KJ **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17THOCTOBER 2023 AT 5.00PM IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL**

Present: Mrs Elaine Woodburn (EW) Chairperson

Mr Michael McVeigh (MM) Vice-Chair

Also:

Mr Graham Calvin (GC) Mr Chris Whiteside (CW)

Mrs Jean Lewthwaite (JL) Mr Sam Pollen (SP)

Mr Graham Calvin (GC)

Mrs Geraldine Pritchard (GP) Town Clerk

Mrs Nicola Cattanach (NC) Assistant Town Clerk

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Chairperson said that it was very difficult to choose an overall winner for the individual award as all were worthy winners however a decision was reached & she invited the following runners up to come forward to accept their certificates – Sammy Nunns form Sammy’s Skate School, Brian Skirrow from the new Egremont Post Office & Neil Ferguson for his work within the community.  Chairperson then announced the winner of the Individual Award – Sandra Clements who runs the Egremont Food Bank & went on to read out the many reasons as to why she was nominated and why she had been chosen the overall winner.  Chairperson explained that it had also been so difficult to choose between those nominated for the group award: Egremont Warm Hub, The Friends of Egremont Castle Group, Egremont Amatueur Boxing Club and Tom Higgins and Team from the Egremont & Bigrigg Wombles Group & she invited representatives from each group to collect their certificate.  Chairperson then presented the overall winner of the group award Moor Row Village Warm Hub with their award and thanked them for all their hard work and commitment dedicated to the community.  All recipients then left the meeting.  **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**  EW, GP & SP declared under finance, an interest as members of Egremont Amenity Committee accepting a donation from the covid budget for the Christmas event.  **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  Cumberland Councillor Sam Pollen the South Cumberland Network Panel of which there would be regular meetings throughout the year to include: developing a neighbourhood plan, supporting health & wellbeing, transport issues, families & young people and environmental issues and all communities are encouraged to get involved.  SP said that not a lot had happened with the Borderlands in the last year but he had discussed this with Cumberland Council representatives to have a re-launch soon.  He mentioned the concern of the lack of crossings across the three local primary schools and unfortunately 90% of schools in Cumbria don’t have a crossing.  SP had met with a Cumberland Council representative and plans for the street deep clean are going ahead. SP mentioned that Growing Well Nursery was taking shape.  SP had attendee a Hyper Fast broadband meeting and it is hoped that those areas where there is no broadband will be reached.  There is a planned dial a ride scheme to come to the local area where residents will be able to access an App and arrange for a mini bus within around 10 minutes. There is concern, however for those who don’t have a mobile phone or who are unable to work an App.  CW wanted to make Councillors aware that former constituents had concerns about flooding in areas from the Outrigg to Egremont Road. SP said he would do his best to address issues.  EW suggested contacting GM to ask for his report in a format suitable to open, as monthly updates are appreciated when he is unable to attend meetings.  GC asked if Moor Row is included in the dial a ride scheme. SP said the Council would push for this and EW & CW agreed that Moor Row is probably more in need, especially due to the lack of bus service. SP is expecting a full presentation on the scheme.  **CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS**  There were no Chairperson’s remarks  **TO CONSIDER, APPROVE & SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING:**  RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Egremont Town Council held on 19th September 2023.  **TO CONSIDER & REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS**  4/4 4/23/2222/0F1 Consultation on Additional and Amended Information:  Planning Application Reference: 4/23/2222/0F1  Proposed side porch extension, chimney removal & window/façade alterations.  7 – 8 Bookwell, Egremont  No  Co No comments  **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**  **Finance**  A meeting was held on 10th October, attended by GP, JL & MM.  The RBL gave 50 large poppies to be distributed on lamp posts on the main street in time for Remembrance Sunday. They requested a donation and it was RESOLVED to donate £25.00.  A request had been received from the Air Cadets for a donation towards a trip to Normandy for the 80th Anniversary of D Day. It was RESOLVED to consider this when it is confirmed how many cadets from Egremont parish intend to go.  An invitation of 6 months’ free membership for the Rural Market Towns Group was received and it was RESOLVED to accept this trial and review in 6 months’ time.  Upon researching the purchase of a bin for the castle it was RESOLVED not to go ahead as the costs were too high for a fire proof bin.  Bee Unique charity requested a donation towards selection boxes for their Christmas parties. It was RESOLVED to donate £25.00.  Egremont Town Council are to donate funds from the covid budget to Egremont Amenity Committee towards selection boxes for Santa to give to children at the Christmas event. RESOLVED to donate £1000.  **Personnel**  See matters in private  **Bowling Green**  Prior to the Town Council meeting the Bowling Club Committee had a short meeting with EW & MM to discuss the advertising boards on the Bowling Green Fence looking onto the Highway. The Bowling Club had sought advice from Highways on the recommendation of Councillors.  **Allotments**  GC said he had been up to East Road allotments to the plot with a blocked drain. It had been jet washed and the pipe is approx. 6ft long and goes into a gravel trench under the road. GC & GS had a look and an option is to dig down until the clay soil is reached and fill this with pea gravel and treat the plot as a soak away. Leaving the plot, the way it is has the potential to flood other plots. For machine access to dig out the soil, a section of the fence would need to be taken down temporarily. Once the soak away is installed the plot will be fit to house ducks. GC will take this forward and discuss with the allotment tenant.  **Market Hall**  This year the Town Council staff will be purchasing items and decorating the Market Hall for Christmas, rather than hiring an outside organisation.  **Christmas Lights**  SP announced dates of the Christmas event in the Market Hall, 25th & 26th November.  It has been reported that the Egremont Amenity Christmas advert on Facebook has been copied and amended with different dates advertising for stalls in the Market Hall and unfortunately this is a scam and the resident that informed the Town Council has paid money for a “stall”.  **Egremont Castle**  Calderwood House and Bookwell school have been helping the Friends of Egremont Castle with planting at the castle.  **CONSIDER & REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE**  A date for the Emergency Lighting and Fire Risk Assessment is to be arranged. RESOLVED that GS has agreed to meet with the engineer to discuss the report from the alarm testing.  A trophy for the best dressed Christmas window has been purchased from Whitehaven Trophies. RESOLVED that SP is to hand deliver letters to businesses to explain about the best dressed window competition.  SP suggested the Town Council considering a donation supporting both the Egremont and Moor Row Warm Hub this winter. RESOLVED that SP will source more information and this will be an Agenda item in November.  SP met with Cumberland Council on 27th September for a walk around to identify areas for the deep clean. RESOLVED that a date will be arranged in the next few weeks.  **TO CONSIDER & RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT**  RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk’s report.  **TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS**  RESOLVED to ratify the payments at 11th October 2023 amounting to £6,481.60  **TO RECEIVE & APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 11TH OCTOBER 2023**  RESOLVED to accept, consider & approve the financial statement at 13th September 2023 amounting to £14,666.54.  **TO CONSIDER & MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**  RESOLVED that representatives taking part in the parade are to meet at Egremont market Hall on Sunday 12th November at 10.15am. Rev Becky Gibb will be conducting the service and again in Moor Row at 1.00pm.  **TO CONSIDER THE NEW CO-OPTION PROCESS**  RESOLVED that vacancies will be advertised in the new year following the formal process and prospective Councillors will be invited to present to the Town Council.  RESOLVED to go with DW idea of current Councillors creating a profile of why they enjoy being a Town Councillor.  **COUNCILLORS MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION**   1. GC reported on contaminated ponds at Moor Row and the Environmental Health Department are involved. 2. GC mentioned complaints about residents putting up fences which are encroaching on to the path adjacent to Rusper Drive. This path must remain a public path and GC will wait to hear further before deciding what action to take. 3. EW talked about the closure of James Fisher, the largest employer in Egremont. SP to look into what would be happening with the empty building. EW mentioned the possibility of Thomas Graham going there. 4. GP reminded Councillors about donating raffle prizes for the Christmas event.   **FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA**  Presentation by Mary Smith from Growing Well Nursery  Food Bank & Warm Hub financial support this winter - SP  **RESOLVED THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**  RESOLVED the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 28th November at 5.30pm.  The meeting was then brought to a close at 7.15 pm | NC  EW  EW  EW, SP, GP  GC  DW  GC |