

**WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**A MEETING OF THE PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE**

**WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025 AT 5.15PM**

**PRESENT** Councillors Speksnyder, Hodson, Jackson, Scott and Hamblin.

**POA/136/2025 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE**  
Cllr Crouch

**POA/137/2025 TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**  
To approve the minutes of the Parks, Open Spaces and Allotment meeting from 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – **AGREED.**

**POA/138/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS**  
Cllr Scott – Agenda item 8 (East End Park)

**POA/139/2025 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**  
Agenda item 11 (Confidential Part Two)

**POA/140/2025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
None

**POA/141/2025 PHOENIX PARK FLOWERBED**

Members discussed options for the ongoing maintenance of the Phoenix Park flowerbed. It was noted that a potential option would be to establish a “Friends of Wigton” group to support and continue maintenance of the flowerbed.

Cllr Hamblin advised that a maintenance plan had previously been created and could be passed on to any group or individuals who may take on responsibility for the upkeep.

Members were informed that, should the Council take over responsibility for the maintenance, there would be a fee of £100 to enter RHS Cumbria in Bloom.

The possibility of involving local schools was discussed, with reference to Nelson Thomlinson School, to explore whether pupils might be interested in helping to maintain the flowerbed. It was also suggested that the Community Payback Service could be approached to assess whether this would be a viable option. Additionally, members agreed that Wigton Newsletter could be contacted to request that a notice be published seeking volunteers.

Cllr Hodson proposed that the Community Payback Service be contacted to explore this option.

Cllr Scott seconded.

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously agreed

It was further agreed that the Assistant Clerk would prepare draft wording for a sign to be placed by the flowerbed encouraging volunteers, to be presented for consideration at the next meeting.

**POA/142/2025 ALLOTMENT INSPECTION DATES**

The following allotment inspection dates were chosen:

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026

### **POA/143/2025 EAST END PARK**

Cllr Hamblin referred to the park walkarounds carried out last year, during which councillors discussed the planting of additional trees in East End Park. It was noted that some tree planting had since taken place; however, members agreed that further planting would be beneficial.

Cllr Speksnyder advised they would explore whether additional trees could be donated by the Woodland Trust for planting within the park.

Members also raised concerns regarding the condition of the wall at East End Park. It was agreed that a professional assessment would be sought to determine whether any remedial work is required and, if so, to arrange appropriate repairs.

### **POA/144/2025 WIGTON PARK PATHS**

It was noted that the path leading to the bowling club nearest the football pitches is heavily worn and requires repair. The path/road on the left-hand side when entering the park is also in poor condition.

Assistant Clerk to research costs and identify a cost-effective and suitable repair option.

### **POA/145/2025 ALLOTMENT HARVEST FESTIVAL**

It was discussed to include competition categories for grown produce, with small prizes awarded. The competition could be open to all members of the public, not limited to allotment holders.

It was suggested that Cllr Crouch be approached to see if he would be willing to deliver a cooking demonstration.

The Food Pantry may be interested in hosting a stall - Cllr Jackson to liaise with them.

Wigton Town Council could provide and sell teas and coffees at the event.

The National Allotment Society may be able to provide information or examples of similar allotment festivals for inspiration.

It was discussed that councillors from this committee could act as judges for the competition, with judging categories divided between them depending on the number of categories.

**Meeting closed:** 6:18pm

**Date of next meeting:** 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025