

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY 2023 AT 5.30PM IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL**

Present:

Mrs Elaine Woodburn (EW) Chairperson
Mr Stephen Bell (SB) Vice Chairperson

Also:

Mr Graham Calvin (GC) Mr Sam Pollen (SP)
Mr Neil Ferguson (NF) Mr Michael McVeigh (MM)
Mr Gareth Stringer (GS) Mrs Jean Lewthwaite (JL)

Mrs Geraldine Pritchard (GP) Town Clerk
Mrs Nicola Cattanach (NC) Assistant Clerk
Mr Chris Whiteside (CW) County Councillor
PC Gail Buchanan (GB) Cumbria Police Officer

125.22.23	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RESOLVED to accept apologies (with reasons noted) from D Southward.</p>	GP
126.22.23	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA SB, GP & NC declared an interest in a matter to be discussed in private & relating to the staff wages. EW also declared an interest in the same matter as she is related to a member of staff.</p>	
127.22.23	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION EW welcomed GB to the meeting declaring that it was nice to have a police presence at the meeting. GB introduced herself as the new Community Officer who is responsible for covering from Egremont to Ravenglass along with PCSO Simon Kane. MM mentioned again his disappointment that no reply had been forthcoming to his formal complaint regarding the lack of attendance at an incident in Egremont cemetery last year, this was noted. SP said that some Councillors were involved in community engagement with Calderwood House and other groups & it would be nice if she had time to join in. GB said that she takes part in the joint talk & tidy events & if any Councillors had any areas they wished to suggest, she would be happy to hold an event there. SP asked if the Town Council could be notified of such events in advance to ensure Councillors could attend. EW asked if the Town Council could have the statistics relating to anti-social behaviour over the Christmas period & if there had been an increase in sexual crimes, GB is to ask Inspector Richard Smillie. GC spoke of the issues with trail bikes & dog fouling at Moor Row and he asked if GB would be willing to have a walkabout with him, GB will check who covers Moor Row & will confirm with the office. GB said that as she covers a wide area, she could not name specific days she would be in specific areas but the Copeland police facebook page gives a lot of information & there will be a lot of mobile police desks where people can drop in and report any concerns they may have. GB confirmed that the best way for the Town Council to contact her would be via email as she is able to reply that way but not always via her mobile when working. SP said that it was disappointing that there wasn't permanent PCs and PCSOs, however it was still an improvement. GB said she would be happy to attend Town Council meetings when she could & it was RESOLVED that the meeting dates would be emailed to her. EW then thanked GB for attending and she duly left the meeting.</p>	NC



	<p>EW welcomed CW who began by saying that it was two months until the Local Government Reorganisation came into place and it became the Cumberland Council & rather than things winding down, County Councillors were busier than ever. CW said that a motion had been passed to help the community with the cost of living crisis & there is £45,700 to be spent across Cumbria. Of this, £18,400 is to be spent on community support and the remaining £27,300 to be spent on providing food support. CW urged Councillors to contact the County if they knew of anyone in need. CW said that Florence Arts had benefitted from some of the remaining environment fund grant.</p> <p>CW said there had been some interesting conversations with National Highways with the main item being the upcoming works on the Moresby viaduct due to commence on 10th June for 14 weekends, this means the A595 to Moresby will be closed but diversions will be in place to help traffic through & any TROs would be issued with plenty of notice.</p> <p>CW mentioned the installation of benches and planters on the A595 at Bigrigg with funds raised by Bigrigg Community Group, GP said that the Town Council were involved with this & it is in hand.</p> <p>CW said that National Highways had been talking to Stagecoach about the possibility of buses driving into Westlakes Science Park to drop people off & pick them up rather than the bus stop from where there is no pedestrian crossing & little protection for pedestrians. He had suggested a similar thing for the buses of Moor Row as the main junction on the A595 is very dangerous. EW suggested that if the buses do drive into Westlakes then perhaps they could drive out of the back entrance rather than having to turn around – CW said this was a good idea & he would take it forward.</p> <p>CW said that his fellow County Councillor David Southward had raised the issue of flooding at Lowes Court. SP was aware of this situation which was long standing but said that a suggestion has been made for them to install flood prevention doors (of which the Town Council will pay towards) but to date Lowes Court were reluctant to do so.</p> <p>EW asked how the transition to the new Council would work, CW said at this moment in time, senior staff roles were still being filled so there was still a lot to sort out. EW then thanked CW for his attendance & he duly left the meeting.</p>	
<p>128.22.23</p>	<p>CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS</p> <p>Chairperson wished everyone a belated Happy New Year and thanked Councillors for their support throughout last year.</p> <p>EW thanked SP, NF, GP & NC for arranging the collection and distribution of meat & fruit & veg hampers (supplied by Wilsons Butchers & Marions) to 30 people in need.</p> <p>Following a request from the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) for a Town Council rep to sit on their group, SP put himself forward.</p> <p>EW invited any interested Councillors to the Public Realm walkabout in Egremont tomorrow, meeting at the Market Hall firstly at 1.15pm.</p> <p>EW spoke of David Southward & Chris Whiteside only having a couple of months left as County Councillors & she suggested that as a thank you for their contributions over the years, the Town Council could buy a card & gift for them, this was RESOLVED.</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>EW</p>
<p>129.22.23</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER, APPROVE & SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <p>RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Egremont Town Council held on 29th November 2022. EW duly signed them.</p>	



<p>130.22.23</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER & REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS</p> <p>4/22/2493/0F1 Application to determine if prior approval is required for the conversion of two barns to dwelling houses Moss Dalts, Egremont No objections</p> <p>4/23/2007/0F1 Change of use to an office 27 Market Place, Egremont No objections as long as the regulations regarding the conservation area are adhered to</p>	
<p>131.22.23</p>	<p>TO RATIFY COMMENTS WITH REGARDS PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS</p> <p>There were no planning applications to ratify.</p>	
<p>132.22.23</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER ANY REPORTS INCLUDING FINANCE, PERSONNEL, CEMETERY, BOWLING GREEN, MARKET HALL, WEBSITE, ALLOTMENTS, DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS, HEALTH & SAFETY, CUMBRIA IN BLOOM, PUBLIC REALM & WC PARTNERSHIP</p> <p><u>Finance</u> RESOLVED that a meeting will be arranged to discuss any finance issues then bring back any recommendations to full council.</p> <p><u>Bowling Green</u> SB reported that the next Bowling Green Committee meeting will be held on 7th February 2023.</p> <p><u>Allotments</u> GP said that following Mr Sharple's regular pest control visits there are less rats on both Sandholes & East Road sites, she also said that Mr Sharples had confirmed that only he & a friend/relative attend the pest control visits & there are no spectators as per concern raised by a tenant. Following an anonymous letter to report scaffolding erected on a pole belonging to Electricity North West, MM said that he had not noticed any scaffolding but he would look again & report back. GC said that he had spoken to Mr Sharples who had stated that the main problem of preventing a full pest control service on the sites is the minority of tenants not allowing access to their plots. GP reported on complaints from a garage tenant on the waste water running from plot 19 at East Road & into his garage. GP reported that the tenant of plot 19 had been offered a vacant plot but had refused as it was deemed too small for her birds. Councillors RESOLVED that this person's tenancy is terminated & she is moved to this plot & she may have to get rid of some of her birds to fit the smaller plot. The newly emptied plot will then be inspected and probably left empty to allow for excess water on the site to run into. GC said the allotment committee would address the problem.</p> <p><u>Cemetery/Cemetery House</u> The cemetery house tenant has reported damp coming through into the front room & bathroom. GC said he would have a look at the issue along with Brian Atkinson who has also been asked to take a look and who had suggested that the issue may be the pointing on the solid sandstone walls.</p>	<p>GP NC</p> <p>MM</p> <p>GP</p> <p>MM.GS. NF.GC</p> <p>GC</p>

	<p>Two quotes had been received for the extension of R section & remedial work on some kerbs in the cemetery, however as there was quite a difference in the quotes, it was RESOLVED that the supplier of the cheaper quote is asked to confirm that everything is included as per the more expensive quote.</p> <p><u>Borderlands/Public Realm</u> Following the walkabout in Egremont on 18th January, feedback will be brought to the next Town Council meeting. Regarding Borderlands, this will be discussed in private.</p> <p><u>Egremont Castle</u> An email has been sent to Charles Baker asking for an update on the repair/replacement of the Castle gates as the wood is totally rotten.</p>	<p>NC</p> <p>EW</p>
<p>133.23.23</p>	<p>CONSIDER & REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reminder to Councillors to collect evidence of where Sellafield staff are parking which is causing a nuisance for the residents who live in these areas. 2. Cumberland Building Society requested updated details from delegated users/signatories which has all been signed. It was also RESOLVED to confirm that the Town Council does have a Chairperson (that could potentially change annually) but not a secretary or treasurer but that these duties come under the remit of the Town Clerk. It was also RESOLVED that NC is added as a delegated user but she will not be allowed (as is the same for GP & CO) to sign any cheques. 3. The External Auditor appointment for the next 5-year period has been confirmed as Moore of Peterborough, this was noted. 4. Due to the retirement of the current Internal Auditor, Rachael Kelly from CALC submitted a quote of £500 to carry out the 2022/23 audit, this was RESOLVED. 5. The Parish Elections for 2023, if contested, could cost the Town Council £11,500 however CALC have stated that the new Cumberland Authority may grant councils up to 50% of the costs. 6. As previously agreed, the memorandum of agreement was signed by EW & SB on behalf of Egremont Town Council to enable a bench to be sited at Moor Row. An agreement between the Town Council and the owner of the bench will then need to be drawn up. 7. Email received regarding free fully funded Electric Vehicle charging points in Egremont. It was RESOLVED that EW look into this and report back. 8. Quotes have been received for the extension of R section in the cemetery; £20,536.00 and £7,440.00. RESOLVED that the contractor who submitted the cheaper quote is contacted to ensure he has included all the work that is required in his quote. GS queried the condition of the land to be extended as towards the grazing field is very wet with a land drain, he therefore agreed to arrange a meeting with Nelson onsite to have a look. 	<p>ALL</p> <p>GP</p> <p>GP</p> <p>GP</p> <p>GP</p> <p>GP</p> <p>GS</p>
<p>134.22.23</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER & RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk's report.</p>	
<p>135.22.23</p>	<p>TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS RESOLVED to ratify the payments amounting to £17,533.40</p>	

143.22.23	<p>TO ARRANGE A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED TERMS SET OUT BY COPELAND WITH REGARDS THE BOWLING GREEN LEASE RESOLVED that this matter is taken to the finance committee for consideration & a recommendation brought back to full council.</p>	EW.MM. JL.SP
144.23.23	<p>COUNCILLORS MATTERS NF said that the new manager of Egremont Youth Partnership, Tracy McFadden is doing well in the role. GP reminded Councillors that the partnership was given £500 of the agreed £1,000 youth grant but the remaining £500 would not be considered unless the partnership could show more commitment in the community. It was therefore RESOLVED that T McFadden is invited to the February Town Council meeting to give a report. GC said that the Moor Row youth club should be starting up again soon. GP reminded Councillors that the deadline for responses to the Council Budget was 31.1.23. GP said that a member of the public has commenced funds for the Town Hall clock, SP said that he is due to meet the person to discuss further. Councillors were informed of the £2 bus fare scheme that is running from 1st January 2023 until the end of March 2023.</p>	GP SP
145.22.23	<p>ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA Sandholes Allotment site</p>	
146.22.23	<p>RESOLVED THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING RESOLVED the next meeting of Egremont Town Council will be held on Tuesday 21st February 2023. The meeting then moved into private.</p>	