

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 5.30PM IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL**

Present: Mrs Elaine Woodburn (EW)                      Chairperson  
           Mr Michael McVeigh (MM)                     Vice-Chair

Also:

          Mr David Wright (DW)                            Mr Chris Whiteside (CW)  
           Mrs Jean Lewthwaite (JL)                      Mr Gareth Stringer (GS)  
           Mr Graham Calvin (GC)

          Mrs Geraldine Pritchard (GP)                Town Clerk  
           Mrs Nicola Cattanach (NC)                  Assistant Town Clerk

          Mr Graham Minshaw (GM)                     Cumberland Councillor

074.23.24	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> RESOLVED to note that apologies were received with reasons noted from Sam Pollen and Graham Calvin	NC
075.23.24	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA</b> EW declared an interest in a relative being an employee of Calderwood House	NC
076.23.24	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> Cumberland Councillor Graham Minshaw started by saying that the road had been resurfaced on Penzance Street and new pavement and white lines have also been painted. Following requests from residents', yellow lines have been agreed in principal to be painted at Moor Row school exit, although a TRO is ongoing. Complaints have been received regarding the overgrown cycle path at Moor Row which is causing a rat problem. GM said he & GC would look into this. There are 2 wildlife ponds at Moor Row that appear to be being polluted, GM thinks via a Highways drain and a septic tank might be attached. The Environment Agency have taken samples and Highways are to get an underwater camera to see exactly what has tapped in to the ponds. GM said he was due to attend the Moor Row, Bigrigg and Egremont South Cumberland Neighbourhood Panel on Thursday at the United Reform Church in Whitehaven. EW questioned whether Moor Row and Bigrigg should be classed as being in South Cumberland Costal as there are not as many active people in these areas. GM said the areas with the greatest need are considered and Egremont North covers 4 different communities. EW said that if Egremont puts in a scheme for our panel then Moor Row and Bigrigg can't compete because they are much smaller communities. GM said that each Councillor must push for their ward and within the Community Panel he didn't see why different wards can't be included and he asked if 3 communities were in Egremont ward is the South Cumberland panel only going to give money to those in that community panel? CW mentioned that Mirehouse is not following ward boundaries and this could be an issue and said that there is an argument against splitting communities and it makes sense for St Bees Bigrigg and Moor Row to be with Egremont as they have more in common with Egremont than with Whitehaven. EW asked if the population of St Bees Bigrigg and Moor Row was big enough and she was concerned that they don't have a strong enough voice compared to the need in Whitehaven. GM said that it is up to each Councillor to push their ward. CW said these places sit much better within Egremont ward as they have more in common with Egremont than Whitehaven, without splitting wards.	GM

EW said it would be good to have a plan put together to state what is included in Egremont parish. EW mentioned that she had heard of the Department of Transport Rural Mobility Fund for the community being introduced soon within a 10-mile radius of Egremont.

EW thanked GM for attending and he left the meeting at 5.45pm. DW arrived at 5.45pm.

EW said that a report from SP had been emailed to all Councillors to read, including the police report following the meeting with SP, MM, Sergeant David McDonald and Inspector Richard Smillie on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

MM said that it appeared that Constable Gail Buchanan had taken umbrage to discussions he had with her. The issue of drugs was discussed, however overall it was a good meeting in the end.

EW said that sometimes the Police were lacking in information/communication.

EW said that SP is due to meet with Neil Dixon, Interim Service Manager for Public Places, Cumberland Council on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 3.00pm to discuss the Egremont Deep Clean areas.

MM said that it had been reported to him that the Police are never away from Calderwood house. He had spoken to the Manager at Calderwood and was informed that there had only been 2 official visits from the Police and other than that the Police call in for general visits. MM said that 500 people have been residents in Calderwood over the last 10 years without too much trouble.

EW said that the Borderlands meeting has been pushed back from September to October. MM said he would check with SP. DW thought that the last Borderlands meeting had been held in February.

EW said that a letter should be written to Lizzie Shaw to air concerns.

CW said the report from SP was useful and he followed on to talk about the roll out of the DRT Rural Mobility Project, as mentioned by EW earlier, how it will operate are people able to use it or even know it exists?

EW said it would need to be advertised on Facebook and the website in Autumn 2023.

CW said we need to know when the scheme comes in to play and steps need to be taken to publicise it and give feedback.

077.23.24

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

EW mentioned a working party to discuss Sellafield parking issues. MM offered to take this forward with SP. MM said again about the Rugby League Club having 30 parking spaces which are not used and another site visit is needed.

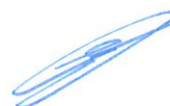
EW said that the Internal Audit increase from £250 to £300 per visit, therefore £600 for 2 visits. All Councillors were in agreement about this.

EW said she was looking into getting an artist's impression of how the former Red Lion Site might look, however this will be deferred until after the Borderlands meeting. DW asked if the Borderlands keeps getting deferred should it carry on? EW said by the October meeting we will have more information.

EW discussed the school crossings report. MM said traffic was bad at St Bridgets and Bookwell schools. EW suggested sending a request for the lack of crossing at Bookwell school to be reviewed, all Councillors agreed. DW mentioned a significant number of Tim West agricultural vehicles having to drive past the school to get to Pickett How Farm and there is a blind spot with no yellow lines.

EW said that she had seen on Border News that Growing Well Nursery a Kendal based business, were ready to recruit staff. GP said interviews were to be held in the Market Hall. MM mentioned Works 4 You not getting the contract yet it was thought that they would obtain funding from Copeland Community Fund to work alongside Growing Well, however it appears that this is not the case. MM will contact Karen Jones at Works 4 You for an update.

078.23.24	<p>EW mentioned the blank parking space outside of the Market Hall; lines are to be painted up to the disabled parking bay.</p> <p><b>TO CONSIDER, APPROVE &amp; SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING:</b></p> <p>RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Egremont Town Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023.</p>	EW
079.23.24	<p><b>TO CONSIDER &amp; REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b></p> <p>4/23//2251/0F1 Create hardstanding for placement of three shipping containers for temporary use as a site compound storage block, site office block and site amenity skills training block, including car parking, security fence and associated services</p> <p>Plot 5B, Westlakes Science Park, Ingwell Drive, Moor Row</p> <p>No comments</p>	
080.23.24	<p><b>TO RATIFY COMMENTS WITH REGARDS ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS</b></p> <p>4/23/2140/0F1 Consultation on Additional and Amended Information Planning Application Reference:4/23/2140/0F1 Alterations to attached cottage to facilitate existing annex use, including increased height of existing ground floor store &amp; installation of new doors, window openings and proposed access ramp. Ghyll Farm, Egremont No response from Councillors, no comments were sent</p> <p>4/23/2141/0L1 Consultation on Additional and Amended Information Planning Application Reference:4/23/2140/0F1 Listed building consent for alterations to form en-suite bathroom within main house; alterations to attached cottage to facilitate existing annex use, including increased height of existing ground floor store, installation of new doors, window openings, roof lights, replacement windows and proposed access ramp; external alterations to existing cottage extension &amp; repairs to existing cottage chimney. Ghyll Farm, Egremont No response from Councillors, no comments were sent</p> <p>4/23/2044/0F1 Consultation on Additional and Amended Information Planning Application Reference:4/23/2044/0F1 Erection of three storey building to form shop, warehouse, offices &amp; ancillary storage along with new vehicle access, car parking and yard areas &amp; erection of 2.no single storey buildings to create 6.no units (use class B2/B8) and associated parking areas. Land adjacent to St Thomas Cross roundabout, Egremont No response from Councillors, no comments were sent</p> <p>4/23/2094/0F1 Consultation on Additional and Amended Information Planning Application Reference:4/23/2094/0F1 Alterations &amp; extension to existing loft extension and ground floor. Sheelin, Woodend, Egremont No response from Councillors, no comments were sent</p>	



- 4/23/2223/0F1 Change of use of ground floor retail unit to one bedroomed flat (resubmission of 4/17/2298/0F1)  
Springfield Stores (ground floor) Springfield Road, Bigrigg, Egremont  
No response from Councillors, no comments were sent
- 4/23/2215/0F1 Erection of a wooden yurt to be used for therapeutic services such as meditation, relaxation, yoga  
Land to the rear of Pillar House, Ingwell Drive, Moor Row  
No response from Councillors, no comments were sent
- 4/23/2220/0F1 Erection new dwelling (resubmission of 4/23/2012/0F1)  
Land at Montreal Place, Moor Row  
No response from Councillors, no comments were sent
- 4/23/2222/0F1 Proposed side porch extension, chimney removal & window/façade alterations  
7– 8 Bookwell, Egremont  
No response from Councillors no comments were sent
- 4/23//2219/0F1 Change of use from nursery to doggy day care centre  
Ennerdale Mill, Egremont  
No response from Councillors, no comments were sent

081.22.23

**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**

**Personnel**

Meeting to be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September with Town Council staff.

**Bowling Green**

The Bowling Green Committee Meeting minutes were received. MM mentioned that a Cumberland Windows advertising sign had been erected on the fence outside of the Bowling Green. Previously, the Bowling Green Committee were asked to seek permission from Highways before doing this. The Committee will be contacted to ask if permission was granted.

**Allotments**

An inspection of the Sandholes site took place with SP and Emanuel Flecken from Cumberland Council on 12<sup>th</sup> September. They returned back to the Market Hall where only one tenant turned up so the meeting was brought to a close. It was determined that the majority of the allotment tenants wish to transfer to the Cumberland Council terms and conditions when they take over managing the site on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

GP confirmed that trophies and prizes for allotment winners will be given out at the October meeting.

GP asked GS to check to see if foliage and brambles had been cut back from garages at East Road. GS did not think any had been done since his last inspection.

GP reported that there is only one tenant left to pay garage ground rent.

GP asked GS if he had met with the garage tenant that had an objection to the adjacent tenant erecting a fence along the path in between the two. GS said that despite emailing him a couple of times he had not had a response to meet on site and no contact number

GS



is held for him. Councillors asked if GS had any issue with the allotment tenant putting up the fence along his boundary and GS said the allotment tenant had agreed to the garage tenant accessing the plot should he need to put a ladder up to the garage to carry out roof repairs.

JL asked about the drainage at a plot at East Road and CP confirmed it was left with GC so it would be chased up.

### **Cemetery**

GP said that a letter had been received from a resident with a complaint about memorials being removed from graves. GP had sent a draft response for Councillors to read. RESOLVED to send letter to explain reasons.

A skip comparison was carried out and we are on the best contract already at £390 + VAT per occasion for a 19 yard covered skip. We negotiated a longer time period for the skip to remain on site (max 8 weeks) so this ensures that there is time to fill the skip and the aim is to just order 1 skip every 8 weeks and in between time, the Curator will collect and pile branches/wood.

A Cumberland Council officer noticed a lot of branches/twigs in the cemetery, he said it would be cheaper for the wood to be chipped and that Cumberland could provide 2 men for 2 hours with the chipper for £120.00.

Works 4 You can provide the Lengthsman and a chipper as and when necessary for £25.00 per hour. RESOLVED to accept this.

Quotes were received to repair roofing in the cemetery. Alan Hunter quoted £7,500 + VAT for the chapels and £24,000 + VAT for a new roof at Cemetery House.

David Sewell quoted £4259 + VAT for both chapels and he would repair Cemetery House as a gesture of goodwill. RESOLVED to accept the quote from D Sewell.

### **Market Hall**

The annual inspection of alarms was carried out by Churches Fire and although there were areas identified that did not conform to current British Standards these were not illegal and recommendations were made to replace these. Churches Fire also quoted £900 + VAT for an annual Fire Risk Assessment and 295 + VAT for an Emergency Lighting check which must be carried out.

Darren Spurr also quoted £3800 to install 20 new LED panels in the Market Hall. RESOLVED to accept the quotes.

### **Egremont Castle**

Calderwood House have agreed to attend the castle weekly to help the Lengthsman clear the weeds etc. GP said that Friends of Egremont Castle Group do not need permission to weed areas in the castle, they can do so whenever they want to.

GP reported that the Lengthsman had said the castle gates were in a poor state. EW suggested sending another reminder to Savills/Lord Egremont.

GP mentioned the new bin in the castle and this could pose a risk with children setting it on fire. A bin with a metal exterior, liner, key lock and ground bolts would be required.

RESOLVED to acquire a new bin.

### **Borderlands/Public Realm**

The soil in the new planters supplied by Thomas Armstrong is full of Mares Tail, therefore this will need to be removed and new soil and plants replaced therefore the Street Furniture Agreement and Public Realm Agreement will be looked at together when all the remedial works are carried out.

	<p><b><u>Lengthsman Scheme</u></b>  The Cemetery Curator has reported some concerns with the contractors cutting the grass in the cemetery as part of the Lengthsman scheme. These have been reported to Works 4 You and a meeting is to be set up to discuss issues.</p>	
082.23.24	<p><b>CONSIDER &amp; REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE</b>  The £500 donation agreed in February for each primary school towards the celebrations of the coronation of king Charles III will be paid now that the school term has started.  SP has been working with Highways to organise the tarmacking of the path at Christie Bridge.</p>	
083.23.24	<p><b>TO CONSIDER &amp; RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT</b>  RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk's report.</p>	
084.23.24	<p><b>TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS</b>  RESOLVED to ratify the payments at 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 amounting to £45,067.16</p>	
085.23.24	<p><b>RECEIVE &amp; APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023</b>  RESOLVED to accept, consider &amp; approve the financial statement at 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 amounting to £24,503.17.</p>	
086.23.24	<p><b>TO CHOOSE THE WINNERS OF THE GOOD CITIZEN AWARDS</b>  Councillors voted and the winner was Moor Row Warm Hub for group award and Sandra Clements from the Food Bank for the individual award.</p>	
087.23.24	<p><b>TO RATIFY THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE QUOTE FOR THE WINTER PLANTING</b>  RESOLVED to accept the quote</p>	
088.23.24	<p><b>TO REVIEW THE COST OF PLANTING NEW TREES IN EGREMONT CEMETERY</b>  Councillors agreed to accept the quote of £960.00 + VAT for the removal of Leylandii trees but decided not to go ahead with the planting of 4 Yew trees.</p>	
089.23.24	<p><b>TO CONSIDER THE NEW CO-OPTION PROCESS</b>  It was decided to cover this on the Agenda for the October meeting.</p>	
090.23.24	<p><b>TO CONSIDER THE PUBLIC REALM MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT</b>  It was decided to cover this on the Agenda for the October meeting.</p>	
091.23.24	<p><b>TO DISCUSS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CEMETERY</b>  GS had a walk around Cemetery House with NS to look at ventilation issues with a view to getting the house back on the rental market. GS said externally there was a pooling of water so the gutter would need to be fixed and vents would need to be re-installed on the windows.  Darren Spurr had recommended installing a PIV unit in the loft and D Sewell would be asked about air bricks and then re-decoration could begin.  GS said that NS had mentioned getting another storage container for the cemetery. EW said this couldn't be agreed without figures, costing and size. CW suggested bringing this back to the next meeting.</p>	

092.23.24	<p><b>COUNCILLORS MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION</b></p> <p>a. CW reported on the Crab Fair gurning competition that he had attended. He said it was good to see the event so well attended after a few years’ absence and members of the public had travelled from all over the UK. It was estimated that up to 475 people were in the Market Hall.</p> <p>b. MM said that the prices for the fair rides outside were extortionate and also that it was hard to understand Health and Safety warnings on the big wheel as it was written in polish.MM questioned the cost of the event and said he would take it up with SP.</p>	MM/SP
093.23.24	<p><b>FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA</b>  Consideration and adoption of the new co-option process  The Public Realm maintenance agreement</p>	
094.23.24	<p><b>RESOLVED THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</b>  RESOLVED the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 5.30pm.  The meeting was then brought to a close at 7.30 pm</p>	
095.23.24	<p><b>MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE EXCLUDING THE PRESS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC</b></p>	

