



Carnforth Town Council

Minutes of meeting held on 20th March 2024 at 6:30pm at Carnforth Council Offices

Present: Councillors Grisenthwaite (Town Mayor) Bromilow; Gardner; Hanna; Jones; Laurence; Parker; Roe; Richmond and Smith.

In attendance: Bob Bailey, Town Clerk; County Councillor Williamson; Ward Councillor Belcher and Sargeant Brown

- 24032 Apologies:** Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Turner
- 24033 Declaration of interests and dispensations:** Declarations of interest relating to connections with local organisations were made and accepted.
- 24034 Urgent Business:** Councillor Laurence reported that he had been asked about the approved precept and how this had been determined. The Town Mayor advised that full details had been set out in the Carnforth Express and that residents could formally raise questions by contacting the Town Clerk in the first instance.
- 24035 Minutes:** Subject to a minor amendment, it was **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of Carnforth Town Council held on 21st February 2024 be approved.**
- 24036 Adjournment for public discussion and information only updates.**
- 1) Public Discussion:** No members of the public were present. The Town Mayor invited Sargeant Brown to speak first:
 - 2) Lancashire Constabulary report:** Sergeant Brown provided an interesting and detailed report on crime statistics in Carnforth and the surrounding area. The amount of crime across all areas has reduced and some significantly, which compares very favorably against many places throughout Lancashire and is something that the town 'can be proud of'. Anti-social behaviour in a small number of locations around the town is the main issue, although not at a level of real concern and there are also pockets of organized criminality that 'travel through' the town.
Sergeant Brown then outlined changes to the structure and purpose of neighbourhood policing that is now starting to pay dividends and ensures that crime is dealt with as efficiently and expediently as possible. It was acknowledged that, due to high profile cases nationally, the perception of standards in policing had suffered in recent years but successes arising from greater scrutiny and awareness from the public, along with effective partnership working is resulting in significant improvements.



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Councillors then asked a range of questions covering more details on specific types of crime; mental health & social care; road safety and speeding. **ACTION: Sergeant Brown undertook to investigate and report back on some matters raised.** (Sergeant Brown then left the meeting)

- 3) **Town Mayor & Councillor updates / matters:** Councillors reported on a range of matters and actions including:
 - a) A meeting with representatives of Crag Bank under 5's to discuss complaints and allegations relating to the ongoing heating problems, at Crag Bank Village Hall. A number of actions had been agreed and an apology made to Carnforth Town Council.
 - b) Carnforth Fringe and War Memorial Gardens anniversary actions and updates;
 - c) Upcoming events, such as: Carnforth expo at the Royal Station Hotel; talk on the swift population at Carnforth Civic Hall on 10th April and a Mental Health Conference at Crag Bank Village Hall on 19th April;
 - d) Residents and local community groups matters and caseload.
- 4) **Reports of County & Ward Councillors:** County Councillor Williamson provided information and updates on the following matters:
 - a) Lancashire Combined County Authority Consultation with the completed proposal to be considered by Parliament in October;
 - b) 2024/2024 budget approval;
 - c) Investment of £32m on the county's roads in the coming year;
 - d) Update on work on the £9.2m scheme to improve the A6070 (formerly the M601M);
 - e) Local Nature Recovery Strategy public consultation until 31st March 2024;
 - f) Next round of Crowdfund Lancashire to open in June 2024;
 - g) Public health weekly 'situation reports';
 - h) 50th anniversary of Lancashire County Council;
 - i) Upcoming election of Police & Crime Commissioner, and;
 - j) Local casework and recommendation that use is made of the County Council's 'Report it' and 'Love my street' apps;



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Ward Councillors reported on their local casework including Highfield Play Area group plans and housing matters.

- 5) **Reports from outside bodies:** Councillors provided updates on the following:
- a) Carnforth Swimming Pool extension;
 - b) Carnforth and District Twinning Association activities and plans for the forthcoming visit of representatives from Sailly-sur-la-Lys;
 - c) annual general meeting of the Chamber of Trade and a change in strategy to attract new members and improve effectiveness;
 - d) Quarry Liaison meeting and Tarmac and Aggregate Industries hosting a series of exhibitions as part of a public consultation on the proposed deepening of our Leapers Wood and Back Lane quarries.
- 6) **Town Clerk's report:** Councillors considered the written report including:
- a) completion of the development stage of the website and a **recommendation** that Carnforth Town Council resolves that the website goes live from 2nd April;
 - b) ongoing operational matters at Crag Bank Village Hall and the work of the Council's solicitors on 'technical amendments' to the lease to satisfy the Land Registry and a **recommendation** that Carnforth Town Council resolves that the arrangements be made for the revised lease to be signed on the Council's behalf by the Town Mayor;
 - c) update on the Carnforth Food Club which will be officially opening on 5th April and every Friday thereafter;
 - d) arrangements for the forthcoming Carnforth expo;
 - e) a recommendation that a formal review of the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan be deferred until such time as the implications of the Local Plan review are known.

Councillors asked questions about the development of the new website and commented on a perception that they had not been given sufficient time to input on the final product. It was noted that the original demonstration had not taken place due to the cancellation of the February meeting of the Finance & Governance Committee and that a further opportunity to comment had been given at the March meeting of that Committee.



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It was then **RESOLVED** that reports of County and Ward Councillors, Outside Bodies and the Town Clerk be noted and recommendations approved, subject to Councillors being given until 31st March to make any further comments relating to the development website subject to it going live on 2nd April 2024.

24037 Planning applications & statutory consultations: Councillors considered the following planning applications and road traffic orders:

Application No:	Description
24/00208/FUL	Change of use of first and second floors of former bank into two apartments and alterations to windows and door openings – Barclays, Market Street, Carnforth LA5 9JX
Traffic Regulation Orders:	
M6 Junction 35, Ash dieback and woodland management - work alongside the M6 southbound at junction 35 (Carnforth). Roadworks include lane 1 and 2 closures on the M6 southbound and full closures of the southbound entry slip road off junction 35 between 8 th and 23 rd March 2024	
Crag Bank Road, Carnforth from its junction with Shore Road to the entrance to the Public Right of Way leading past Galley Hall from 0001 hours on 27 th February to until 1800 on 2 nd March 2024	
Nether Kellet Road, Over Kellet from its junction of Kirklands Road to outside The School House from 0800 on 22 nd April to 17:00 on 1 st May 2024	

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the planning application be supported in principle and traffic regulation orders be noted.

24038 Planning Authority Decisions: Councillors considered the up-to-date position on decisions of the planning authority (Lancaster City Council) on planning applications previously deliberated by Town Councillors.

Four planning applications are awaiting decision including Planning Applications 19/00541/OUT - Lundsfield Quarry for 250 dwellings (supported in principle) and 21/00899/HYB – Brewers Barn for 81 dwellings (objected).

It was then **RESOLVED** that the update on the planning authority's decisions be noted.



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24039 **Town Development & Planning Committee:** Councillor Parker reported on the recommendations, updates and actions arising from the meeting of the Town Development & Planning Committee held on 4th March 2024, including:

- 1) Update on 1 and 2 Station Buildings;
- 2) Representation at the forthcoming Carnforth Expo;
- 3) **Recommendation** that Carnforth Town Council resolves to work with the Carnforth Chamber of Trade on forthcoming Christmas events;
- 4) Planning applications – recommendations to full Council;
- 5) Carnforth Food Club – ‘Welcome’ meeting;
- 6) Updates on planned events, including Carnforth Fringe; D-Day 80 commemorations and War Memorial Centenary;

After some comments, it was **RESOLVED that the report, actions and recommendations of the Town Development & Planning Committee be noted and approved.**

24040 **Property & Environment Committee:** Councillor Richmond reported on the recommendations, updates and actions arising from the meeting of the Property & Environment Committee held on 6th March 2024, including:

- 1) Use of Biodiversity funding received from Lancashire County Council;
- 2) ‘Community conversation’ on the management and use of allotments in the Lancaster District;
- 3) Environmental and public realm matters and actions in the last month;
- 4) Repairs and maintenance issues at Carnforth Civic Hall and Crag Bank Village Hall.

It was **RESOLVED that the report, actions and recommendations of the Property & Environment Committee be noted and approved.**

24041 **Finance & Governance Committee:** Councillor Jones reported on the recommendations, updates and actions arising from the meeting of the Property & Environment Committee held on 14th March 2024, including:

- 1) two expressions of interest received for the current vacancy on Carnforth Town Council for the Carnforth Ward;
- 2) **Recommendation** that Carnforth Town Council be resolves to appoint a contractor to cover cleaning services when the need arises;



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- 3) Bank reconciliation and Summary reports as at 29th February 2024 (Month 11);
- 4) **Recommendation** that a review of charges for Council services and functions until October 2024 at the earliest;
- 5) **Recommendation** that a working group responsible for seeking sponsorship and funding opportunities be established;
- 6) Presentation of the newly developed website and a **recommendation** that approval be given for the website to be launched from 2nd April;
- 7) **Recommendation** that an application for the Local Council Award Scheme, subject to the satisfactory completion of required actions, be supported, and;
- 8) A **recommendation** that the draft Training & Development Policy as presented be approved and that all Councillors confirm their commitment to training and development

It was **RESOLVED that the report, actions and recommendations of the Finance & Governance Committee be noted and approved.**

24042 Payments for Authorisation: Councillors considered the list of payments awaiting authorisation. It was **RESOLVED that payments as set out be authorised in full.**

24043 Correspondence: Councillors considered correspondence received in the last month. It was then **RESOLVED that** the correspondence be noted.

24044 Items for next Agenda: Councillor Smith requested an update on outstanding matters that have been reported to Lancaster City Council's Planning Enforcement Team.

24045 Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting of the 'ordinary' Town Council will be held on **Wednesday 17th April 2024 at 6:30pm at Carnforth Town Council offices.**

The meeting closed at 8:25pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Baker".

Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer