

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16th July 2024 at 6.00p.m at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatria.

PRESENT: Councillor S Maxwell (Chair)

Councillors: Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr K Thurlow, Cllr D McRea, Cllr A Hankin, Cllr M Rose, Cllr K Smith, Cllr S Edmondson, Cllr R Gregory, Cllr A Reay, Cllr J Marsh

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

Minutes

Item		Action
1.7.24. Apologies: To receive and accept apologies and note the reasons for absence.	Cllr L Hunter – Prior engagement Cllr C Macdonald - Absent	
2.7.24. Mayors Announcements/Updates:	Thanks was given by Cllr Maxwell to the Councillors who were able to attend the Effective Councillor Course held at Beacon Hill School in June. Courses are available from September for those Councillors who were unable to attend. It was noted the Clerk and RFO should be provided with equipment such as a laptop, phone, desk which enables them to work from home. Ongoing	
3.7.24. 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	
4.7.24. Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held 18th June 2024 :	The minutes were agreed to be of a true record of the last meeting. Approved and signed by the Mayor/Chair.	
5.7.24. Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Extraordinary Meeting held 2nd July 2024:	The minutes were agreed to be of a true record of the Extraordinary meeting. Approved and signed by the Mayor/Chair.	
6.7.24. Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Extraordinary Meeting held 9th July 2024:	The minutes were agreed to be of a true record of the Extraordinary meeting. Approved and signed by the Mayor/Chair.	
7.7.24. Councillor Vacancy Application:	The Town Clerk informed the meeting of an application from Mrs Barbara Blackburn wishing to become a Councillor. Barbara has previously been a Councillor for many years and due to a change in circumstance had to resign. All agreed to co-opt	

	Barbara back on to the council on Central Ward. Clerk to inform.	
8.7.24. Clerks Report:	<p>As per item 12 of June Minutes, Cllr Smith was disappointed the council would not donate to a member of Aspatria who is playing for the England Lions as this would have shown our support for an outstanding achievement.</p> <p>Extra town flowers have been purchased and planted throughout the town.</p> <p>The CCTV system at St Mungos Park has been updated and the old system moved and erected at Brandraw car park toilet block.</p> <p>The Clerk has contacted a solicitor to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal of a lease for the land in which the Lawson Street allotments reside. The RFO stated that there is no budget provision to cover this engagement and therefore any costs incurred would need to be funded from underspends elsewhere or the Council's balances.</p> <p>Following several meetings between Councillors and Steven Gough from Firstway Solar regarding the BESS, we have received no further update as yet.</p> <p>The Clerk applied to Aspatria Charity Shop for funding to assist in us purchasing some outdoor gym equipment, we have been awarded £1500. The Clerk is continuing to apply elsewhere for extra funds.</p> <p>The Clerk reminded the Council of her annual leave, thus being 13th Aug – 27th Aug and 11th Sept – 16th September.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
9.7.24. Public Participation:	<p>Ryan Irving, the treasurer for the Bowling Club and policeman for 23 years attended the meeting to highlight the parking issues at St Mungos Park. Mr Irving proposed using the old putting green as a car park to help reduce the amount of cars, which are illegally parked on the pavement and areas surrounding the park. The concern comes from the sheer volume of cars parked when football games or bowls takes place and the safety of children and families using the play area.</p> <p>Ryan Irving left at 6.05pm.</p>	
10.7.24. Highways:	<p>The public footpath at the rear to the properties at Bellgate Steading, West Street was reported to Cumberland Council due to it being very overgrown, this has now been resolved.</p> <p>Cllr Marsh has received complaints of dog fouling on Queen Street, Cllr Thurlow suggested circulating leaflets to try and reduce the problem.</p> <p>Roadworks are in operation on King Street in order to repair the drain near the entrance to the Methodist Church.</p>	
11.7.24. To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District	<p>Cllr Thurlow requested Cllrs to attend an event which has been organised by Cumberland Council on Tuesday 6th August at Harriston. Cllr Gregory and Cllr Alan Maxwell are to attend.</p>	

<p>and Independent Councillors: 9.1 Councillor Kevin Thurlow</p>	<p>Reports of a streetlight not working at Springkell has now been resolved. Cllr Stephanie Maxwell informed the meeting the new Community Hub at Aspatria Library is scheduled to be opened at the beginning of August.</p> <p>Cllr Thurlow leaves at 7.45pm.</p>	
<p>12.7.24. Financial Matters:</p>	<p>(i) Expenditure and Income for June 2024:- RESOLVED that the expenditure of £11,091.64 (including VAT) and the income of £70.00 as detailed in the June 2024 schedule be approved.</p> <p>Members also approved the following payments to be made:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NPower £55.04 - Brandraw Toilet Block Electricity Charges for 1.6 - 30.6.24 - Aquatrust £151.20 - Legionella Quarterly Invoice for Monitoring Programme - LR & JA Allen £31.26 - Fuel - Aspatria Farmers £152.80 - Various Materials and Tools - The Lakes Homecentre £142.10 - Additional Plants - K Thurlow - £900.48 - Cleaning of Brandraw Toilets for April to June 2024 (Includes £35.98 for Toilet Rolls) <p>Members were also informed that a new direct debit for Wave in relation to the water charges for Brandraw Toilet Block has now been activated. The amount withdrawn for the period 1.6.24 - 30.6.24 is £48.23. This is based on meter readings submitted.</p> <p>ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation Statements as at 30th June 2024:- RESOLVED that the circulated Bank Reconciliation and supporting Statements be confirmed and accepted as a true record.</p> <p>(iii) Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring Report - 1st April to 30th June 2024:- The RFO gave an overview of the net position for the first quarter of 2024/25 and commented on areas as recorded in the schedule, as well as requesting Members approval for the transfer from balances to cover the utility costs of Brandraw Toilet Block. The RFO explained that the first quarter budget monitoring does not highlight any immediate concerns, however, Members need to be mindful of the possible pending pension deficit which will need to be paid due to withdrawing from the Local Government Pension Scheme, as no budget provision has been made for this. RESOLVED that the income and expenditure position for the first quarter to June 2024 be accepted and approved and the transfer authorised.</p>	

	<p>(iv) Updating the Financial Regulations:- Members were asked to approve the amended Financial Regulations in line with NALC guidance. The RFO gave an overview of the amendments made.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the revised Financial Regulations be approved and adopted by the Council.</p>	
13.7.24. Council Policies – Code of Conduct:	The Clerk has updated and circulated the Code of Conduct policy to Cllrs prior to the meeting. This was adopted at this meeting on 16 th July 24 and will be updated on the website.	
14.7.24. Parks & Allotments:	<p>The Clerk obtained a quote to insure the Kubota mower for road use. Councillors agreed the quote was too high and following further correspondence with the insurance company they will not allow the mower to be insured for a period of six months. The mower would not be needed on the road in winter months therefore it was decided to discuss this again next year.</p> <p>Cllr McRea invited Craig Lewis from the Cumberland FA to discuss the pitch maintenance funding acquired by the Clerk. The large pitch at St Mungos Park is of poor condition and Aspatria currently have 17 teams including both junior and adult teams. The funding from the FA would allow support financially over a six-year period to have the pitch maintained, enabling more games to be playable. We are able to use local contractors, following the pitch report and this would be followed up with two inspections per year. Cllr Alan Maxwell stated it is not within the Clerks job role to manage such a project. Ongoing.</p> <p>Craig Lewis leaves at 6.25pm.</p>	
15.7.24. Senior Citizens Trip:	The Senior Citizens Trip is to Durham and will take place on Tuesday 13 th August. The Clerk currently has over 80 names therefore two coaches will be supplied by Ellenvale.	
16.7.24. Mayor’s Civic Service:	The Mayor’s Civic Service is to be held on Sunday 8 th September 2024 at St Kentigerns Church. All attendees will meet at Aspatria Community Centre at 9.15am followed by the service at the Church commencing at 9.30am. Refreshments will follow within the church.	
17.7.24. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.		
18.7.24. Applications for Development:	None to be discussed.	
19.7.24. Items submitted by members:	None	
20.7.24. Items for the next meeting:	Christmas event	

<p>21.7.24. Confidential Items:</p>	<p>The RFO presented the paper from the Pension Actuaries which detailed the calculation of the pension deficit due from the Council because of leaving the Local Government Pension Scheme.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the pension deficit calculation be accepted, and authorisation was given for the RFO to pay this in full. The RFO stated that an invoice would be requested from the Senior Pensions Officer for the Cumbria Pension Fund at Westmorland and Furness Council</p>	
<p>22.7.24. The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday 17th September 2024 at 6pm.</p>		

The meeting ended at 8.15pm

