

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM  
LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE  
ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 7PM**

**Present:** Councillors Mike Marczynski (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Nigel Martin, Malcolm Perrin and Robin Ree. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Paul Cassell and Stuart Taylor. Town Clerk Kevin Price was also absent due to illness.

Also in attendance: Three members of the public.

**24/32 Public participation:**

- a. It was pointed out that only one member of the public was present at the previous meeting and not six, so the minutes will be amended.
- b. It was asked if there was any publicity planned for the forthcoming event in Jubilee Park so a reminder would be sent to the organiser.
- c. The development of a local Emergency Plan was raised as a matter of urgency and it was agreed that a much simpler version of the existing very comprehensive version will be considered as soon as practicable.

**24/33 Requests for Dispensations:** None.

**24/34 Declarations of Interest:**

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

**24/35 Minutes:**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 would be signed once any amendments have been made:

Minute 24/21 The amount contributed by the Christopher Robin Trust is £500.

**24/36 The Brow/Ruskin's View:**

This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during February/March 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.4 – 12th March 2024 was presented to Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council at the monthly Council meeting on 13th March 2024.

The Technical Team continued to make progress through February/March 2024, concentrating on Monitoring Surveys and contacting Westmorland & Furness Council. Engineers to determine what criteria must be met in order to re-open The Brow.

### Stage 1a. – Tree Management and Vegetation Clearance:

Last month's Arboriculture Report was sent to Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, for them to review and approve the minor tree cropping required, ensuring branches overhanging the footpath can be safely removed.

### Stage 1b – Survey Monitoring of The Brow:

Monthly survey No.3 of 6 was completed early March 2024. Data will not be reported until at least four months of results have been analysed, but early results are positive.

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' at the top of the embankment.

When The Brow was closed in September 2021, there was concern that the North Viewing Platform was in a dangerous state – a corner showed signs of dropping. Our initial 'condition survey' shows why... there is no support or foundation under the slabs, only a simple rock. There is no land slide on the embankment, only poor foundation support, which can be easily rectified.

The Team has contacted Senior Engineers at Westmorland & Furness Council. 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.

Planned work for the coming weeks includes a non-intrusive drainage survey along the footpath and behind the stone retaining wall using Ground Penetration Radar techniques. This will prove the flow of rainwater over The Brow and into the River Lune. The concern is that surface water is percolating under the footpath and washing away fine soils supporting the edge of footpath

All efforts are ongoing.

One final and very disappointing occurrence...

Despite locked gates preventing general access along The Brow, some pedestrians continue to climb over handrails at the top of Radical Steps and walk along a well-worn path next to the railings. One section of railings has now disappeared, being removed and taken by someone - lost forever through local vandalism.

We will search the embankment for the lost section, but please get in touch if you know how or where we can recover the lost railing.

It was noted with thanks that the Project has now been granted Charitable Status. which must ensure that its income and expenditure can be monitored closely and reported regularly to the Council.

#### **24/37 Town Council website:**

Councillors requested clarification of how the combined site would be structured and wished to be assured that it would be simple to navigate.

A question was asked about the payment structure and the Chair said this was agreed to be fronted by the Town Council with costs share equally between the three parties being KLTC KLCIC & KLCOT

#### **24/38 The Ram:**

The agreement is to be signed shortly, by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Renewed contact has been made with the quarry, from where it is hoped to obtain a suitable slab to mount the Ram on. A lighting scheme is to be explored.

**24/39 Reports:** None.

**24/40 Planning:** None.

#### **24/41 Finance**

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

##### **For KLTC:**

Craig Bradshaw	£2,730.95	Maintenance contract
Glasdon UK Limited	£1,485.16	Two memorial seats
P J S Pease	£375.00	Allotment rents
Charlesworth Tree Care & Fencing Ltd	£468.00	Tree work

##### **For CIC:**

Thomas Graham	£67.15	Toilet supplies
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- b. The Council agreed that Councillor Marczynski should proceed with an application for a Grant from the Green Enterprise Fund.
- c. It was agreed that the Charlesworth invoice would not be allocated as a Brow project cost.
- d. The new Bank Mandate is still awaiting confirmation and the Clerk would be asked to follow this matter up as a matter of urgency.

#### **24/42 Correspondence :**

Councillor Marczynski reported that he had confirmation from MP Tim Farron that he was chasing up waste water and sewage discharge reports from the Sedbergh Treatment plant because the figures published so far showed an alarming amount of almost daily discharge of untreated waste into the River Lune which could have a negative effect on any application that KLTC may make in the future to get our local area designated as 'Safe for Bathing '.

**24/43 Date of the next meeting:**

***Wednesday 10th April at 7pm at the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.***

*The meeting closed at 8.05pm*

*Signed:*

*Dated:*