

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15 March 2022 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 R Gregory, Cllr H Barker, 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	Clerk to note.
2. Mayors Announcements/Updates:	<p>Cllr Alan Maxwell welcomed Cllr Ray Gregory to the meeting and wished him luck in his new role as Councillor.</p> <p>Cllr Alan Maxwell informed the meeting Tim Herbert, Vicar of Aspatria attended a leaving service at Hayton Church. It is believed the Arch Deacon has taken his place for the foreseeable.</p> <p>Members of the public have approached Cllr Alan Maxwell regarding Aspatria not having a digital display at the railway station. All other stations seem to have these installed.</p> <p>Town Clerk received an email from Allerdale Borough Council stating Queen Street car park will be closed for access on Thursday 24 March from 07.00hrs until 21.00hrs due to resurfacing. This has been shared to the council's media page.</p>	Jim Lister to action.
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 15 February 2022: To authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on	Approved.	

<p>5. Matters arising from Minutes of the last Meeting held Tuesday 15 February 2022.</p>	<p>Cllr Alan Reay referred to section 11 of February minutes in regard to the grant application for Dreamscheme. Cllr Alan Reay produced a letter dated November 2012 which states Aspatria Town Council had agreed to donate £2500 to Dreamscheme. The council had also agreed to set the precept for years 13/14 at £2500 and the donations were to be ongoing annually. The RFO was concerned about having a set amount of funding to donate annually and as legislation is more extensive now, this must be audited. Cllr Ray Gregory suggested all funding should be reviewed due to increases in income and expenses. All Councillors were in agreeance of the positive work achieved by the Dreamscheme, however a grants form should be completed for councils' approval, as with any other project.</p>	
<p>6. Public Participation:</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>7. Financial Matters:</p>	<p>Pay Increase Notification: The RFO informed the Councillors of the pay increase award which was agreed and requires backdating to 1st April 2021. Councils and Town Councils were advised to implement the award as swiftly as possible, as next month will see an increase in the NI rates which would be applied to salary increases. The RFO explained that the Caretakers rate per hour was increased by 2.75% to take this to the required minimum wage rate. The Clerk and RFO hourly rate was increased by 1.75%.</p> <p>Resolved: - the Councillors acknowledged application of the rate increases in line with NJC for Local Government Services requirements.</p> <p>The RFO explained that the guidance requires all ex-employees to request their backdated pay increase rather than receiving this as a matter of course.</p> <p>Resolved: - the Councillors agreed it was only fair and transparent to pay the previous Clerk the backdated pay she is due from this pay award.</p> <p>Expenditure and Income Members Schedule February 2022:-</p> <p>Resolved:- The income and expenditure detailed for February 2022 in the circulated schedule be approved. Members also approved the additional invoices for payment:-</p> <p>D Watson - 12 pairs of flower basket hangers - £120.00 (to be funded from the Welcome Back Funding)</p> <p>Brayton Services - Service of van - £248.42</p>	

	<p>Mark Eve Electrical - Repairs in the changing rooms - £650.40</p> <p>Cumbria Coal Ltd - Temporary illuminations in the Town - £2499.00 (to be funded from the Welcome Back Funding)</p> <p>LR & JA Allen - Fuel - £99.90</p> <p>Aspatria Farmers - Various materials and work trousers - £49.09</p> <p>J Davies Enterprise - Website Maintenance - £60.00</p> <p>To receive the Bank Reconciliation and Statements for February 2022:-</p> <p>Resolved: - The circulated bank reconciliation and supporting statements for February 2022 be confirmed and accepted as a true record.</p>	
8. Councillors Declaration of Acceptance forms:	Town Clerk is to collect these forms in from all Councillors and place on file. The forms are to be signed by Cllr Alan Maxwell (Mayor).	Ongoing
9. Brandraw toilets (Monument & Lamp):	It was brought to Cllr Alan Maxwell's attention that Atkinson Ritson solicitors held the incorrect address for Aspatria Town Council, this has now been updated. It was previously mentioned Allerdale Borough Council were to pay Aspatria Town Council £1.00 for ownership of the toilets, however this information was also incorrect, and Aspatria Town Council are to pay £1.00 to Allerdale Borough Council. The Trustees meeting coincided with the full council meeting this evening and it was discussed the Deed of Surrender is to be signed by Cllr Alan Maxwell (Mayor), Cllr Stephanie Maxwell (Deputy Mayor) and Mrs Kelly Cooper, Proper Officer (Town Clerk). Allerdale Borough Council have advised they will be restoring the toilet block due to vandalism by the end of March, the toilets will then be inspected by a subcommittee. Cllr Alan Reay suggested an improved locking system for the toilets, to help reduce vandalism.	
10. Park & Allotments meeting update:	Having received three quotes for the clean-up of a large plot at Lawson Street allotments, work has now commenced. Cllr Alan Reay, Cllr Kevin Thurlow, Town Clerk and Mike Blair attended the allotments, and it was decided some of the larger plots could be divided into several smaller plots which will help reduce the amount of people on the waiting list and allotment holders to utilise their plots more efficiently. Town Clerk read out the quotes for the proposed work and it was agreed for our contractor to complete what had been discussed. Cllr Kevin Thurlow suggested moving forward all allotments should be charged a standard	

	<p>price. It was agreed that the allotments are to be inspected monthly.</p> <p>Cllr Jim Lister left the meeting at 8.35pm</p> <p>Sharron Hullock (RFO) left the meeting at 8.40pm</p>	
<p>11. Kubota servicing & replacement mower:</p>	<p>Aspatia Farmers have serviced the smaller Kubota mower and has been returned to Mike Blair, however the large mower remains at Aspatia Farmers until the service is complete.</p> <p>Cllr Alan Maxwell has researched several mowers making sure we purchase the correct one for the council. Cllr Alan Maxwell handed out a quotation sheet which informed the council of the suppliers, price quoted and its suitability. The Ferris mowers are unsuitable due to the lack of hedge cutting device. The Massey Ferguson is a larger machine however it would be a struggle to get this tractor into the shed. The Solis tractor with finishing mower is unsuitable for our requirements and the cutting deck attachment is unavailable. The Tafe tractor unit was solely a tractor with no cutting device or hedge cutter available.</p> <p>Aspatia Farmers quoted for the Kubota BX231 which does not give an option to attach a Flail type hedge cutter due to the size of the machine. The larger model of Kubota (B2231) comes with turf tyres and cutting deck. We also have the option of attaching a hedge cutter at an extra cost. Mike Blair visited Lloyds at Carlisle to view both machines and it was felt the B2231 was the preferred model. Cllr Alan Maxwell spoke with Aspatia Farmers for a quote for the larger model, however they cannot acquire one until June/July. Lloyds, however, have one in stock now. It was agreed by all councillors to purchase this machine with the possibility of us receiving it by the end of next week.</p>	
<p>12. Police report:</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>13. Highways:</p>	<p>Overflowing drain outside the Post Office on King Street and also at Spencer Graham's garage at Lawson Street.</p>	
<p>14. To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors:</p> <p>1.1 Councillor Jim Lister</p> <p>1.2 Councillor Kevin Thurlow</p>		
<p>15. Library Noticeboards:</p>	<p>Work has been carried out to update the noticeboard with the names and dates of Aspatia Mayor's.</p>	
<p>16. Queen's Jubilee & Queens Green Canopy:</p>	<p>As per section 7 – Grants application approval, Cllr Karen Smith handed the Town Clerk a grant form applying for £4000 on behalf of the Gala committee. This money will be used to provide Aspatia with a free family fun day including rides such as Hard Rock and inflatables. The Gala committee do have some funds however they are hoping to organise a parade</p>	

	<p>next year. Cllr Marie Rose informed the council the Gala committee have also applied to the Charity shop for funding. Town Clerk enquired with Allerdale Borough Council for available funding of up to £2000, it was discussed this money would have to be paid directly to the Gala committee.</p> <p>Town Clerk purchased a tree from Moota Garden Centre and a plaque from the Royal British Legion in honour of the Queen's Green Canopy. This was planted by Mike Blair at the Memorial Garden, St Mungo's Park on Friday 11th March at 11am and was witnessed by Cllr Alan Maxwell (Mayor), several Councillors and the Town Clerk.</p>	
17. Park Play Update:	Town Clerk has secured funding for the Park Play programme and this should be received by the end of the week. Park Play have employed a leader to run the programme. This is due to start end of March/beginning of April.	
18. Park Survey:	Cllr Alan Maxwell met with a flood engineer who has confirmed they are to extend the kerbs near Cemetery Row to help reduce the flooding of drains which causes the park to flood. Town Clerk to retrieve quote for a French drain to be installed.	TC
19. Park Wall:	To be discussed at the next meeting.	Cllr K Thurlow
20. Park Compound:	To be discussed at the next meeting.	Cllr D McRea
21. Sports pitches grant application:	Ongoing	Cllr D McRea Town Clerk
22. Speed Camera Training:	Ongoing	
23. Basketball court marking:	Ongoing	
24. Park Defibrillator:	The defib is now mounted on the wall at the Bowling Club and is awaiting on the electrician to come at the end of the week to wire it up.	
25. King St parking bays:	Work has now been completed.	
26. Jubilee Footpath:	Town Clerk read out an email from Cumbria County Council stating they have had contractors at the site to quote for the work needed to raise the footpath and install a French drain to help reduce flooding. Cumbria County Council to update Town Clerk.	
27. Welcome Back Fund – Toni Meagan:	We have now received four new benches for the town. Two are being installed along with a shelter at Harriston Road. The bench from Harriston Road has been removed and placed at West Street near the milk churns. Another new bench has been placed at the entrance to the church yard on North Road and the final bench near Aspatria Business Park, Park Road. Cllr Kevin Thurlow believes the towns new notice boards are almost complete and will be erected before the end of March.	
28. Park Gates:	Cllr Kevin Thurlow has spoken to the joiner and was told the panels for the park gates should be ready by the end of March. These will then be restored.	

29. Play Inspection Reports:	Ongoing	
30. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.		
31. Applications for Development:		
32. Items submitted by members:		
33. Items for the next meeting:	Park Wall Park Compound	
34. Confidential items:	None.	
35. The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday 19 April at 7.00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall, Aspatria.		

The meeting ended at 9pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

