

# ASPATRIA TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 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 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
<b>1. Apologies:</b> To receive and accept apologies and note the reasons for absence.	Cllr Henry Barker	Clerk to note.
<b>2. Mayors Announcements/Updates:</b>	<p>Councillor Alan Maxwell and Councillor Stephanie Maxwell informed the meeting they had attended the Civic Service for the Mayor of Wigton on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022.</p> <p>On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July Cllr Alan Maxwell (Mayor) and Cllr Stephanie Maxwell (Deputy Mayor) also attended St Kentigerns Church for the new curate Matt Richards to be ordained, this was well attended. Matt Richards will take the role of Arch Deacon for 12 months before becoming a Priest.</p> <p>Cllr Maxwell told the meeting of the Town Clerk's annual leave, this beginning on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August and returning to work on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August.</p>	TC
<b>3. Declarations of Interest:</b> 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.	
<b>4. Minutes of Aspatria Town Council Meeting held Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022:</b> To authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last Aspatria Town Council Meeting held on	Approved.	
<b>5. Matters arising from Minutes of the last Meeting held Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022.</b>	<p>Cllr Karen Smith enquired about the information which is to be given to the Town Clerk from Cllr Reay in regard to the payment for Senior Citizens.</p> <p>Cllr Karen Smith required clarification of the sessions</p>	AR & TC

	available at Dreamscheme, having been made aware the open sessions only run one night per week.	
<b>6. Public Participation:</b>	<p>Linda Hunter from Dreamscheme attended the meeting to inform all Councillors of the activities and sessions that are available to people of all ages held at Dreamscheme. Some of these include targeted youth work which trains younger volunteers in Health and Safety and Safeguarding, band practise, gaming sessions for those who love playing board games and the open session on a Friday. The Friday session is a member only session however membership is free, this enables the volunteers to be aware of the participants within the building. They currently have 70 members. Linda also informed the meeting they now have the keys to the Chapel, this will provide Aspatria with meals as part of a 'chat and chow' group, 'men without a shed' group, which has tools that were kindly donated and additional funding has been acquired for this. After school clubs such as homework club and arts and crafts will also be available. The second floor of the building is being used in partnership with art students from Lakes College providing classes to adults throughout the day. Dreamscheme are also running summer activities from St Mungos Park for children from 5 years old, this is being funded by themselves and they provide the children participating with a packed lunch. Linda Hunter made the meeting aware of the youths which are still gathering underneath the youth wing and they are continuing to monitor this, reporting anything untoward to the police. Aspatria Town Council are happy to work alongside Dreamscheme and Beacon Hill School to keep the ASB to a minimum.</p>	
<b>7. Highways:</b>	<p>Mr Jim Lister confirmed the road surfacing from Aspatria to Hayton has now been completed. Town Clerk voiced concerns from a member of the public who has used the crossing outside the Co-op on King Street and cars have failed to stop. The Councillors agree the safety precautions are in place by having the crossing and Cllr McRea advised the cars do not have to stop unless pedestrians have already begun to cross. Cllr Gregory commented he feels the crossing is not very visible to traffic and should possibly have been placed further up King Street.</p> <p>The land at St Mungos Park opposite the church yard is owned by Cumbria County Council, they have recently made changes to the grass cutting which has resulted in the grass becoming overgrown. TC and Cllr Thurlow have contacted several parties for this to be resolved. The grass has now been cut.</p> <p>The overgrown weeds on the pavements were previously maintained by Allerdale. Cllr Thurlow confirmed an organisation was attending to these, spraying weed killer throughout the town.</p>	

	The hedge alongside Queen Street next to Richmond Hill School seems to be overgrown and causing issues to pedestrians on the pavement. This land is owned by a local farmer.	TC to contact
<b>8. To receive for information, reports on issues relevant to the Town from County, District and Independent Councillors:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Councillor Jim Lister</li> <li>1.2 Councillor Kevin Thurlow</li> </ul>	<p>Many changes are taking place at Allerdale House at the moment in respect of the new councils. Some of the teams will remain. A meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July to discuss allocated money which has not yet been spent due to Covid, any monies not spent will be transferred to the new councils. Mr Lister told the council Allerdale feel the new refuse system at Brough Street seems to be working well. The recycle bins located at Queen Street car park are untidy, Jim Lister to action this. The crunch service on Queen Street car park has not yet resumed however they will collect following a phone call.</p> <p>CCTV is to be placed at recycle sites to help reduce fly tipping. It has been found food waste is being thrown into the cardboard recycle bin, therefore this cannot be recycled.</p> <p>Cllr Thurlow reported waste situated outside Grapes Hotel, this is also classed as fly tipping. This has now been removed.</p> <p>The school lights at Richmond Hill and Beacon Hill are not working or working at incorrect times. The footpath outside Beacon Hill School needs resurfaced.</p> <p>A digital display has been requested for the train station, Aspatria is the only station on the line without one.</p> <p>The drain on Queen Street remains in disrepair and several potholes in the town have not yet been attended to.</p>	<p>JL</p> <p>JL</p>
<b>9. Brough St bins:</b>	<p>Cllr Barbara Blackburn has concerns regarding the refuse collection at Brough Street. Several residents have written to Allerdale complaining of the new procedure, however they have had no reply. MP Mark Jenkinson has also sent correspondence to Allerdale Borough Council and is to contact Andrew Seekings to voice his concerns on behalf of Brough Street residents. Town Clerk and Cllr Maxwell (Mayor) have also contacted the MP in support of the residents.</p> <p>Mr Lister informed the meeting the refuse department have reduced costs however Cllr Barbara Blackburn argued the new procedure is not cost effective. The residents are now provided with black bags which get collected by the refuse department and placed into a van parked up Brough Street, these are then taken to the four bins provided at Queen Street car park. Mr Lister stated the safety of the refuse workers is paramount and Unions are supporting the changes as their priority is the safety of the refuse staff.</p> <p>Jim Lister leaves at 8.20pm</p>	Ongoing
<b>10. Financial Matters:</b>	<p>Financial Matters.</p> <p>(i) Expenditure and Income Schedule for June 2022:-</p>	

	<p>RESOLVED that the income and expenditure detailed for June 2022 in the attached schedule be approved. The RFO informed Members that two payments had been received from BEGL4 re; Windfarm contributions. This was due to a missed contribution when the funding was paid directly to the Community Fund rather than into the Town Council bank account.</p> <p>Councillors also agreed the following payments to be made:-  LR &amp; JA Allen £179.50  Aspatria Farmers £29.26  Aquatrust £131.10  A1 Tractor Parts £113.94  Reimbursement for Toilet Rolls (Brandraw Toilet Block) £15.97  J Davies Enterprise £60.00 (with a further £60.00 to be paid in August)</p> <p>(ii) To receive the Bank Reconciliation Statements as at 30th June 2022 -  RESOLVED that the circulated Bank Reconciliation Statements be confirmed and accepted as a true record.</p> <p>(iii) Quarter 1, 2022/23, Budget Monitoring Report  The RFO gave an overview of the net position for the first quarter of 2022/23 and commented on areas of budget over spends as recorded in the schedule. Members approved the virements made from balances to cover the purchase of the mower as well as the use of the Grant/Donations received to ease the Allotment budget overspend.  RESOLVED that the income and expenditure position for the first quarter to June 2022 was accepted and approved.</p> <p>The RFO also gave a prudent overview of the financial impact which recent decision, made by the Council, have had on the bank balances. It was explained that ideally, the Council should maintain a bank balance which would fund approximately one years level of expenditure. Currently, should income and expenditure continue as budgeted, the Council will fall short of this requirement. The RFO did explain that the figures reported did take account of the worst case scenario, but it was just to make Members mindful of our current position.</p> <p>(iv) NEST pension payment via Direct Debit  The RFO explained the current position regarding payment of the monthly pension contributions to NEST and requested approval and authority to set up a direct debit mandate in order for future payments to be made.  RESOLVED: that the RFO be given approval to set up</p>	
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	<p>the required direct debit mandate with NEST in order for the monthly contributions to be paid.</p> <p>RFO leaves at 8.30pm</p>	
<b>11. Grant applications:</b>	<p>None</p> <p>Town Clerk updated the Councillors we have had receipts from the Gala Committee showing the expenditure of the grant money for the fun day.</p>	Complete
<b>12. Website update:</b>	<p>Town Clerk provided the Councillors with information for the social media page, this being up to date photos needed of the Councillors and any news regarding Aspatria to be posted under section 'Aspatria News'.</p> <p>Town Clerk is to take new pictures from within the town to be used in any new posts made.</p>	Ongoing
<b>13. Brandraw Toilets:</b>	<p>Cllr Alan Maxwell gave thanks to Cllr Kevin Thurlow for providing his services and cleaning the toilet block. The signing of the documents has now been completed and payments from Allerdale Borough Council for the funding acquired are to be paid over three years, this will continue once Allerdale Borough Council ceases and Cumberland Council take over.</p> <p>It is felt CCTV needs to be placed on the toilet block to help reduce the Anti-Social Behaviour from youths.</p> <p>Town Clerk is to purchase a sign for the exterior of the toilet block informing the public of the opening times.</p>	
<b>14. Monument cleaning:</b>	<p>Chris Fleming from Allerdale Borough Council has confirmed the Lawson Monument located at Market Square is owned by Allerdale Borough Council. Cllr Maxwell has requested the monument to be cleaned. This will be completed by Allerdale Property Services.</p>	Ongoing
<b>15. Queen St toilets &amp; gate key:</b>	<p>Town Clerk now has a key for the gate at Queen Street car park, which can be opened for overflow parking. Town Clerk is to update on our Facebook page any use of the car park needed for events at the church/community centre to contact TC and arrangements can be made to open the gate.</p> <p>Cllr Kevin Thurlow has proposed Aspatria Town Council take ownership of the Queen Street toilets, however these are located on land owned by Allerdale Borough Council. Cllr Karen Smith told the meeting in 2017 Allerdale offered Aspatria Town Council the toilets and the car park however they were to place a charge on using the car park, ATC then refused.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<b>16. Tunnel bridge car park:</b>	<p>Town Clerk has received complaints of vehicles being parked incorrectly on the land near the bus stop at Queen Street. Town Clerk suggested parking bays</p>	Ongoing

	could be painted on the land to prevent this from happening. TC to research who owns the land.	
<b>17. Park &amp; Allotments update:</b>	Cllr Alan Reay and Town Clerk regularly inspect the allotments at Lawson Street and Outgang Road. Letters have been sent to allotment holders who aren't abiding by the tenancy rules requesting them to tidy their plots, failure to do so will result in the plots being revoked by the council. An allotment holder at Outgang Road had not completed their tenancy agreement and had planted trees, which was against tenancy rules. Town Clerk contacted the allotment holder, the tenancy agreement has now been returned and the trees removed. Two extra plots are to become available at Lawson Street when the contractor returns and divides the plot.	Ongoing
<b>18. Senior Citizens Trip:</b>	71 people have requested a place on the trip which takes place on Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> August to Liverpool. Two buses will be provided by Ellenvale at the cost of the council. Cllr Marie Rose has composed a quiz for the buses, Town Clerk to photocopy and return to Cllr Rose. Cllr Maxwell and Cllr Smith will oversee the separate coaches on the day.	
<b>19. Anti-Social Behaviour:</b>	Town Clerk is awaiting on contact with the PCSO in regard to the CCTV from the library of the damage caused at Brandraw toilet block. PCSO Pete Nichol has sent the CCTV to their imagery department to be viewed.	Ongoing
<b>20. Christmas lights/event:</b>	The Christmas lights we have purchased with funding have now been erected throughout the town.	Complete
<b>21. Watering of flowers:</b>	Cllr Alan Maxwell told the meeting Mike Blair is struggling to water the flowers situated throughout the town. As Mike does not work weekends, he spends a lot of time on Monday morning collecting rubbish in the park and on occasion broken glass, which is vital due to children playing in the park. Cllr Reay informed the councillors he had spoken with Mike Blair previously and it had been agreed Mike would water the flowers independently as this was more cost effective. Mike Blair feels contractors would water the flowers extensively however the equipment he has is insufficient. Cllr Thurlow gained access to a water pump for Mike to use, but due to the lack of water in previous months, some of the flowers have begun to die. TC and Cllr Maxwell are to discuss this further with Mike Blair.  It was suggested moving forward this is to be	

	<p>discussed at the next Parks and Allotments meeting for next year's flowers.</p> <p>It was brought to the Councillors attention that Mike Blair wishes to purchase a flail hedge cutter which can be attached to the Kubota mower. The council agreed to purchase the larger mower with the option to use varied attachments if needed. It was in question if the hedge cutter would be cost effective, as it would be used to cut the bowling club hedge and the hedge separating St Mungos park and Outgang Road allotments. Mr Lister acquired a price of £45 per hour for a contractor to complete the work. It was agreed two other quotes must be retrieved in order for this to be discussed further.</p>	Ongoing
<b>22. Park:</b>	To be discussed at the next meeting	
<b>23. Schedule of Correspondence, Notices and Publications:</b> To receive a schedule of correspondence, notices and publications received since the last meeting.		
<b>24. Applications for Development:</b>	<p>John Stokoe from the Red Lion at West Street has applied for a change of use to the barn situated at the rear of the Red Lion into a café. All Councillors were in agreeance this would be an asset to the town. Town Clerk received an email from Hayley Bishop from Cumbria County Council to update us on Jubilee Walk. They are gathering quotes to install a French drain and to raise the footpath. They are hoping this will be completed in the summer holidays to avoid disruption for school children.</p>	Ongoing
<b>26. Items for the next meeting:</b>	<p>Queen Street toilets Park Christmas event</p>	
<b>27. Confidential items:</b>	None.	
<b>28. The next meeting of Aspatria Town Council will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 p.m. at the Methodist Hall, Aspatria.</b>		

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

