

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025 IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL AT 5.30PM**


Present: Mrs Elaine Woodburn (EW) Chairperson

Also: Mr Chris Whiteside (CW) Mr Graham Calvin (GC)  
Mr David Wright (DW) Mr Patrick McMahon (PM)  
Mr Sam Pollen (SP) who arrived at 6pm

Mrs Geraldine Pritchard (GP) Town Clerk  
Mr Graham Minshaw (GM) Cumberland Councillor

A member of the public

<b>155.24.25</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> RESOLVED to accept with reasons noted, apologies from Cllrs Gareth Stringer, Robbie Tear, Jean Lewthwaite & Asst Town Clerk Nicola Cattanach.	GP
<b>156.24.25</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA</b> Councillors declared the following interests & reasons were accepted & noted.	
<b>157.24.25</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> Mr Ian McIntyre (IM) had requested to attend this meeting to air his concerns about a proposed solar farm near Dent part of which sits within Egremont parish. At this point GM declared an interest as he sits on the Cumberland planning committee and left the meeting whilst the matter was discussed. EW said that the Town Council would not give any opinion on this at this stage as the official plans had not been submitted however Councillors would certainly listen to IM's concerns. IM gave Councillors a copy of the site showing the proposed 200acre solar farm on farmland adjacent to Dent forest & he raised his concerns about the effect it would have on the wildlife and the impact on the landscape. Several points were mentioned including traffic disruption, community benefits and the feelings of both locals and visitors. There was a lot of comments on social media but EW stressed to IM that people whatever their opinion should be encouraged to attend the public consultation on 3 <sup>rd</sup> April when they see for themselves the proposed plans and log their comments via the correct channel. IM was then informed that he would be welcome to attend the Town Council meeting where the application would be discussed & he left his contact details for this purpose. EW then thanked IM for raising this issue & he duly left the meeting. SP arrived at this point & GM returned to the meeting and gave his report as follows:  A meeting had taken place with the local MP regarding safety issues at Bigrigg. Parking issues near O'Hallorans seems to have died down so hopefully people are parking more respectfully. GM will re-report the flashing speed lights at Bigrigg which are still not working. Upcoming Whitehaven and Coastal community panel meeting where a presentation will be given by CAB	

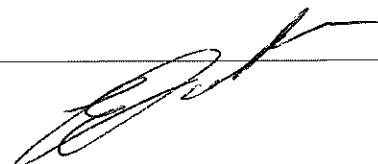


	<p>SP then gave his Cumberland Councillor report as follows: If Councillors have any highway issues, please let him know as he will be attending a Highway Liaison meeting alongside GM Whilst attending a Health &amp; Wellbeing meeting, the Egremont hub got a special mention for the work they do supporting people in the local community. There will be a Cumberland Partnership meeting at Millom on 26<sup>th</sup> March He will be attending a funding networking day on 27<sup>th</sup> March He is arranging a meeting with Highways &amp; Aldi rep to address some of the access &amp; egress concerns from a small group of residents. He is continuing talks with Cumberland officer Luke Leathers regarding open spaces opportunities in Egremont. Upon being asked if Bookwell had received any update regarding the school crossing at Bookwell, GP said that Mr Hardy had copied in the Town Council of a response but it was just to say that there was no update as yet. Councillors felt that this had been ongoing for quite some time so it was RESOLVED to ask SP to chase this up. Before GM left the meeting, CW said that he was advised to apply for funding for a defibrillator via the Cumberland panels &amp; he asked for his support when the application was considered, this was duly given. GM then submitted his apologies and left the meeting</p>	SP				
158.24.25	<p><b>CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS</b> EW informed Councillors that a condolence card had been sent to Cllr Gareth Stringer following the recent death of his mother. EW thanked those Councillors who had attended to help Nelson set up the hall whenever a quick turnaround was required.</p>					
159.24.25	<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> February 2025 following an amendment raised by DW which stated under point 142.24.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – “RESOLVED to note that no apologies for absence were received etc” this should have stated “RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received etc”. The minutes were changed to remove the word “no” &amp; EW initialled them before signing all the pages.</p>					
160.24.25	<p><b>TO CONSIDER &amp; REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b></p> <table><tr><td>4/25/2058/0F1</td><td>Proposed two storey rear extension 18 Tower View, Egremont No objections as long as there is neighbour consultation</td></tr><tr><td>4/24/2425/0F1</td><td>Extension of existing small staff carpark into unused adjoining grassed area &amp; provision of new outdoor safety play flooring to grassed areas No objections</td></tr></table> <p>EW raised a concern following a social media article for the “Nashville Bar” at 27 Market Place where there was to be live entertainment over Easter and the beer garden would be open. DW &amp; SP each declared an interest with reasons noted and took no part in the discussion. This facility that the Town Council had been consulted on (but as a conference/community facility) did not mention it being a licenced facility (which the Council would have raised concerns about) as it overlooks residential properties. It was therefore RESOLVED that GP clarify with</p>	4/25/2058/0F1	Proposed two storey rear extension 18 Tower View, Egremont No objections as long as there is neighbour consultation	4/24/2425/0F1	Extension of existing small staff carpark into unused adjoining grassed area & provision of new outdoor safety play flooring to grassed areas No objections	GP
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	<p>Borderland's planning dept what the original plans were &amp; if there was any mention to them about the facility becoming licenced.</p>	
161.24.25	<p><b>CONSIDER ANY REPORTS INCLUDING FINANCE, PERSONNEL, WEBSITE, BOWLING GREEN, ALLOTMENT, CEMETERY, MARKET HALL, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, EG CASTLE, PUBLIC REALM &amp; BORDERLANDS, LENGTHSMAN SCHEME</b></p> <p><u>Finance</u>  Recommendations from the finance committee are as follows:  To continue to use the grave digging service by the current provider at £450 per grave due to the cost of the others, GC declared an interest at this point with reasons noted. Since this recommendation, another quote (of £450) was submitted by someone who already digs graves elsewhere, Councillors discussed &amp; for several reasons, it was RESOLVED that the contract is offered to the new contractor henceforth.</p> <p>To retain the market hall fees as they are for 2025/26 but thought needs to go into bringing more business into the hall.  This was RESOLVED but hall hirers are informed that this does not mean that these will remain at this rate for the following year.  RESOLVED that the commercial rate to remain the same but delegated permission is given to GP to offer a suitable discount if applicable.</p> <p>To increase the cemetery fees by 5%, this was RESOLVED.</p> <p>After discussing the quotes for the front door of cemetery house, a further quote was submitted to refurbish the bottom half of the door, replace the 9 small glass panels with safety glass &amp; other improvements which will help with the draught coming through the door &amp; this should last a further 10 years. The cost for this is £1,850, this was RESOLVED.</p> <p>A dehumidifier was purchased at a cost of £139.99 for use by the cemetery house tenant.</p> <p><u>Personnel</u>  This matter will be discussed in private.</p> <p><u>Bowling Green</u>  Due to storm damage, a tree and part of the boundary fence had fallen down, the lengthsman along with some Haverigg guys have now removed the tree and re-erected the fence. The new Bowling Green season will commence on 5<sup>th</sup> April with the green being open daily from 1.30 – 6pm</p> <p><u>Allotments</u>  RT had met Mr Sharples who said that there is still a problem with tenants leaving out hen food, he has spoken to a tenant about this &amp; emails have gone out to tenants to remind them about what they should be doing.  Tenants have also been advised to site their compost bins on a concrete slab so the rats cannot burrow underneath it.  The work will be carried out to improve the two entrances at East Road on 24<sup>th</sup> March.  An East Road tenant had reported to the police that two gates had been vandalised.</p>	<p>GP</p> <p>GP</p> <p>GP</p>

	<p>A resident whose house overlooks the Bridgend allotment site had complained about a fence leaning onto her fence causing it to lean, GS had visited the site &amp; noted that the fence is not from an allotment, the resident has been informed of this.</p> <p><u>M Hall</u></p> <p>The guttering on the back of the Market Hall has now been completed.</p> <p>The roofer requested having a chat with a couple of Councillors about his suggestion of replacing the roof slates with Marley Edgemere tiles which would be a lot cheaper. We did</p> <p>highlight that this may not be possible &amp; would have to clarify it with the conservation officer at Cumberland. DW reminded Councillors about his suggestion of solar panels on the roof so he was willing to meet with the conservation officer to discuss this and the tiles, this was RESOLVED.</p> <p>GC &amp; PM said they would also be willing to meet the builder once we know if tiles would be permitted.</p> <p>A problem with the boiler has resulted in a new fan being fitted &amp; one will be required in the second fan next year.</p> <p>There is a problem within the bar, it was noticed that the flooring was lifting and dark areas have appeared at the base of the bar so hopefully our curator will have time to inspect.</p> <p><u>Egremont Castle</u></p> <p>Mr Towers from Leconfield Estates had attended the castle &amp; listened to the concerns of the lengthsmen and Mr Nichol who was speaking on behalf of Egremont Town Council. No update from the site visit has been received from Mr Towers, it was therefore RESOLVED that if nothing is forthcoming in the next week, GP contact him again.</p> <p><u>Public Realm/Borderlands</u></p> <p>SP raised his concern about the state of the public realm planters, a lot of work went into this scheme but the planters are now overgrown and unkempt leaving the Main Street looking worse than it did before especially compared to the Town Council planters which are in full bloom</p> <p>EW explained that when the work was completed, the beds &amp; planters were found to contain</p> <p>Mare's tail (an invasive weed) so the contractor was allowed time to eradicate it rather than replace all the soil. A contingency amount was also retained until all parties were satisfied with the result, before the Town Council took over the responsibility for them. To date, the</p> <p>responsibility has not been taken on by the Town Council as the beds and planters still contain the weed.</p> <p>SP said that action needed to be taken, the problem has gone on too long, RESOLVED that a letter is sent to Mr Barry at Cumberland Council to highlight the Council's concerns and to find the best solution going forward as soon as possible.</p> <p><u>Other Reports</u></p> <p>CW gave an update regarding defibrillators in our parish. Three members sit on this committee, CW, DW &amp; PM &amp; they identified that areas most in need of a defibrillator was Brisco Mount &amp; Gulley Flatts, specific sites that would be willing to house one is the Rainbow Nursery &amp; possibly Bookwell School (who already have a defibrillator inside the building), if this could be re-sited outside, this would save the cost of purchasing another one.</p> <p>GP confirmed that the Co-op have a defibrillator inside of their premises &amp; there is one outside that the Town Council is responsible for.</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>GC PM</p> <p>GP</p> <p>GP</p>
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162.24.25	<p>Looking into financial support, the Town Council can apply to the Cumberland Panel &amp; CW will also speak to Mr Morley who runs a charity campaign for defibrillators in Cleator Moor.</p> <p>The location of defibrillators within our parish can be found on a Find Defib website, SP mentioned the cricket/rugby field &amp; GP said she would find out if the Bowling Green had one as they had enquired about one a while ago.</p> <p>CW said that funds could be raised for a defibrillator but there would be extra costs for fitting &amp; the added responsibility of carrying out weekly checks. RESOLVED that the committee report back at the next meeting with any updates.</p> <p><b>CONSIDER &amp; REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>Letter from (what was) Home to Work informing the Council that they have changed their name to Good Lives.</p> <p>Request from Cumberland Officer Graham Singleton inviting the Town Council to submit a new name for a development at Moor Row. RESOLVED that all the suggestions submitted are sent for the developer's consideration – The Crossings, Ironway Gardens &amp; Station Meadows. DW said that on the website, the site is called The Pastures so it would appear that the developer has already chosen the name.</p> <p>Invitation to the Licencing of Stephen Gary Evans as Team Vicar of the Benefice of Egremont and Haile by the Right Reverend Rob Saner-Haigh - Bishop of Penrith &amp; Acting Bishop of Carlisle, at St Mary's &amp; St Michael's Church on 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm. SP confirmed that he will be attending.</p> <p>A pupil from Bookwell School had submitted a letter requesting the Town Council to consider making a donation to allow the school to purchase some litter pickers to allow the children to pick up litter following their dismay at the amount of litter on the Main Street.</p> <p>A discussion took place &amp; it was RESOLVED that as it was cheaper to purchase in boxes of 24 than less, GP to write to all primary schools to ask if they would be interested in picking up litter in their own area if the Town Council purchased 6 x junior litter pickers &amp; 6 x infant pickers. The cost of 24 junior pickers is £119.76 &amp; the 24 infant pickers is £214.80, this was RESOLVED</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>GP</p> <p>CW</p>
163.24.25	<p>Request from the coach of Egremont Rugby under 16 girl's club for a donation. There are insufficient girl's teams locally so the teams have to travel to away games costing in the region of £600 per trip for transport costs. GP had already pointed him in the direction of the Cumberland Panels, Sports funding and the upcoming GDF funding fair.</p>	GP
164.24.25	<p>Councillors felt that this was a lot of money for transport &amp; it was a shame that there are not more teams.</p>	GP
165.24.25	<p><b>TO CONSIDER &amp; RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT</b></p> <p>RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk's report.</p>	
166.24.25	<p><b>TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS</b></p> <p>RESOLVED to ratify the payments at 12th March 2025 amounting to £5,334.63</p> <p><b>TO RECEIVE &amp; APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025</b></p> <p>RESOLVED to accept, consider &amp; approve the financial statement at 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 amounting to £14,461.15</p> <p><b>TO CONSIDER COSTS OF POSSIBLE UPCOMING BY-ELECTION</b></p>	



167.24.25	<p>Cumberland has confirmed that 10 signatures had been received so this has now triggered the process to run an election for the South Ward. The notice of election is now displayed in the poster point and the deadline for nominations is 26<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>If the election goes ahead, the costs will be in the region of £6,000 which the Town Council will have to pay, however costs of around £1,400 can be saved if polling cards are not printed &amp; posted out.</p>	
168.24.25	<p>A discussion took place whereby the pros and cons were discussed for both options but as there was no majority agreement a vote took place which resulted in the majority voting for no polling cards but regular reminders to be sent out via social media including what ID electors would need to take with them to the polling station/s.</p> <p>It was also mentioned that no matter which political party won the seat, it would be hoped that the candidate recognised that the Town Council work together for the good of the parish regardless of what party the person belonged to.</p>	
169.24.25	<p><b>TO CONSIDER THE EQUALITY &amp; HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S DRAFT SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY FOR ADOPTION BY EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL</b></p> <p>All Councillors were sent a copy of the policy which was devised &amp; recommended to be adopted by CALC. RESOLVED that this policy is accepted and adopted and EW duly signed it.</p>	
	<p><b>COUNCILLORS' MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION</b></p> <p>SP &amp; PM have agreed to be the Town Council representatives at the Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Pledge meetings.</p> <p><b>ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA.</b></p> <p>No items were mentioned.</p> <p>The meeting was then brought to a close at 7.30 pm before moving the meeting into private.</p> 