

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM
LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE
ON WEDNESDAY 14th December 2022 AT 7PM**

Present: Councillors Mike Burchnall (Chair), Isabelle Bradshaw, Allan Muirhead, Geoffrey Buswell and Paul Cassell.

Also in attendance: Molly Watson (QES Councillor), District Councillor Hazel Hodgson and nine members of the public.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Mike Marczynski, Braddan Quayle, Robin Ree and Madeline Williams, District Councillor Kevin Lancaster and Town Clerk, Kevin Price

The Town Clerk was not present due to the recent death of his father. The Council sent its best wishes to the Clerk in these difficult circumstances.

22/190 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 9th November 2022 were approved to be signed by the Chair.

The Chair reported that an email had been received from the Lay Chair, Kirkby Lonsdale PCC in response to minute 22/178. Copies had been sent to all councillors.

22/191. Requests for Dispensations: None.

22/192 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Muirhead declared an interest should any matters relating to the CIC be discussed and Councillor Bradshaw in relation to the Community Cupboard.

22/193 Public participation:

A member of the public asked if he could be provided with some background information re the Dowson Field. It was agreed that Councillor Muirhead would speak to him after the meeting

22/194 Oakfield Park:

The Chair suspended Standing Orders on this item to allow local residents to address the meeting.

In advance of the meeting councillors had been sent copies of emails from Alexander Saxton and Adrian Turpin outlining concerns over the development of the Oakfield Park estate, particularly the lack of communication from the developer and the state of parts of the site.

A number of residents spoke in support of the comments that had been made in these emails, particularly in relation to the unfinished nature of the roads and open spaces, the equipment and fixtures which had been left on site and their concerns over future maintenance of the common areas within the estate.

It was resolved that:

The Town Council acknowledges the concerns of the residents of Oakfield Park both in terms of communication with the developers and the unsatisfactory nature of parts of the site.

In view of these concerns the Clerk be requested to write to the Managing Directors of both Russell Armer and Genesis Homes, and South Lakeland District Council, requesting an urgent meeting with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Town Council, a small representative group of residents and a representative of Development Management at South Lakeland District Council, (as a number of issues relate to planning matters covered by planning conditions or the associated legal agreement). Such meeting to take place early in the New Year.

22/195 Save Ruskin's View:

Councillor Burchnall reported that the Christmas Fair in the Town had added circa £2,000 to the fund; an individual donation of £5,000 had been made; and that recent publicity had included an article in Country Life.

Due to holiday commitments there were some gaps in opening up the Gazebo, he would circulate an email to Councillors and see if these gaps could be filled.

22/196 The Brow Footpath Closure:

An email from Cumbria County Council, saying permission had been granted to keep the Brow footpath closed until November 2023, was noted and this and other issues associated with the Brow footpath would be taken up with Councillor Jonathan Brook, the Leader of the new Westmorland and Furness Council.

22/197 Play Park:

The Council needs to consider at its January meeting the likely costs of maintaining the Play Park over the next year. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Chair of the Play Park Committee asking for the Play Park Committee's view on this, and that any response be sent to all members of the Town Council in advance of the precept setting meeting in January.

22/198 Pub Watch Contribution:

Since the Town Council had last supported the 'roaming doormen' initiative, CCTV funded by the Council had been installed, and on this basis it was resolved not to make a financial contribution this year.

22/199 Community Cupboard:

The Chair suspended Standing Orders on this item in order to allow a representative of the Community Cupboard to address the meeting.

Prior to the meeting a letter from the Administrator of the Community Cupboard and an application for grant funding had been circulated to all councillors.

Janet Bradshaw outlined what the Community Cupboard had achieved over the last year, the current sources of funding and the request to the Town Council to provide funding of £12,000 over the next year.

Janet was thanked for her presentation and it was agreed to consider the Community Cupboard's request as part of the precept setting process in January of next year.

22/200 Town Maintenance Contract:

A copy of the draft Invitation to Tender had been circulated to all councillors in advance of the meeting.

It was agreed to issue the Invitation to tender as soon as possible after the meeting and to require submissions by Friday 20th January, 2023 with a special meeting of the Council to be arranged the following week to make a decision.

It was also agreed to amend the Invitation to Tender to include a requirement that at an agreed price the contractor assist the town in salting/gritting key locations, those locations to be agreed with the contractor.

It was noted that County Councillor Nick Cotton had been out gritting key locations in the town and that the County Council had been restocking grit bins on a regular basis.

22/201 Town Council Work Programme:

Councillor Marczynski had advised prior to the meeting that he had been discussing with Cumbria County Council access to the roundabout for installation of the Ram and that he would report further in January.

22/202 Planning Sub Group:

It was agreed that comments on application SL/2022/1061 Manor View, Pit Lane, High Biggins be delegated to Councillors Marczynski and Burchnall and that their views be submitted to SLDC.

22/203 Reports:

Councillor Hazel Hodgson, who had contributed to a number of items on the agenda, outlined her role as a shadow member of the new Westmorland and Furness Council and her role in relation to rural affairs. A number of issues were raised by Town Councillors and she agreed to raise these either with the existing authorities or with the new Council.

22/204 Finance:

Two schedules of payments had been circulated to all Councillors before the meeting and it was agreed that these payments should be made:

For KLTC:

Craig Bradshaw	£1,452.00	Maintenance Contract
SLDC	£829.48	Street Lighting
PKF Littlejohn LLP	£720.00	External Audit
HMRC	£1,292.30	PAYE

For The Brow:

Laura Keeler	£2,200.00
Fairhurst	£4,200.00

For CIC:

Nortech Radio Communications Ltd	£162.00
LITE	£3,121.20
LITE	£96.00
Rapid Clear	£270.00
Rapid Clear	£180.00
Rapid Clear	£180.00
Tactical Security Options Ltd	£158.40
Absolute Digital Print Ltd	£198.00
Absolute Digital Print Ltd	£504.00
Absolute Digital Print Ltd	£367.00

22/205 Correspondence:

The Chair reported a resolution of the new authority that if an Election was required for Town Councillors next year, the costs would be covered by the new Authority.

22/206 Future Events:

None was reported.

22/207 Date of the next meeting:

The meeting in January is the precept setting meeting. In order that all councillors are fully informed about the Council's financial position, and the competing demands for resources, it was agreed to hold a 'Councillor only' workshop between 6pm and 7pm on 11th January, 2023, prior to the Town Council meeting. Financial papers will be circulated in advance of the workshop.

Wednesday 11 January, 2023 at 7pm in the Main Hall, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed:

Dated: