

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 16TH MAY 2023 IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL AND IMMEDIATELY  
FOLLOWING THE AGM**

Present:

Mrs Elaine Woodburn (EW)                      Chairperson

Also:

Mr Graham Calvin (GC)                      Mr Sam Pollen (SP)  
Mr Michael McVeigh (MM)                      Mr Chris Whiteside (CW)  
Mrs Jean Lewthwaite (JL)

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

<b>012.23.24</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> RESOLVED to note that apologies were received from David Wright, Gareth Stringer and Cumberland Councillor Graham Minshaw.	NC
<b>013.23.24</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA</b> SP declared an interest as being a member of the crab fair committee.	
<b>014.23.24</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> SP was invited to give his report as a Cumberland Councillor. SP said he has been busy with the South Cumberland Network Group which is a neighbourhood investment plan with a community panel, he stressed that the development of Egremont town is key and engagement grants will be used to identify people and partner priorities. SP had met with Cumberland leader Mr Mark Fryer where the Public Realm was discussed, he had met with Mr Brian Skirrow regarding the re-opening of the post office & he also spoke to Mr Jamie Reed. SP said he intends to visit the old Copeland nursery site along with MM to see how it is progressing. SP stressed that the Council need to refocus on the Borderlands scheme & he reported that himself, MM and EW had to discuss possible GDF funding opportunities for Egremont. SP had recently spoken to Cumbria Police and highlighted again the importance of a police presence in Egremont. SP said he will also be attending the Food Bank, Lowes Court Gallery, Calderwood House and Florence Mine & that he is looking forward to working with the Chair and Town Clerk. EW raised the issue of neighbourhood plans as Bigrigg and Moor Row will be located in the Whitehaven area plan, meaning the Town Council would have to have input into two plans and there was a worry that Moor Row and Bigrigg would not get their needs heard. EW requested that SP feed this back to Cumberland Council and ask for Bigrigg and Moor Row to be relocated into the South Copeland plan alongside Egremont. CW asked how the funding compared to the amount the previous local committees had available as grants, SP estimated the financial grant available was not far from what was available previously.	SP.MM SP.MM EW SP SP
<b>015.23.24</b>	<b>CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS</b> EW reminded Councillors to send return their election expenses forms to Cumberland Council even if they did not incur any expenses.	ALL

016.23.24	<p>EW spoke to Councillors about staff being permitted to close the office at certain times to allow them to spend time working on the CiLCA training, this was RESOLVED pending prior notice is given to Councillors.</p> <p><b>TO CONSIDER, APPROVE &amp; SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING:</b>  RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Egremont Town Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 following the amendment under minute 183.22.23 - to now read "SP is to be part of several groups and committee panels including Licensing, Overview and Scrutiny and he is to be the Chair of the Labour Group.</p>	GP.NC
017.23.24	<p><b>TO CONSIDER &amp; REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b>  4/23/2128/0F1      Replace existing window with new door and side light.  Revised signage  43 Main Street, Egremont  Egremont Town Council has no objections and would like to emphasise that Councillors fully support this application and they feel the importance of supporting a business looking to house a <u>vital</u> service outweighs other matters such as design and signage etc.</p> <p><b>TO RATIFY COMMENTS WITH REGARDS ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS.</b>  4/23/2109/0A1      Proposed advertisement.  44 Springfield Road, Egremont  No objections</p>	NC
018.23.24	<p><b>TO CONSIDER ANY REPORTS INCLUDING FINANCE, PERSONNEL, CEMETERY, BOWLING GREEN, MARKET HALL, WEBSITE, ALLOTMENTS, DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS, HEALTH &amp; SAFETY, CUMBRIA IN BLOOM, PUBLIC REALM &amp; WC PARTNERSHIP</b></p> <p><b><u>Personnel</u></b>  A meeting was held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April to discuss the opening and closing of the cemetery gate whilst the cemetery house is empty. It was agreed that the gate will remain open at all times and the situation will be monitored.</p> <p><b><u>Bowling Green</u></b>  Following the replacement of the patio doors, the committee had highlighted that four windows and one door would need replacing at some point in the near future &amp; they provided the Council with two quotes for their consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contractor 1 - £3,350.00 (no vat – not registered)</li> <li>2. Contractor 2 - £3,041.00 + vat</li> </ol> <p>JL said that these works can wait until next year however EW &amp; GC felt that this would be false economy &amp; so EW proposed &amp; GC seconded that the work goes ahead, JL counter proposed that the work is deferred but this was not seconded, it was therefore RESOLVED that the work goes ahead and Contractor 2 is given the contract.</p>	GP

019.23.24	<p><b><u>Allotments</u></b>  GP told Councillors that a resident from Sandy Grove had phoned to complain about rats in his garden &amp; cockerels (from Sandholes allotment site) making a lot of noise, the allotment committee members will make contact with this resident.  GC is attending East Road allotment site on 26<sup>th</sup> May to meet with the tenant of plot 19 &amp; Unblock Cumbria to use sonar equipment in the drain that is causing issues with flooding.  A meeting is to be arranged with Emanuel Flecken to discuss the future of the Sandholes Allotment site.</p>	MM.GS. GC. GC  NC
	<p><b><u>Cemetery</u></b>  A tree survey was carried out &amp; the ensuing report highlighted remedial work was required on 5 trees at a cost of £1,450 + vat. Councillors felt that this was expensive however it was pointed out that he is a qualified arborist who provides an extensive report on all the trees within the cemetery. EW pointed out that as a public cemetery, the Town Council has to ensure the grounds are safe for people to walk in and anyone working in the cemetery had to have the correct certification to carry out any work. It was RESOLVED that this remedial work is carried out as soon as possible and a copy of the report is sent to all Councillors.  As part of the report, it was recommended that the large leylandii trees overlooking Toll bar field were removed as they could potentially cause structural damage to the wall they are growing against &amp; he recommended planting some yew trees to fit in with the other trees in the cemetery. The cost for this was £960 + vat for the removal of the trees plus £600 + vat for planting 4 yew trees. It was RESOLVED that the trees do need removed and the planting of slow growing trees would be better suited to the cemetery however it was RESOLVED to review these costs in September/October, GC said he may know someone who could supply us with trees for a cheaper cost.</p>	NC  GP
	<p><b><u>Borderlands/Public Realm</u></b>  EW said there had been some complaints about the removal of benches (for refurbishment) from the Main Street (two have been reinstated temporarily so people have somewhere to sit). She also stated that the new bus shelters would be in place shortly &amp; the gardening club from Westlakes Academy will soon be helping with the planting of the beds at the entrance to the Academy. The overall completion date is expected to be the end of June.  GP suggested that four (out of the 10) metal planters that will be removed from the Main Street could be utilised at Bigrigg. CW said that permission would need to be obtained from the National Highways before they were sited, GP will speak to Paula Ratcliffe about this first and foremost. The remaining six planters will be sited in the cemetery. SP thanked EW for all her efforts as she has driven this project.  EW had attended a recent Borderlands meeting &amp; another meeting will be arranged shortly to move things on. SP also said that he had engaged with Lizzie Shaw and Mark Fryer to discuss pushing on with projects, all agreed that this matter needs to get moving again</p>	GP  GP
	<p><b><u>Lengthsman Scheme</u></b>  Works 4 You sent out a monthly report of works carried out and this was forwarded on to Councillors</p> <p><b>CONSIDER &amp; REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE</b>  Following Councillors initial request for a site visit regarding concerns about a proposed slurry lagoon at Watson Hill farm, no date had been forthcoming from the planning department however a reply was sent stating that there is no public right of</p>	



	<p>way through the farm, the Environment Agency have been involved &amp; they have no objections &amp; a lining has been proposed to address any leaking concerns, this they hoped would alleviate Councillors' concerns. MM &amp; GC would still however like a site visit, it was therefore RESOLVED that GP arrange this.</p> <p>GP informed Councillors that the Crab Fair gurning event had been booked into the Market Hall &amp; she asked if free hall hire should be allowed. All Councillors were in support of this so it was RESOLVED that free hall hire is granted.</p> <p>A resident who had previously been an allotment tenant had requested their name to be added to the list again, this was RESOLVED.</p> <p>RESOLVED to allow an allotment tenant to pay for his garage ground rent in quarterly instalments.</p> <p>The proprietor of Little Learners Nursery had asked if there was any recreational land available for the children to play on. MM suggested the green area at Whitegate and SP suggested that she enquires from the Cumberland Council too.</p> <p>RESOLVED to inform her of this information &amp; to suggest that she contacts the local schools to see if they can help.</p>	<p>GP</p> <p>GP</p> <p>GP.NC</p> <p>GP</p>
020.23.24	<p><b>TO CONSIDER &amp; RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT</b></p> <p>RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk's report.</p>	
021.23.24	<p><b>TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS</b></p> <p>RESOLVED to ratify the payments at 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 amounting to £5,142.60</p>	
022.23.24	<p><b>RECEIVE &amp; APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b></p> <p>RESOLVED to accept, consider &amp; approve the financial statement at 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 amounting to £19,499.42.</p>	
023.23.24	<p><b>TO RECEIVE &amp; NOTE THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT</b></p> <p>RESOLVED to receive and note the Internal Auditor's report.</p>	
024.23.24	<p><b>TO CONSIDER, APPROVE AND SIGN THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT</b></p> <p>RESOLVED to consider, approve and sign the annual governance statement.</p>	
025.23.24	<p><b>TO CONSIDER, APPROVE AND SIGN THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENT</b></p> <p>RESOLVED to consider, approve and sign the Annual Accounting statement.</p>	
026.23.24	<p><b>TO CONSIDER GRANTING FREE HALL HIRE FOR THE ANNUAL CRAB FAIR GURNING EVENT</b></p> <p>This matter was dealt with under correspondence.</p>	
027.23.24	<p><b>TO DISCUSS THE WAY FORWARD WITH REGARDS THE INCONSIDERATE PARKING BY SELLAFIELD STAFF IN EGREMONT</b></p> <p>SP said he had met &amp; had a walkabout with David Pettit and Jan Thompson from Sellafield who reported that their priority is to keep vehicles off the Sellafield site. Residential areas however &amp; housing estates are still being used for parking which is inconsiderate but not illegal. MM said that there are 30 spaces at the Rugby Union Club that are not being used. GP suggested a working group is set up to look into this matter in more detail. This was RESOLVED as was the decision to contact other local town &amp; parish Councils to see if they have the same issues &amp; if so, a meeting would be arranged to discuss further &amp; hopefully address the problem as a whole.</p>	GP.NC

028.23.24	<p><b>COUNCILLORS MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION</b></p> <p>a. The co-option for the two vacancies on Egremont Town Council was mentioned, this will be put on next month’s agenda.</p> <p>b. CW mentioned a Community Ownership Scheme which offers grants to help retain assets which may otherwise be lost, he agreed to email it over to EW to peruse the document.</p> <p>c. MM mentioned that the sculpture in Egremont Castle needed cleaned, RESOLVED that MM will contact the sculptor who made it – Mr Paul Bainbridge for advice.</p> <p>d. MM also mentioned that he had seen some young girls in the castle at the very top which they could easily have fallen from, he reported the matter to the police.</p> <p>e. GC reported that some vandalism had taken place on the Moor Row play park.</p>	GP CW MM
029.23.24	<p><b>ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA</b></p> <p>Consideration of any co-option candidates for Egremont Town Council</p>	GP
030.23.24	<p><b>RESOLVED THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>RESOLVED the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June Meeting at 5.30pm. The meeting was then brought to a close at 7.25pm</p>	
031.23.24	<p><b>MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE EXCLUDING THE PRESS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC</b></p> <p>There were no matters to discuss in private.</p>	

*S. Pall*