground budget to cover expenditure in relation to the swings. RESOLVED that the virement be approved.</p> <p>iv) Pay Rate Review</p>	
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	<p>The RFO presented a paper which calculated the annual financial impact to the Council should the Clerk's and RFO's hourly pay rate be increased by three various options of £12.98, £14.90 and £17.10. These workings also included the associated on-costs which would also be incurred such as additional employer NI and employer pension contributions. RESOLVED</p> <p><u>Salaries (Clerk and RFO)</u></p> <p><u>Clerk</u> It was decided to continue paying the Clerk on pay scale 7 (£10.44 per hour) plus expenses. This to be reviewed in April 2022 following an appraisal.</p> <p><u>RFO</u> It was decided, due to expertise, to increase the RFO on to pay scale 24 (£14.90 per hour). However, this amount is inclusive of any expenses.</p> <p>Increase to be with effect from 7 October 2021.</p> <p>It was also noted that there is a statutory pay increase pending (from April 2021).</p>	
<p>9/10/21 Highways:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speed camera training - on the waiting list 2. SIDS at Outgang Road – ongoing 3. Kerb side drains along Lawson Street – ongoing 4. Signage at Harriston Road junction with Queen Street will be reviewed between October and December 5. Drain at entrance to Queen Street car park will be inspected and repaired by 'Connect' 6. School flashing lights issue to be made a 'priority' (especially as dark nights are imminent) 	
<p>10/10/21 To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Councillor Jim Lister 1.2 Councillor Kevin Thurlow 	<p>Both Jim and Kevin met with representatives from Allerdale Borough Council yesterday (Monday 18 October 2021) to walk around the town together in order to highlight any ongoing issues, namely</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Queen Street Car Park refurbishment and Queen Street toilet block (re-purposing)? b) Harriston Road junction with Queen Street c) School's flashing lights not synchronised d) The collection of road works signage e) Brough Street (yellow lines to remain on Queen Street) in order to stop bin lorries blocking the entrance to Brough Street when collecting bins. f) Walls around the monument needed cleaned (actioned on 19 October). g) The relocating of 'children's services' from the old fire station building into the library. Could the old fire station be re-purposed? 	
<p>11/10/21 Remembrance</p>	<p>Sunday 14 November 2021 @ 2.30pm</p>	

Day	Awaiting confirmation that a deputy lieutenant may join the procession from the Brandraw car park to the memorial park gates for wreath laying, followed by a service at the church. Wreaths have been delivered. Duncan Hine has volunteered to become the poppy co-ordinator for Aspatria. He has been asked to contact the Royal British Legion for information.	
12/10/21 Brandraw toilets (Monument & Lamp)	In the hands of solicitors. Urgent action required.	Clerk
13/10/21 Park Survey (Unblock Cumbria)	Had confirmation that this issue is in hand. Delay is due to 'backlog'	Clerk
14/10/21 Printer replacement	The current printer is unreliable. It was decided that it should be replaced. Cost of £192.83 + VAT which includes spare cartridges and some copier paper. It was also agreed that the current printer be recycled.	AJM
15/10/21 Sports pitches grant application	Ongoing	Clerk
16/10/21 Changing Room Lighting	The current fluorescent lights will be replaced with new LED non corrosive fittings by Mark Eve (electrician) as soon as possible. United Utilities contacted due to a pipe leak at the water meter into the changing rooms. Mike Blair is monitoring. There has been a small kitchen fitted by Junior Red's football team. When complete a letter should be sent thanking them for their work.	Clerk
17/10/21 Bench request on North Road	We have been told that this land is not owned by Allerdale and the vicar is not sure whether or not it is owned by the church. He would not object to a bench being installed.	
18/10/21 Speed Camera Training	Ongoing	
19/10/21 Basketball Court Marking	A quote of £200 has been received to do this job. It was confirmed that the condition of the court surface is suitable. Agreed to go ahead. The marking may need to be re-done every two years.	D McRea
20/10/21 Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch	After a lengthy discussion it was felt that, due to lack of numbers, and the fact that Covid cases are rising within Allerdale, that the party would not go ahead. A notice to be distributed to inform the public.	Clerk
21/10/21 Christmas Lights Switch On	It was decided that there will be no 'official' switch on. However, the lights will be illuminated as from Sunday 5 December. A notice to be distributed to inform the public.	Clerk
22/10/21 Park Defibrillator	Possibly able to receive grants from: Bowling Green / Football Club / Charity Shop Look into costs involved.	Clerk
23/10/21 Speed Indicator (Outgang Road)	Requested through 'Highways'	
24/10/21 King Street Parking Bays	The removal of one parking space outside Dresden House is imminent in order to provide access.	
25/10/21 Daffodil Bulb	2 bags of bulbs to be planted in the memorial gardens,	

Planting	as donated by a member of the public. Bulbs purchased to be sown in the town.	AR/MB
26/10/21 Lawson Street Allotment Plainings	Actioned	AR
27/10/21 Welcome Back Fund – Toni Meagan	Councillors to consider suggestions as to where any monies could be spent. To be brought to the next meeting.	Clerk
28/10/21 Park Gates	Repair/restoration of park gates by Michael Coates.	AR
29/10/21 Beacon Hill School	Cllr Smith highlighted the issue that the school states that they are full to capacity with 126 pupils. However the school was built to cater for 350 pupils. In the knowledge that planning application has been granted for circa 150 new houses on Station Road, there is concern as to whether Beacon Hill school can accommodate. Is the intension to close the school? Suggested we write to our MP, Mark Jenkinson, regarding this issue.	AJM
30/10/21 Revised Hedge Cutting Quote	Councillors agreed to pay this amount.	
31/10/21 Website Service Agreement	Councillors agreed to sign the agreement.	AJM
32/10/21 Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.	CALC e-mail circulated.	
33/10/21 Applications for Development:	No objections.	
34/10/21 Items submitted by members:		
35/10/21 Items for the next meeting:		
36/10/21 Confidential items:	None.	
37/10/21 The next meeting of Aspatia Town Council will take place on Tuesday, 16th November at 7.00 p.m. at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatia.	It was agreed that the: 'Park & Allotments' sub-committee meeting should be held in January 2022 'Christmas Lights' sub-committee meeting should be held in September 2022	

The meeting ended at 9.25pm

Chairman.....

Date.....