

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM  
LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE  
ON WEDNESDAY 10th JANUARY 2024 AT 7PM**

Present: Councillors Paul Cassell (Chairman), Mike Marczynski, Nigel Martin, Malcolm Perrin and Robin Ree. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Stuart Taylor.

Also in attendance: Six members of the public and Town Clerk Kevin Price.

**24/1 Public participation:**

- It is hoped that the proposed Emergency Plan will proceed. Councillor Marczynski will circulate the draft in time for the next meeting.
- A question was asked about the Town Council Work Programme. This was to be discussed later in the meeting.
- Comment was made that the Technical Report on the website is excellent.

**24/2 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were approved to be signed by the Chairman.

**24/3 Requests for Dispensations:** None.

**24/4 Declarations of Interest:**

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

**24/5 Resignation of Councillor Madeline Williams:**

The resignation of Councillor Madeline Williams was noted with regret.

**24/7 Town Council Work Programme:**

The Town Council Work Programme was revised after some discussion. The Chairman will place the revised version on the website so it can be formally approved at this next meeting.

**24/8 Bench to commemorate Alan Day/Remembering Councillor Geoffrey Buswell**

These are in progress. The Council resolved to contribute up to £500 to this project.

## **24/9 Repairs to the Play Park:**

Edward Waller gave the Council a full report on the Play Park. He has recently met with Craig Bradshaw to discuss necessary repairs.

Westmorland & Furness Council inspects the Play Park on a monthly basis and submits a report showing which areas require attention and whether these are urgent or not. A meeting with Peter Clarke of W&F Council is planned for later this month.

New 'No Dogs' signs are on order. The path has been tarmacked as it was cracked

## **24/10 The Brow/Save Ruskin's View:**

This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during December 2023 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.2 – 07JAN24 was presented to Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council at the regular monthly Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

The Technical Team made positive progress during December 2023, concentrating on Monitoring Surveys and gathering all Geotechnical Reports instructed by KLTC since Storm Desmond in DEC 2015.

Stage 1a. considers tree management and vegetation clearance on the embankment. We have instructed Arbtech Consultants to conduct an arboriculture THREATS survey to identify tree preservation orders (TPO), the health of trees on the embankment and to assess their risk of falling. This is a requirement of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority before any tree cutting or removal of dead trees can take place. Cost of site survey with written report in the region of £1500 including VAT – to be paid from funds raised by Friends of Save Ruskins View.

Stage 1b – Survey Monitoring on The Brow will provide evidence of movement or no movement to the footpath and surrounding areas. Malcolm Hughes Land Surveyors Ltd (MHL) are appointed to carry out the monthly survey monitoring on The Brow.

A Baseline survey was established on site – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 using high-tech digital equipment. A number of steel pins for taking measurements from are anchored in the tarmac footpath and highlighted with red marker paint. Cost of the monthly site survey with analysis and written report in the region of £1200/month (incl. VAT) for six months (total £7200 incl. VAT) – to be paid from funds raised by Friends of Save Ruskins View.

All survey data will be analysed by MHL and presented on drawings, photographs and spreadsheets. Further surveys will be required at the top of the embankment to check the condition of footpath support (existing gabions and concrete edge beams). It is likely that part of the footpath is 'undercut' because of drainage issues washing away 'fines' in the stone support. To be investigated when good weather allows and

vegetation can be cleared.

At some stage a monitoring survey is required at river level to assess the state and extent of water erosion along the riverbank. However, this is not within the scope of Stage 1b. monitoring.

Part of the embankment known as Ruskins View immediately north of the Radical Steps was gifted to Kirkby Lonsdale in 1947 but never legally registered with Land Registry. It is recommended to the Council that the property is registered, thus recording and safeguarding the title to the land for future generations. Nick Hampson, a member of the Technical Team and an experienced Land Surveyor will register the property in his own time and free of charge, but will be reimbursed for all registration costs... approx. £100 - to be paid from funds raised by Friends of Save Ruskin's View.

An informal and successful meeting with St Marys Church gives enthusiasm for cooperation over the next few months. Various documents and survey information have been shared between both groups.

Other stakeholders including Underley Estates and Westmorland & Furness Council will be contacted shortly and asked to connect with KLTC and the Friends of Ruskin's View Fundraisers in collaborative effort to re-open The Brow as soon as practicably possible.

#### **24/11 Town Council website:**

The Council has signed the contract with Design Works for the new joint website for the Town Council, the CIC and the Chamber of Trade. In the meantime, there needs to be a system in place to update information on the site. Councillor Taylor is to contact A2A regarding this.

**24/12 Reports:** None.

#### **24/13 Planning:**

SL/2023/0815 26 Fairgarth Drive. Rebuild of existing fire damaged property, to provide large footprint dwelling.

The following response has been sent:

"Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council comments as follows on this application:  
The Town Council is supportive in principle to this house being rebuilt, as the old house having burnt down, it plainly needs rebuilding.

There are concerns however with the lack of detail on the application, viz 1) there is no scale on the plans, 2) the exact location of the old house and the location of the rebuild house should have been overlaid for comparison purposes, viz, is the new house nearer to the adjacent house than its forerunner?, 3) the height of the rebuild house looks to be at least 1M higher than the old house, 4) we also suspect

that one of the drawings is a mirror image of what it should be, ie it's possibly shown the opposite way round.

Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council would expect the WFC planners to take up these points with the applicant, as the detail is inadequate as presented”.

**24/14 Finance:**

- After consideration of the Budget Report, the Council resolved to make a Precept upon Westmorland & Furness Council is the sum of £120,000 for the financial year 2024-25. There is therefore no increase in the parish portion of the Council Tax.
- It was resolved to set aside £10,000 as a 'contingency fund' to meet payments for The Brow/Ruskin's View that arise between meetings;
- The Clerk agreed to supply Councillor Martin with details of costs associated with The Brow, going back as far as possible.

**24/15 Correspondence:**

Correspondence regarding the D Day celebrations planned for 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 was noted.

**24/16 Date of the next meeting:**

***Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7pm in the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.***

*The meeting closed at 8.50pm.*

*Signed:*

*Dated:*