

ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th June 2024 at 6.00p.m at the Methodist Church Hall, Aspatria.

PRESENT: Councillor S Maxwell (Chair)

Councillors: Cllr A Maxwell, Cllr K Thurlow, Cllr A Hankin, Cllr M Rose, Cllr L Hunter, 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
1/6/24. Apologies: To receive and accept apologies and note the reasons for absence.	Cllr K Smith – Family Commitments Cllr D McRea – Prior engagement Cllr C Macdonald - Holiday	
2/6/24. Steven Gough – Firstway Solar:	Cllr Maxwell introduced Steven Gough and Jonathan Coombes from Firstway Solar who addressed the meeting regarding the proposed plans for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The BESS is to be located at West Farm, Aspatria and will consist of 56 battery units which are active for 4 hours in a 24 hour period, 2 hours charge and 2 hours discharge twice daily. An acoustic noise barrier will be put in place to reduce noise and sites are chosen at least 150-200 meters away from residential properties. A Community Benefit Fund is available to Aspatria and possibly cheaper energy. The plan is said to be a temporary development for a period of 40 years maximum with the start date, should permission be granted to be mid 2025. Steven and Jonathan leave at 6.30pm.	Ongoing
3/6/24. Mayors Announcements/Updates:	Councillor Maxwell thanked everyone for their attendance at the 80 th D Day Brae Lamp event, it was well attended by members of the public. The Mayor’s chain has been engraved with the previous Mayor’s names dating back to 1977.	
4.6.24. 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	
5.6.24. Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held 21st May 2024 :	The minutes were agreed to be of a true record of the last meeting. Approved and signed by the Mayor/Chair.	

<p>6.6.24. Clerks Report:</p>	<p>The investigation into ownership of the land whereby the Brae Lamp resides is still ongoing. The Clerk has purchased documentation from the Land Registry, however the electronic documents held only date back to 1990 therefore it was agreed for Councillors to look through the paper files held by the Clerk for any proof of ownership. Ongoing.</p> <p>The Clerk put to the meeting the upgrading of the CCTV system within St Mungos Park with the old system being placed at Brandraw toilet block. It was proposed by Cllr Marsh to purchase the new CCTV system and seconded by Cllr Rose. The Caretaker will complete the work needed.</p>	
<p>7.6.24. Public Participation:</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>8.6.24. Highways:</p>	<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. The Clerk was informed this area has been contracted out and will be attended to in the coming months.</p>	
<p>9.6.24. To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors: 9.1 Councillor Kevin Thurlow</p>	<p>Cllr Thurlow had reports of a street light not working at Springkell. This has been reported and an engineer will visit the site to see if they can rectify the issue.</p>	
<p>10.6.24. Financial Matters:</p>	<p>(i) Expenditure and Income for April 2024 (re-presented) and May 2024: RESOLVED that the re-presented April 2024 be approved. In addition, expenditure of £8,811.53 (including VAT) and the income of £3,349.02 as detailed in the May schedule be approved.</p> <p>Members also approved the following payments to be made:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lloyds Ltd £40.50 - Inspection of the blower - Lloyds Ltd £40.50 - Inspection of the strimmer - Lloyds Ltd £55.00 - Road fee for the mower - Lloyds Ltd £540.00 - Purchase of the new mower - Westmorland & Furness Council £840.00 - Actuarial Work - J Airey £109.90 - Internal Audit - LR & JA Allen £274.31 - Fuel - Cumbria Pest Services £145.20 - Rodent Control for Allotments (Quarterly Contract July 24 to September 24) - Npower £56.99 - Electricity for Brandraw Toilet Block - Aspatria Farmers £94.20 - Various materials - Nicholson & Coulthard Ltd £250.00 - Engraving of the chain of office <p>Invoices for £599.06 and £975.65 received from Lloyds Ltd are to be queried with them as these are</p>	

	<p>higher than the original quotes given. In addition, an invoice amounting to £40.50 is also to be queried with Lloyds as it is unclear what this is for.</p> <p>(ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation and Statements as at 31st May 2024 RESOLVED that the circulated Bank Reconciliation and corresponding Statement be confirmed and accepted as a true record.</p> <p>(iv) Annual Return Report 2023/24: The Annual Return Report for 2023/24 was circulated and discussed. RESOLVED that the details therein be accepted as a true record.</p> <p>(v) Annual Audit 2023/24: (a) Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2023/24: RESOLVED that it be formally recorded that in the opinion of the Council, it has met all its statutory obligations to comply with the Account and Audit Regulations 2015 and accordingly authorises the Chairman and the Clerk to sign the Annual Governance Statement, prior to submission to the External Auditor.</p> <p>(b) Section 2 Accounting Statements 2023/24: RESOLVED that copies of the Council's accounts for the year 2023/24, as circulated by the RFO, be formally received, noted and approved by the Chairman.</p> <p>(vi) Explanation of Variances for the Year End 31st March 2024: The report was circulated and the RFO explained the reasons for the variances reported therein. RESOLVED that the details therein be accepted as a true record.</p> <p>(vii) Dates for the Exercise of Public Rights: The proforma for the Dates for the Exercise of Public Rights was discussed and RESOLVED that the Chairman set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights of the unaudited annual Governance & Accountability return for the year ended 31st March 2024 as from Monday 24 June 2024 to Friday 2 August 2024.</p> <p>(viii) Financial Reserves 2023/24: The report was circulated and the RFO explained the reasons for the proposals reported therein. RESOLVED as well as maintaining the earmarked reserve in respect of asset, building, equipment repairs, enhancements and replacements, it was agreed that a second earmarked reserve, to assist with any potential pension deficit, be set up. It was agreed that any surplus balance remaining on this reserve, once the fund position is known, be</p>	
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	<p>transferred back into general fund balances.</p> <p>(ix) Internal Audit Report: The Internal Audit report for the second half of the 2023/2024 financial year was circulated by the RFO. RESOLVED that the report be accepted and included in the year end documentation sent to the External Auditors for review as part of the year end sign off. Councillors thanked the Clerk and RFO for their work throughout the year.</p>	
11.6.24. Parks & Allotments:	The Clerk has obtained a quote to insure the Kubota mower for road use. Councillors agreed the quote was too high and asked the Clerk to acquire further quotes. Cllr Reay explained the mower won't be used in winter months therefore the Clerk suggested insuring the mower from April-October. Ongoing.	
12.6.24. Council Donation:	Cllr Smith liaised with the Clerk to put to the meeting a donation for a member of the public who has been accepted to play for the English Lions. Cllr Hunter recommended Cumbria Community Foundation offer grants to individuals who excel at sports and help support them to finance their opportunity. It was agreed on this occasion the council would not be offering any donation.	
13.6.24. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications: To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.		
14.6.24. Applications for Development:	None to be discussed.	
15.6.24. Items submitted by members:	None	
16.6.24. Items for the next meeting:	None	
17.6.24. Confidential Items:	Nothing to discuss	
18.6.24. The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday 16th July 2024 at 6pm.		

The meeting ended at 7.40pm

