

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL
A MEETING OF THE PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE
WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 21st MAY 2026 AT 5.15PM AT BARTON LAWS

PRESENT Councillors Speksnyder, Jackson and Budd

POA/01/2026 TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN

Cllr Jackson proposed Cllr Speksnyder
Cllr Budd seconded the motion

RESOLVED

Cllr Speksnyder was duly elected as the chairman of the POA for the 2026-2027 term.

POA/02/2026 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Crouch, Scott and Hodson

POA/03/2026 TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

To approve the minutes of the Parks, Open Spaces and Allotment meeting from 26th March 2026.

RESOLVED

Minutes from 26th March 2026 were approved.

POA/04/2026 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

None

POA/05/2026 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

POA/05/2026 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

POA/06/2026 SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM PLANS

It was requested that the Short-, Medium- and Long-Term Plans be included as a standing item on future agendas.

The plans were reviewed, and members were invited to suggest any additions.

Cllr Budd asked who was responsible for maintaining the beck side adjacent to Wigton Baths, as there was a significant amount of Himalayan balsam present. Members were advised that this area falls under the responsibility of Cumberland Council.

Members discussed the creation of a sign asking for volunteers at Phoenix Park. This was agreed as an action.

It was also suggested that an area of wildflowers be established where appropriate.

The Clerk recommended installing chains around an area of Wigton Park to prevent football spectators from parking on the grass.

POA/06/2026 ALLOTMENTS

8.1 To consider reducing the number of allotment inspections a year.

Members discussed the merits of reducing the number of annual allotment inspections.

RESOLVED – Members agreed to remove the April allotment inspection from the inspection schedule, as there are typically no crops or plants growing at that time of year.

8.2 To discuss the potential creation of a community allotment plot.

Members discussed the creation of a community allotment plot following an enquiry from a local resident, who proposed using a plot for community benefit and involving other residents in its maintenance and cultivation.

RESOLVED – Members approved the creation of a community allotment plot and agreed that no annual tenancy fee would be charged.

POA/07/2026 PHOENIX PARK FLOWER BED

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

POA/08/2026 SIGNS FOR PUBLIC TOILETS AND WIGTON PARK BOWLING CLUB

Members received an update on the proposed directional signage for the public toilets and Wigton Park Bowling Club. A quotation of approximately £900 had been obtained; however, the proposed sign did not meet the required specification. The Clerk therefore recommended obtaining alternative quotations. ASD Signs was suggested as a potential supplier.

RESOLVED – The office will obtain alternative quotations and report back to the Committee.

POA/09/2026 THROSTLE PARK

The fence at Throstle Park was discussed, and it was suggested that it could now be removed as it was no longer considered necessary.

Before any decision is made, it was noted that the former councillor who installed the fence should be contacted, as they personally paid for the materials.

RESOLVED – Members agreed for the fence to be removed but to contact the former councillor to request their approval.

POA/10/2026 HARVEST FESTIVAL

Plans for the Harvest Festival were discussed, and it was agreed that the event will take place on **Saturday 5 September**, from **1.00 pm to 3.00 pm**.

It was also agreed that the festival would provide an ideal opportunity to gather feedback from both visitors and allotment holders.

RESOLVED – To contact an ice cream van to provide refreshments, produce promotional posters for display and social media, approve the purchase of additional tables if required, and create a feedback form to be promoted via a QR code.

ACTION – To arrange an additional meeting in August (avoiding the final week) or in early September, prior to the Harvest Festival.

POA/10/2026 AOB

The Clerk advised the Committee that including an **Any Other Business (AOB)** item on the agenda is considered poor practice, as it allows matters to be raised without prior notice. As an alternative, it was suggested that a standing item for **Future Agenda Items** be included, enabling specific topics to be added for discussion at a subsequent meeting.

The Committee also discussed the Recovery Plan, noting that it requires further consideration.

RESOLVED/ACTIONS – To produce a map to accompany the Recovery Plan, add the Recovery Plan to a future agenda for detailed consideration, and provide each member with a printed copy of the plan to collect from the office prior to the next meeting.

Meeting closed: 6:36pm

Date of next meeting: TBC