

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 20TH JANUARY 2026 AT 5.30PM IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL**

Present:

Mrs Elaine Woodburn (EW)	Chairperson
Mr Gareth Stringer (GS)	Vice-Chairperson
Mr Sam Pollen (SP)	Mr Patrick McMahon (PM)
Mr David Wright (DW)	Mr Chris Whiteside(CW)
Mr Graham Calvin (GC)	
Mr R Tear(RT)	Mr Chris Colley (CC)
Mr Graham Minshaw (GM)	Cumberland Councillor
Mrs Geraldine Pritchard (GP)	Town Clerk
Mrs Nicola Cattanach (NC)	Assistant Town Clerk
Members of the general public	Aarron Butterworth (AB) Katherine Jewell (KJ) Nelson Shepherd (NS)

124.25.26	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> RESOLVED to accept with reasons noted, apologies from Councillor Jean Lewthwaite</p>	NC
125.25.26	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA</b> RESOLVED to note that GC declared an interest in Works 4 You as he is a board member.</p>	
126.25.26	<p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> EW introduced Aarron Butterworth who gave a short presentation to outline that he would like to set up a Youth Council in Egremont, which would be democratically run giving young people the opportunity to have a voice in the community. He said that there are restrictions in the area for young people and many don't feel heard. Other areas in the UK have successful youth councils that promote local initiatives &amp; help to bring down antisocial behaviour. AB said that other groups such as Egremont Youth Partnership are very good at what they do, however, to have an effective youth council would require the backing of the Town Council, a formalised plan &amp; good representation. The idea would be to embed a group into the local community, starting in Egremont with a view to moving forward to other areas. AB said there is also a youth parliament which is a good platform for young people to have their voices heard in London. GC asked what the target age group would be, AB suggested 12-18 years old. GC said that Moor Row school had held mock elections which proved very successful &amp; the pupils loved it. EW said that some pupils that attend West Lakes Academy don't live in Egremont but might still be interested in joining a youth council. She said that some children struggle to engage and asked how AB would get around this barrier, AB agreed but felt that children become interested if they got into a particular project &amp; it all centred around starting conversations, peer support &amp; working with external networks. CW said he remembered the youth parliament producing reports to the Health Scrutiny Commission in Cumbria during the first Covid lock down, which led to</p>	



invaluable discussions & he suggested that the age range of a youth council might be better from age 12 - 21 years of age.

SP said he had met with AB before Christmas & said the best way to offer support would be via GDF, South Cumbria Community Panel & engagement with the Town Team as well as support from Cumberland Council.

EW asked which Councillors would be willing to sit on a working group for the youth council, SP, PM, DW & CW all volunteered.

DW said he was excited by the prospect of a youth council & suggested an age range of 12 years up to 25 years. He said he would be interested to hear how such councils work in other areas of the country, funding ideas & the annual budget.

AB said he has been part of case studies abroad where youth groups were very successful, due to individuals engaging, even with zero budget.

GM said Community Panels in Cumberland Council would be overjoyed to have young representatives taking an interest.

AB was then thanked for his very informative presentation & it was left that he would come back to the Council with more information.

EW then welcomed Katherine Jewell who introduced herself as working for Westlakes Research Ltd, University of Lancashire in Social Inclusion and Community Engagement and she was attending the meeting as she is very interested to see how it works. KJ asked about the effect new housing developments would have on the local infrastructure and also with a lack of amenities, how this would impact on villages such as Moor Row. KJ expressed concern as a local resident about flooding and extra traffic and said she had missed seeing previous planning applications for developments already progressing but hoped to be able to view planning applications going forward. KJ was given advice with regards submitting her views with regards new developments in the future.

CW said the Town Council is only a consultee on planning applications and decisions are taken by Cumberland Council. He explained that of some applications that had been passed, such as speed bumps on Scalegill Road were funded by section 152 planning agreement and this was following discussions with residents to help the infrastructure cope.

DW said within the Cumberland Local Plan there was positivity about overall development as long as highways issues are acknowledged, this plan should be in place by 2029.

SP suggested that KJ engage with the two Moor Row Councillors GC & GM who know the area more.

EW asked if any other places in Moor Row were identified as possible development sites, GM & GC both said there was potential land in the village for 200 – 300 houses.

KJ thanked the Council & decided to stay to listen to more of the meeting.

AB then left the meeting at 6.20pm.

EW then invited Cumberland Councillor GM to give an update:

NCN 7, the cycle track from Cleator Moor to Whitehaven is going to be closed to be resurfaced and have new barriers installed.

There is a Cumberland Council speed limit review (until October) for the South Cumberland area which is open for suggestions.

SP said he and GM would be meeting with TRO officers to discuss speed restrictions & parking issues and he asked that any issues be referred for them to pass on.

DW asked if Cumberland Council issue parking permits for residents of Cringlethwaite, SP said this can be taken forward.

SP.PM.  
DW. CW.

<p>127.25.26</p>	<p>CW said it was worth noting that Sustrans have changed their name to the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust.  EW thanked GM for his report.  EW then asked SP for his update.  SP said he has been dealing with lots of residents' issues. He said all South Cumberland Officers meet every quarter to bring up concerns such as inconsiderate parking.  SP was contacted by a resident regarding the refurbishment of the Town Hall clock and he has obtained a costing of £15,000 for this. SP has been talking about ways to raise funds. The building does not belong to the Town Council and it is a private asset.  EW requested SP for a copy of the report as the last one obtained was costed at a lot more than this. SP said the gentleman has done a lot of research &amp; is happy to lead the project.  Loves Court Gallery have been talking about funding for a flood door.  There are complaints about dog fouling and SP will meet with enforcement to discuss this.  SP &amp; DW are due to meet with the Head of West Lakes Academy to look at school performance, community engagement and SP will mention the youth council.  Growing Well is supported by Cumberland Council and other partners and are working to full capacity.  SP visited the hub at the Methodist Church and the Friendship Group. He has been engaging with Multicultural Cumbria &amp; he spoke about isolated groups coming together in the Market Hall.  There is a Borderlands meeting coming up as well as a South Community Panel meeting. It is apparent that a lot of funding has gone to the South of the County and funding for the Egremont area should be pushed.  CC said the Falcon Club have asked about signposts to direct people to the Club. SP asked CC to send an email to him &amp; he would find out more. DW said if it is on the A595, advertising consent/planning application would be required.</p> <p><b>CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS</b></p> <p>Following the internal auditor's report, a discussion has been arranged for Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 5.30pm  A list of training opportunities was sent out to Councillors, EW felt that some would be useful for new Councillors so she advised them &amp; other Councillors to let the office know if they wanted any of the sessions booked.  EW &amp; the staff will also be attending the GDPR training session.  An email has been sent to DSD Construction asking them to repair the planter which one of their vehicles had hit, as this has not yet been done, the office will chase it up.  EW wrote a letter of concern to Modella Capital, the owners of The Original Factory Shop, following the news of the potential closure of the Egremont branch &amp; the negative impact this would have on the community.  DW said if the shop does unfortunately close then the site is a good opportunity for whoever takes it over for a community facility due to the building location &amp; car park. DW had found that the owner is linked to an offshore account but it may be worth contacting them to ask what their long-term aspirations are &amp; if the Town Council could support them going forward, DW to forward on a contact email address.  ETC have the opportunity to nominate a Councillor and guest to attend the Annual Royal Garden Party in May, EW nominated GS, all Councillors agreed.</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>SP</p> <p>SP</p> <p>SP.DW</p> <p>CC</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>EW.GP. NC</p> <p>DW</p>
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<p>128.25.26</p> <p>129.25.26</p> <p>130.25.26</p> <p>131.25.26</p>	<p>There is a Hullabaloo event to be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January, a community event featuring music, dancing and storytelling organised by Handpicked Productions with Friends of Egremont Castle. The parade will start at the castle ending up at the Market Hall for food and refreshments. PM said there is information on the Friends of Egremont Castle facebook page, tickets are £8.00.</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 25th November 2025. (CW had pointed out prior to the meeting that his name had been mistakenly omitted from these minutes so they were added in time before being approved at the meeting)</p> <p><b>TO CONSIDER &amp; REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b> 4/26/2002/TPO            Removal of trees situated within a conservation area 63 Main Street, Egremont No objections as long as it is part of a plan to improve the area – need to see arborist report DW said we can't support it until a tree survey has been seen. EW said a previous there has to be a reason for the tree removal. If it is contributing to development of a wider area, then is to be supported.</p> <p><b>TO RATIFY COMMENTS WITH REGARDS PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN MEETINGS</b> 4/25/2398/0F1            Change of use from a beauty salon (ground floor) to a 1-bedroom flat 1 Church Street, Moor Row No comments</p> <p><b>TO CONSIDER ANY REPORTS INCLUDING FINANCE, PERSONNEL, WEBSITE, BOWLING GREEN, ALLOTMENT, CEMETERY, MARKET HALL, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, EG CASTLE, PUBLIC REALM/BORDERLANDS &amp; LENGTHSMAN SCHEME.</b></p> <p><b><u>Finance</u></b> The Finance/Personnel Committees are meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p><b><u>Allotments</u></b> The Allotment Committee is to arrange a meeting to discuss outstanding issues. It was mentioned again about the option of having no livestock on allotments. Some Councillors felt it was the few spoiling it for others, DW said that the ban may seem harsh but the Council do not have the resources to enforce the issue so this may be the only option It was therefore RESOLVED that the Allotment committee would come to a decision and return with a recommendation.</p> <p><b><u>Cemetery/Defibrillator</u></b> NS reported that he had had assistance from the Haverigg workers again. EW asked about the boundary wall that has loose stones, the curator said that it is safe but needs re-inspected.</p>	<p>GS</p> <p>GS.RT. GC</p>
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	<p>GS asked if there was any further update on the section at the back of the cemetery becoming water logged due to recent heavy rain. NS said there is no definitive answer to this problem, the area sits at the lowest point of the cemetery &amp; is surrounded by former railway banks so it will be prone to flooding. NS was instructed that when the weather improves, work must be carried out on the wet area where the worst flooding is and he can go ahead with plans to investigate the pipes underground.</p> <p>DW said that a desktop survey of the land was carried out &amp; we could consider having further investigations carried out, DW agreed to provide contact information. EW said that all additional costs need to be considered within the Finance meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Cemetery House</u></b>  CW asked if the new roof had made a difference to the house &amp; and if the fan already installed had a heater attached. NS said the electrician has taken details of the fan and will report back but the fan is currently switched off at the tenant's request.</p> <p><b><u>Castle</u></b>  PM has applied for a donation from the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner to put towards security lighting to help reduce antisocial behaviour.  PM reported that a drain cover in the castle grounds had been driven over leaving a hole, GP said that the lengthsman is aware of this &amp; he will get it repaired.  GP said she had noticed in the FoEC minutes that the group would like to install a water supply to be able to water the adopted bed, rather than rely on the use of a resident's supply. PM said an email had been sent to Lord &amp; Lady Egremont to enquire about a donation for this &amp; an application for funding had also been submitted to the National Lottery.</p> <p><b><u>Public Realm/Borderlands</u></b>  SP said there is engagement between Councillors and the Borderlands teams with meetings being arranged. DW said it might be worth Cumberland Councillors giving a presentation at a future Town Council meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Any other reports – Defibrillators</u></b>  The old defibrillator has been removed from the outside wall of the Co-op and a new one has been installed outside of the Olive Social café on Main Street.  CW is liaising with Bill Morley regarding the installation of a defibrillator on a lamp post at Gulley Flatts.</p> <p><b>132.25.26 CONSIDER &amp; REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE</b>  The Headteacher of Bookwell Primary School – Mr Hardy had copied the Town Council into an email request to Cumberland Council to ask for an update on the progression of securing a school crossing. RESOLVED to write to Cumberland Council to find out what the hold up is.  In the meantime, Mr Hardy has also requested for enforcement patrols at Bookwell, Cumberland had advised him to contact PCSO Simon Kane.  Quotes for the Lengthsman Scheme and Cemetery grass cutting for maintenance 2026 season have been received. It was RESOLVED to take these for discussion at the next Finance meeting.  A letter from Belltown Power confirming that the plans to deliver a Cobra Castle Solar Farm will not be taken forward.</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>CW</p> <p>GP</p> <p>GP</p>
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133.25.26	<p><b>TO CONSIDER &amp; RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT</b> RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk's report.</p>	
134.25.26	<p><b>TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS</b> RESOLVED to ratify the payments at 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 amounting to £16,246.11.</p>	
135.25.26.	<p><b>TO RECEIVE &amp; APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026</b> RESOLVED to accept, consider &amp; approve the financial statement at 14th January 2026 amounting to £21,008.37.</p>	
136.25.26.	<p><b>TO CONSIDER (WITH A VIEW TO SIGNING IF AGREED) THE DRAFT CUMBERLAND COUNCIL LICENCE REGARDING THE GREASY POLE</b> The draft agreement had been sent from Cumberland Council regarding the greasy pole, the agreement is to cover from November to January only with full liabilities falling on the Town Council during this period. It was stated that this agreement would need to be done every year along with an inspection of the pole itself (for which we paid £360 in 2025). Councillors were not happy that this amount had to be paid every year &amp; they recognised too that the Crab Fair committee would have to do the same. It was therefore RESOLVED that for the time being, this agreement will not be signed but in the meantime, CC will ask the Crab Fair committee about their feelings &amp; if they wish to sign a joint letter objecting to this. It was also RESOLVED that SP would speak to Thomas Lydiate - the officer who drafted out the licence, to inform him of the Town Council's decision not to sign the agreement and if there was a reasonable compromise to be attained.</p>	CC SP
137.25.26	<p><b>TO CONSIDER SETTING UP A BASIC EMERGENCY PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR THE COMMUNITY</b> SP suggested a group of Councillors forming a working group to compile a basic emergency plan &amp; liaising with Nik Schickhoff from the Joint Emergency Management and Resilience Team. PM &amp; EW agreed to join SP &amp; will arrange a meeting.</p>	SP.EW. PM
138.25.26	<p><b>TO CONSIDER &amp; AGREE THE PRECEPT FIGURE FOR 2026/27</b> GP explained the breakdown of the figures given and the calculations carried out to provide options for discussion with regards setting the precept figure. After much deliberation, the precept request for an additional £9,709.79 for 2026/27 was RESOLVED.</p>	
139.25.26	<p><b>COUNCILLORS MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION</b> RT informed that Fibrus are installing Broadband in the area. GS said that there were being attempts to save The Original Factory Shop and keep it as a commercial business and there were hopes for bids being submitted for the business.</p>	

140.25.26

**ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA**

**RESOLVED THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED the next ordinary meeting of Egremont Town Council will be held on Tuesday 17th February 2026 at 5.30pm.

The meeting was then brought to a close at 8.30pm

