

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM
LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE
ON WEDNESDAY 8th MAY 2024 AT 7PM**

Present: Councillors Paul Cassell (Chairman), Mike Marczynski, Nigel Martin, Malcolm Perrin, Stuart Taylor and Robin Ree.

Also in attendance: Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hazel Hodgson, two members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price.

24/44 Public participation:

24/45 Election of Chairman:

Councillor Paul Cassell was elected Chairman for 2024-25 and he then formally signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

24/46 Appointment of Deputy Chairman:

Councillor Mike Marczynski was appointed Deputy Chairman for 2024-25.

24/47 Minutes:

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2024 should be signed.

24/48 Requests for Dispensations: None.

24/49 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest made in respect of any matters on the agenda.

24/50 Council Vacancies:

It was noted that there are still three Councillor vacancies. Advertising continues on the website and elsewhere.

24/51 The Ram:

A suitable slab has now been procured to use as the plinth for the sculpture. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman I formally signed the Memorandum of Agreement and then this was to be given by hand to Hazel Hodgson the W&FC District Councillor who attended the meeting. She will get the document signed, (probably by Victoria Upton as Peter Hoskins has now retired) and will forward the fully signed and witnessed document back to the Town Council.

The Council will need to organise traffic management etc, and have further discussions on the proposed up-lighting.

24/52 Ruskin's View/The Brow:

This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during April/May 2024 in an effort to re-open The Brow footpath using a cost-effective approach that is low risk and safe for public access.

Monthly Report No.5 – 7th May 2024 - was presented to Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council at the monthly Council meeting on 8th May 2024.

The Technical Team continued to make progress through April/May 2024, concentrating on Monitoring Surveys and contacting Westmorland & Furness Council (W&FC) Engineers to determine what criteria must be met in order to reopen The Brow.

Despite locked gates preventing public access along The Brow, many pedestrians continue to climb over handrails at the top of Radical Steps and walk along a well-worn path next to the footpath railings.

- The 'lost' section of iron railings reported last month has been located at the bottom of embankment, close to the river edge.

During the recent Music & Beer Festival (3rd to 5th May 2024) a lock on gates closest to the Rugby Club was forced open, leaving gates open all weekend. Many visitors and families used The Brow footpath to walk to and from the town centre. Many continue to rest at the first viewing platform to enjoy Ruskins View in fine weather.

- KLTC have placed signs at each gate showing the footpath is 'CLOSED' and not taking any responsibility for harm or injury to anyone choosing to use the path.

- KLTC have agreed not to install any further fencing for fear of vandalism and causing injury by further climbing over spiked iron railings.

Stage 1a. – Tree Management and Vegetation Clearance:

We now have permission from Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) to carry out minor tree cropping along the footpath and embankment. Ivy that is choking mature trees will be cut at 1.0m above ground level and damaged / loose tree branches will be removed. Two or three trees showing no sign of life (ash dieback) can now be cut down and removed from the embankment. Work will progress in June 2024.

Stage 1b – Survey Monitoring of The Brow:

Monthly survey No.5 of 6 will be completed this week – 8th May 2024. Data will not be released until final results have been analysed, but early results remain positive. Additional survey points from 1996 have been uncovered along the footpath.

Malcolm Hughes Ltd, our accredited surveyors, have spent considerable time and effort 'tying-in' historical data with our new monitoring data. Results are again positive, showing no significant movement of the footpath over 28 years.

Tarmac, as a relatively flexible paving and will 'heave' under stress of tree root growth. Cracks in the footpath surface are apparent adjacent to dense trees to the North – Rugby Club end.

Further surveys will be required at the top of the embankment to check the condition of the footpath support (existing gabions and concrete edge beams).

Drainage over the embankment:

A proposed drainage survey for last month was put 'ON HOLD' because it was considered not the best use of funds at £2040 + VAT. That money can be used instead for high pressure jetting - clearing three drains at the top of the embankment and connecting new pvc pipelines to carry surface water directly to the river Lune below. All pipes will be covered with a woven geotextile blanket (or approved hessian) and laid with suitable grass seed to hide the pipelines.

Westmorland & Furness Council (WFC):

The Team is in contact with Senior Engineers at Westmorland & Furness Council (W&FC). We finally have a site meeting arranged for this month – 22nd May 2024. Items for discussion include, but are not limited to:-

- Survey Monitoring results to date;
- Any movement of the footpath and embankment over the past 30 years;
- Qualitative v. Quantitative Assessment;
- Risk assessment of Public using the footpath – LOW risk;
- Remedial works to be carried out;
- Resurfacing the footpath.
- Can KLTC reassign The Brow footpath a Permissive Path...?
- Can KLTC restrict access along the footpath by locking gates during severe weather forecasts...?
- Can KLTC re-open part of The Brow – up to the first viewpoint (St Marys viewpoint).

Discussions are ongoing to determine what criteria is required to satisfy the Council in order to re-open The Brow.

Remedial construction work and future monitoring will be our main tasks with details presented to Council Engineers and Countryside Officers.

24/53 Planning sub-group: None.

24/54 River Lune:

Councillor Marczynski outlined the FOC offer from Lune Rivers Trust for water quality analysis and it was resolved to accept this. Samples will be taken for analysis for e.coli, intestinal enterococci, pH, and conductivity. These results can then be compared to the EA criteria to gauge how good or bad the river is in relation to bathing water standards.

24/55 Reports:

Councillor Hodgson reported as follows:

The first 11 traffic schemes (some for 20mph limits, some for general traffic calming measures) have been approved. 45 more are progressing, 50/50 between Eden and South Lakes in 2024/5.

Sustainable Travel Grants - £250,000 approved for footpath and pavement improvements are under way.

There are drop in Centres where residents can meet W&F Councillors and Locality staff during the Appleby Horse Fair. The Traveller sites are open 28th May until 16th June at Kirkby Lonsdale, Middleton and Sedbergh. There is a Respect meeting in Barbon on 11th July.

Speed and noise checks continue at Bank Holiday weekends, along the A683 at Casterton and A684 to Garsdale Head and village.

24/56 Finance:

a. *It was resolved to pay the following accounts:*

For KLTC:

Craig Bradshaw	£1,800.00	Maintenance contract
Lunesdale Hall	£70.00	Hire of hall
Community Cupboard	£6,000.00	Half year's grant
CIC	£6,000.00	Half year's grant
Rural Services Partnership		
	£120.00	Subscription - Rural Market Town Group
Malcolm Hughes	£2,448.00	The Brow

For the CIC:

S & S Site Services	£256.80
Healthmatic	£390.00

b. The Interim Accounts for 2023-24 were noted. The Internal Audit will be completed in time for the next meeting, when a full report will be given, before submission to the External Auditor.

24/57 Correspondence: None.

24/58 Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 12th June 2024 at 7pm in the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed:

Dated: