

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON  
THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 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 David Wright (DW)  
Mr Gareth Stringer (GS)                      Mrs Jean Lewthwaite (JL)  
Mr Michael McVeigh (MM)                      Mr Tom Higgins (TH)

Mrs Geraldine Pritchard (GP)                      Town Clerk  
Mrs Nicola Cattanaach (NC)                      Assistant Clerk  
Mr Chris Whiteside (CW)                      County Councillor  
Mr Simon Walker (SW)                      Chairperson of Egremont & Area Regeneration Partnership  
M/s Sue McKay (SM)                      Director at Florence Arts Centre

<p><b>170.22.23</b></p>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> RESOLVED to note that apologies were received from Cumberland Councillor Graham Minshaw.</p>	<p>NC</p>
<p><b>171.22.23</b></p>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA</b> RESOLVED to note that there were no declarations of interest</p>	
<p><b>172.22.23</b></p>	<p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> EW welcomed SW &amp; SM to the meeting &amp; SW gave a brief introduction stating that he has been a part of the Arts Centre for the past 11 years &amp; thanks to regeneration funding, the building has been saved from dereliction. Initially the centre was not linked to electricity or water mains and the majority of the windows were missing but now it is a thriving community asset which has survived the impact for the pandemic. They are awaiting funding from Sellafield Ltd and Cumbria County Council to help with other works and hopefully from the Borderlands funds (which they had submitted a bid for) to create a better access to the centre to encourage more people to visit.</p> <p>SM introduced herself as the Director of Florence Arts Centre and said she had been in the role since January of this year. She explained that there were three members of staff &amp; a fourth will be recruited shortly. SM said that the centre has an ambitious new business plan (part of which aims to celebrate and grow young talent and become a leading creative hub by 2028). The centre hopes to attract funding to better serve the community by listening to requirements to improve capacity &amp; enable the centre to earn its own income. SM would like more diverse members of the public to get involved in activities by showing films, encouraging walks to the centre &amp; organised family days. The Centre has started advertising &amp; producing posters to go on the Town Council website and in the poster point amongst other places. The next event is the Heart of Glass exhibition on 29<sup>th</sup> March which SP will be attending &amp; he encouraged others to attend too if possible.</p> <p>MM asked about school interaction, SW replied that the centre had worked with Bookwell school &amp; Gosforth school &amp; were in discussions with the music teacher at Westlakes Academy regarding a project but they hoped to work with other schools in the future too.</p> <p>GC said that it would be good to see more music genres covered as the more people that attended events &amp; spread the word then the more funding would be attracted.</p>	<p>SP</p>



SM said this would be taken on board & they are working with partners to expand their current programme for example Dads & kids time.  
SP said that some local residents see the Florence Arts centre as for “somebody else” but the more information that was put out there, he felt would break down these barriers.  
TH said that at the last open mike night that he had attended, it was good to see a younger audience, all agreed that this was encouraging  
EW said that although it was good that the Centre was still going after 11 years, it still did not have the connectivity with the town, it appears to attract visitors from Haile, Wilton & St Bees but people from other areas of Egremont may not feel it is for them.  
EW said that she didn’t know the centre had a warm hub & perhaps they should reach out to a wider audience & have a more common touch.  
JL stated that there is a transport issue for some people & she also asked if the centre had an archive department from the old mine, SM replied that they are working hard to bring the heritage back with displays & talks from Gilbert Finlinson.  
CW referred to the County Council grant of £10,000 that was used to buy additional heaters to encourage more visitors and he encouraged them to work closely with the Town Council to promote the Centre. SW said that they had more courses planned to reach more members of the community by making things accessible to all & they had exciting programmes planned for a younger audience next year.  
DW said that social media is key and with advertising on Facebook it would filter through to outsiders and visitors. He suggested that the Town Council could get involved by Councillors attending events & taking photographs to post online along with their experience of the event, this may encourage others to attend. He also suggested that they public events via the schools’ weekly newsletters  
SW & SM said they would take Councillors’ comments on board & they were thanked for attending before duly leaving the meeting.

ALL

EW then welcomed CW who stated that he had attended his last meeting as a County Councillor in Kendal earlier in the day and he reported that any final funding was being given to local groups before the new Cumberland Council takes over. CW is still chasing officers with regards the pollinators scheme which Egremont Castle should benefit from.

CW said he had attended a meeting with National Highways regarding the Moresby Embankment & he confirmed that the whole of the west will be affected at weekends when this work commences as the main diversion will begin at the Pelican Garage in Whitehaven with a lot of traffic going through Moresby & the main diversion will go as far as Cockermouth. National Highways had hoped that Stagecoach buses would travel on the eastern side of the A595 for the duration of the works but Stagecoach had not confirmed this yet so CW would look into it further.

CW said that Highways were working to address potholes in Scalegill Road and he spoke of traffic calming measures in Moor Row and that the speed bumps in place had made a difference. He said as part of the outlined permission for the new housing development a raised table junction was to be created at Scalegill Road. CW spoke of drainage and flooding issues in St Bees and he hoped that the new Cumberland Council would consider the Highways teams localised knowledge as there were still huge areas with outstanding issues to be covered.

GC mentioned the playing field in Moor Row as children were up to their ankles in mud. He was working hard to get a resolution and CW said he hoped for the same.

SP said that CW had been an excellent County Councillor and thanked him for all that he had done, CW thanked also the Councillors before duly leaving the meeting.



173.22.23	<p><b>CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS</b></p> <p>EW said that the Notice of Elections had gone out for public display. EW made reference to an email from the Head teacher of Bookwell school, thanking the caretaker and office staff for hosting the school concert, Councillors said that this was good to hear.</p> <p>EW told Councillors that a letter of condolence had been sent to the family of Richard Cole following his untimely death. Mr Cole provided Christmas decorations for the Market Hall and had been doing so for many years.</p>	
174.22.23	<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 23rd February 2023.</p> <p>RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Egremont Town Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023. EW duly signed both.</p>	
175.22.23	<p><b>TO CONSIDER &amp; REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b></p> <p>4/22/2354/0B1      Consultation on Amended Description:  Planning Application Reference 4/22/2354/0B1  Variation of condition 5 (roller shutter doors) &amp;  Variation of condition (exercise outside of the building) of  planning approval 4/20/2387/0F1 change of use from bus  garage &amp; workshop to gym  Units 5 &amp; 6, Ennerdale Mill, Bridge End Road, Egremont</p> <p>Comments:      Councillors have no objections to the doors being open as long as there is no music being played, inside or out.</p> <p>4/22/2042/0F1      Consultation on Additional &amp; Amended Information:  Planning Application Reference: 4/22/2042/0F1  Use of land for the siting of four glamping pods with small  decking areas, construction of a parking comprising 4 spaces,  footways and associated drainage and minor earth works to  regrade the land levels  5 Ellerbeck Barns, Egremont</p> <p>Comments:      No objections</p> <p>4/23/2044/0F1      Erection of three storey building to form shop, warehouse and  offices along with new vehicle access, car parking and yard  areas and erection of 2No. single storey buildings and  associated parking areas  Land adjacent to St Thomas Cross Roundabout, Egremont</p> <p>Comments:      Councillors have no objections and would welcome this  planning application</p> <p>4/23/2059/0L1      Listed building consent for replacement of the existing  wrought iron gate with a new gate designed to reflect the  character of the war memorial. Repaint railings to dark blue  grey colour to coordinate with the refurbished street furniture  War Memorial, Market Place, Egremont</p> <p>Comments:      No objections</p>	

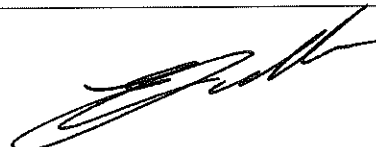


	<p>4/23/2058/0E1      Application for lawful development certificate for removal of existing bay window to rear elevation; existing patio doors to be removed &amp; a new 3 panel sliding door to be installed 11 Longlands Close, Egremont</p> <p>Comments:      No objections</p> <p>4/23/2057/0F1      To dig out a 110 x 40M slurry lagoon. The lagoon will be lined with an appropriate thick liner &amp; also covered to minimise any losses to the environment Watson Hill, Egremont</p> <p>Comments:      Councillors have no objections as long as there are full safety regulations in place and these are followed. There was concern about the size and the risk of someone falling in, therefore Councillors asked if the slurry storage lagoon was sectional - again due to the overall size, Councillors felt that if the lagoon was sectional and a leak occurred, only that particular section would be affected. Councillors also requested a planning site visit</p> <p>4/23/2060/HPAE      Prior notification application for single storey extension 2 Springfield Gardens, Bigrigg No objections</p> <p>4/23/2052/0F1      Application to determine if prior approval is required for the conversion of barn to a dwelling house Barn A, Moss Dalts, Egremont No objections</p> <p>4/23/2060/HPAE      Consultation on Additional &amp; Amended Information: Planning Application Reference: 4/23/2060/HPAE Prior notification application for single storey extension 2 Springfield Gardens, Bigrigg No objections</p> <p><b>176.22.23      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>Finance</u></b> A meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 &amp; attended by SP, JL &amp; MM. The following was RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 12 months' notice to be given to allotment and garage tenants of 2024/25 increase in rent as follows: Bridge End allotments from £55 to £60 East Road &amp; Sandholes from £60 to £65 and garage ground rent from £75 to £80</li> <li>b. There will be no increase in Cemetery House rent until remedial works have been carried out and new tenants are able to move in.</li> <li>c. Cemetery fees and charges will increase from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 as per attached.</li> <li>d. There will be no increase in the Market Hall fees.</li> <li>e. Costs of new office equipment to be considered once quotes are available.</li> </ol>	
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GP/NC



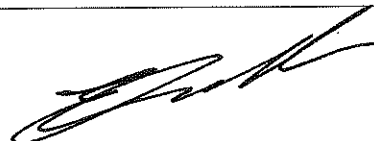
	<p>f. To accept the quote of £16,271.00 + VAT to extend R section for cremated remains in Egremont Cemetery.</p> <p>g. The annual youth grant will be increased to £1,500 to share between Egremont Youth Partnership &amp; Moor Row Youth club.</p> <p>h. To acknowledge and accept the high reserve in their savings account but with a lot of assets to look after, this high reserve was needed as any large emergency repair for instance could easily take up a high percentage of this reserve.</p> <p>i. To confirm that the Town Council are satisfied with the services of the internal auditor and the procedures in place.</p> <p>j. £150 cost to migrate to a new email address plus £9 per month service</p> <p>The following was RECOMMENDED &amp; RESOLVED by full council</p> <p>After reading a copy of the report from Samuel Woodford, Conservation and Design Officer for Copeland Borough Council, following his inspection of Cemetery House it was suggested that a new roof wasn't necessarily required, therefore it was agreed that DW and GC are to inspect Cemetery House and bring their findings to the next Town Council meeting before committing to the costs of a new roof.</p> <p><b><u>Personnel</u></b></p> <p>Matters to be discussed in private</p> <p><b><u>Website</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed the Town Council will continue with IT support from Gemini as the quote from Cumbria Media was more expensive.</p> <p><b><u>Bowling Green</u></b></p> <p>The Bowling Green have produced a poster to advertise their fun day on 9<sup>th</sup> April and this has been put in the poster point and on the Town Council Facebook page.</p> <p><b><u>Allotments</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Bridge End</u></b></p> <p>Photographs of scaffolding poles next to and touching an electricity pole were emailed to Electricity North West as Councillors were concerned that children could easily climb up and access the pole. The response was that ENW were happy with the height of the scaffolding at 2.4M as long as the scaffolding height did not increase.</p> <p><b><u>East Road</u></b></p> <p>Following the Allotment Committee meeting with Mr and Mrs Harper it was agreed that they could remain as tenants on plot 19 until the passing of all the birds. It has also been arranged with the tenant to meet with Unblock Cumbria and Cllr G Calvin to look at the drainage issues.</p> <p><b><u>Sandholes</u></b></p> <p>Mr Sharples is continuing to make progress with pest control on the site and is working with tenants and encouraging them to clear their plots to deter rats from nesting.</p> <p><b><u>Market Hall</u></b></p> <p>The boxing club have not returned to put back the Supper Room as it was before their fixtures, fittings and different paint colours were put in place. JL suggest a date should be set of when the works must be complete and if after that time this has not been done then the £500 that was to be given back to the club should be kept towards the cost of fixing the room. M Caton had said that he would be calling to the office the day after the Town Council meeting to discuss.</p>	<p>GP/NC GP</p> <p>GP</p> <p>DW/GC</p> <p>GC</p>
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	<p><b><u>Borderlands/Public Realm</u></b>  EW announced that the tender that had been submitted for the public realm works did not cover all costs so unfortunately the mosaic near the De Lucy Centre and the painting of the war memorial railings would not now take place.  The large leylandii tree at the entrance to Westlakes Academy will be removed on 12<sup>th</sup> April, all residents/businesses in the near vicinity will be informed.  A Borderlands meeting will be arranged when the new Council is in place. SP thanked the Chair for her work involved in pursuing the Borderlands funding.</p> <p><b><u>Egremont Castle</u></b>  K Nichol confirmed that a litter bin donated &amp; sited by Copeland at the Castle that looked unsightly and was locked and without a liner, has still not yet been removed.  K Nichol also sent an email to the Town Council with a list of jobs that the committee would like the Lengthsman to do (such as sweeping leaves and general tidying) prior to the Easter event to be held at the Castle on 9<sup>th</sup> April.</p>	
177.22.23	<p><b>CONSIDER &amp; REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE</b>  GP reported that Matthew Reeves from the Highways has confirmed that he has added the Town Council's request for a reduced speed limit (adjacent to the proposed housing development at Orgill) to be considered at the next review.</p>	GP
178.22.23	<p><b>TO CONSIDER &amp; RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT</b>  RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk's report.</p>	
179.22.23	<p><b>TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS</b>  RESOLVED to ratify the payments at 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023 amounting to £3,906.06</p>	
180.22.23	<p><b>RECEIVE &amp; APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023</b>  RESOLVED to accept, consider &amp; approve the financial statement at 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023 amounting to £24,477.82</p>	
181.22.23	<p><b>TO CONSIDER ANY UPDATES ON THE OLD EGREMONT NURSERY SITE</b>  SP stated that after 1<sup>st</sup> April, he would expect Town Councillors to push him to obtain progress on this site as well as others such as the old Red Lion site but initially it was RESOLVED that the office contact Mr Flecken from Copeland to ask for an update on Council owned sites.  MM said that the nursery had been passed over to Growing Well and has received funding from Copeland &amp; he hoped that they could interact with Works 4 You Ltd.</p>	GP
182.22.23	<p><b>TO DISCUSS THE UNDER USE OF THE MARKET HALL &amp; WAYS IN WHICH TO ATTRACT MORE USERS</b>  GP said that the Market Hall is under used at present and she made a suggestion of organising an event with live music for instance or invite people to run classes such as baby yoga or gymnastics. The hall is used annually by Bookwell School for their concerts &amp; it is the ideal venue for this, so other schools could be contacted to invite them to come and view the hall &amp; look at its suitability.  Perhaps Florence Arts Centre could hold taster sessions in the hall to promote their events and if the public like this then it may encourage them to visit the centre. EW said that she had no problem with any of the suggestions but if events were to be organised, then Councillors must get involved. GP said this would be discussed further with the Market Hall committee when a meeting is arranged.</p>	MM/TH/ EW



	<p>MM said other clubs such as the Rugby Clubs and Conservative Club are not getting anywhere near as many bookings as they used to, in part due to the economic down turn and therefore the Market Hall would be in a similar position, TH confirmed this. EW suggested the Market Hall having its own page on the website which could show photographs of what goes on in the hall (obviously with their permission) including Bookwell school concert, dog training classes, the wrestling event and to include any positive feedback alongside it.</p> <p>If events are to be organised, TH said research would need to be done to see what the people of our town would like to see, MM said the Civic Hall in Whitehaven had a lot of events but EW said they were more geared up for this compared to the Market Hall. It was suggested that tribute acts would be a good idea but photographs on the website would be a good place to start.</p> <p>DW suggested putting posts on Facebook that the hall is available &amp; TH said if each Councillor put a post on their personal Facebook page and these were shared, it would be a good way to advertise the hall.</p>	
183.22.23	<p><b>TO DISCUSS THE USE AND THE SITING OF THE FORMER BT PHONE BOX</b></p> <p>EW asked Councillor where the old red telephone box that is being moved from Cringlethwaite should be sited. GP suggested it could be used to display important information &amp; useful contacts (as opposed to events) which would be useful especially for the more elderly of our town who do not have social media) &amp; she suggested in the vicinity of the Cumberland Building Society, another site at the corner of the Co-op was suggested and following a vote, the co-op site was agreed upon.</p>	
184.22.23	<p><b>COUNCILLORS MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. DW said that the local plan examination is over but there is still a lot of work to be done, EW thanked DW for all his work on this as there was a lot of information to consider &amp; his expertise and knowledge is an asset to this Council.</li> <li>b. MM said he was trying to facilitate a meeting with the head of development services and the person that would like to take on the Post Office facility. There are some planning issues to overcome to modify the premises and funding of approximately £20,000 is required.</li> <li>c. NF said that a litter pick was arranged for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 10am – meeting at the cemetery.</li> <li>d. GP reminded Councillors of the Friends of Egremont Castle Easter bunny event on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April in the Castle.</li> <li>e. A meeting is arranged for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00pm for a walk around Egremont with SP, NF and two Sellafield representatives to discuss the Sellafield workers and contractors parking in and around Egremont, especially in residential areas.</li> <li>f. Councillors mentioned the housing development proposed for Moor Row by Nigel Kay Homes, EW suggested inviting Mr Kay to a meeting with herself &amp; a couple of other Councillors to discuss a community package.</li> <li>g. SP &amp; EW have a meeting with GDF on 13<sup>th</sup> April to discuss possible funding</li> </ol>	<p>ALL</p> <p>SP/NF</p> <p>GP/NC</p>



185.22.23

**ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA**

Report from SP & NF following meeting and walkabout to discuss Sellafield workers parking in residential areas.

186.22.23

**RESOLVED THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED the next meeting of Egremont Town Council will be held on Tuesday 18th April 2023.

The meeting was brought to a close at 7.45pm

