

# **BOWNESS ON SOLWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Peter Streatfeild  
Email [clerk.bowness@outlook.com](mailto:clerk.bowness@outlook.com)

Minutes of the **Extraordinary Meeting** of Bowness on Solway Parish Council held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Lindow Hall, Bowness on Solway at 7.00 pm.

## **Present**

Chair: Pauline Hinks

Councillors: James Graham (Vice Chair), Marian Carruthers, John Harrington, Carol Mark and John Wills

Clerk: Peter Streatfeild

Three members of the public were present

### **1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.**

There were no apologies, and no declarations of interest.

### **2 To suspend the standing orders for this meeting only.**

It was agreed unanimously to suspend the standing orders for the meeting.

### **5 Correspondence received from Glasson Community Association regarding the playing field/park.**

As there were only three members of the public present, two of whom represented the Glasson Community Association (GCA) - the Secretary and a Trustee, the councillors unanimously decided to discuss the GCA business first.

The GCA Secretary reiterated that no person nor similar organisation was willing to take over the GCA so it had been decided to disband it and relinquish the lease and return the park to the Council. After some discussion it was agreed unanimously that the Council would be willing in principle to take responsibility for the land, the equipment, and other assets on condition that:

1. the GCA take proper legal advice and have a proper deed of surrender prepared by a solicitor;
2. the GCA take legal advice regarding the gifting of the equipment in the Park along with other immovable or movable assets which belong to the GCA;
3. the GCA check whether any grants and/or funds given by funding organisations over the past five to ten years have any stipulations attached.

Two members of the public left

### **3 To approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return statements.**

The Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) presented the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) statements for information and approval. It was **noted** that the "Explanations of variances 2022/23 – pro-forma" is to be submitted to the external auditor.

The Chair pointed out that the internal auditor, Ms P L Gauntlett, had assured her that there was nothing amiss with the accounts, that they were correct and up to date as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. This was **noted**.

The Chair proposed the AGAR statements be accepted and signed. This was **approved unanimously**.

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 was **signed** by the Chair and RFO.

Section 2 – Accounting Statement 2022/23 was **signed** by the Chair.

**4 To note the report of the internal auditor.**

The Chair presented the covering letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 of the internal auditor, M/s P L Gauntlett, regarding her annual internal audit report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The receipt of the letter was **noted** as were her comments.

1. it was **noted** that the only matter missing from the accounts and AGAR statements as presented to the internal auditor, M/s P L Gauntlett, was the "Explanation of variances 2022/23 – pro forma" which will be submitted to the external auditor along with the AGAR statements.

In closing the discussion, the Chair reiterated that Ms P Gauntlett had reported that the accounts and statements were all correct.

As the next item was a closed discussion the remaining member of the public left.

**6 Legal matters (closed discussion).**

**7 Date of next meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023, The Lindow Hall.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.45pm