

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL
A MEETING OF THE PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE
WAS HELD ON TUESDAY 29TH JULY 2025 AT 5.15PM

PRESENT Councillors Speksnyder, Hodson, Jackson and Scott.

POA/109/2025 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE
Cllr Hamblin and Cllr Crouch

POA/110/2025 TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS
To approve the minutes of the Parks, Open Spaces and Allotment meeting from 5th June 2025 – **AGREED.**

POA/111/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS
None

POA/112/2025 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
None

POA/113/2025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None

POA/114/2025 ALLOTMENT RULES
Cllr Hodson proposed that the current rule prohibiting pigeons be amended to allow them, Cllr Scott seconded.
UNANIMOUSLY agreed.
Rule 4.3 was discussed regarding the wording “edible crops”. The assistant Clerk advised that this is a requirement of the Allotments Act 1950 and therefore can’t be changed but will confirm this.
It was agreed that rule 4.16 should be removed.

POA/115/2025 PLAY PARK EQUIPMENT
Following the councillors’ walkaround of the play parks, it was noted that most parks had sufficient space for an additional piece of equipment.
The signs within the parks need to be updated and reworded.
The fence at Highmoor requires repair; however, this is the responsibility of Cumberland Council.
Councillors requested an update on what has been spent to date and what remains in the budget.
The potential for creating a new park on the grass area in Springfields was discussed and the Assistant Clerk will research the costs of play equipment.

POA/116/2025 BENCHES
The Assistant Clerk provided costings from two companies, Marmax and Solway Direct. It was agreed to enquire whether one of the benches on the product ‘Olympic Picnic Bench’ could be removed for wheelchair access. Options from Earth Anchors for benches and costs will also be explored.
It was further noted that the base of a bench in Phoenix Park needs repaired.

POA/117/2025 ALLOTMENTS

An update on the allotments was provided. It was reported that Plot 11A had been awarded Most Improved, Plot 33 had received the Chairman's Choice, and Plot 47 had been judged Best Plot.

It was agreed that the prize money be allocated as £70, £40, and £40.

All letters following the inspection have been issued and should now have been received. There are currently five vacant plots.

POA/118/2025 PLANS

The outdoor gym at Throstle Park was discussed, with the possibility of seeking funding through Sport England or Section 106. Assistant Clerk to contact Cumberland Council regarding the use of 106 funding.

In relation to Phoenix Park, it was suggested that staff could maintain the flowerbed, although involvement from a voluntary group would be beneficial.

The replanting of daffodils on the roadsides was considered, with the addition of snowdrops and possibly crocuses. Councillors offered to assist with the replanting in October/November.

Assistant Clerk to seek further quotes for the proposed dipping platform.

The possibility of planting perennials in the town planters will also be looked into.

The plan to plant wildflowers in green spaces was removed, as these areas are owned by Cumberland Council.

The suggestion of declaring a climate emergency was considered, with the option of issuing a statement to show climate awareness. However, it was not recommended and the item will be removed for the time being.

Finally, the costings of repairing paths in Wigton Park are to be researched.

Meeting closed 7:15pm

Date of next meeting: 2nd September