

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2025 IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL AT 5.00PM

Present:

Mrs Elaine Woodburn (EW)
Mr Michael McVeigh (MM)

Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson

Also:

Mr Graham Calvin (GC)
Mr Gareth Stringer (GS)
Mr Chris Whiteside (CW)
Mrs Jean Lewthwaite (JL)

Mr Sam Pollen (SP) who arrived at 5.15pm
Mr Patrick McMahon (PM) who arrived at 5.15pm
Mr David Wright (DW) who arrived at 5.20pm
Mr Robbie Tear (RT)

Mrs Geraldine Pritchard (GP)
Mrs Nicola Cattanaach (NC)

Town Clerk
Assistant Town Clerk

Graham Minshaw (GM)

Cumberland Councillor who arrived at 5.25pm

Members of the public Mr & Mrs John Edwards & granddaughter

124.24.25	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RESOLVED to note that no apologies were received	
125.24.25	TO CONSIDER & AGREE THE PRECEPT FIGURE FOR 2025/2026 Councillors were given a copy of the breakdown of the proposed precept figures for 2025/2026 which was discussed in detail. It was recommended and RESOLVED to request a precept amount for 2025/2026 of £194,195.83 which equates to an increase of 5%.	
126.24.25	BELATED PRESENTATION OF THE MARGARET WOODBURN GOOD CITIZEN'S INDIVIDUAL AWARD TO JOHN EDWARDS EW presented Mr Edwards with his award given to him for his 40+ years' service with the Royal British Legion and his dedication in organising the parade and wreaths for the annual Remembrance Service. Mr Edwards said he joined in 1979 and had never missed a year since his retirement in 2023 but that it was now time to slow down. A photograph was taken then he & his family duly left the meeting.	
127.24.25	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA Councillors declared the following interests & reasons were accepted & noted. DW declared an interest in item 6 re: street names for a housing development. EW declared an interest in item 10.6 re: cemetery house. EW declared an interest in item 16 re: Calderwood House.	
128.24.25	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GM gave his report, which covered the following: There had been a meeting with National Highways following a road accident in Biggig, illuminated signs were discussed & there will be a follow up meeting next week. The infringement of the garden onto the public footpath adjacent to Rusper Drive at Moor Row is ongoing. The Cumberland Bus Service Survey is to be completed by the end of the month. There will be a Whitehaven & Coastal Community Panel networking event on 27 th January at 2.30pm in the Red Lanning Community Centre where issues like hospitals, parking and bus services will be discussed.	

NC

131.24.25	TO CONSIDER & REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS 4/24/2423/0F1 Replacement of a 2 bedroomed static caravan with a 2 bedroomed lodge Small holding, Dalzell Street, Moor Row Councillors note that the lodge is bigger in size than the caravan, however they feel that this is more in keeping within the site. Councillors would recommend, however that Cumberland Council ask for a landscaping scheme to be submitted and approved to reduce the impact on the landscape. Councillors also recommend
130.24.25	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 26th November 2024.
129.24.25	CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS EW informed Councillors that Gleasons had invited the Town Council to suggest some street names for the two new housing developments in Egremont at Orgill/Howbank & Udale View. Some suggestions were made & it was RESOLVED that the clerk email them to Councillors who will be expected to give their opinion/make their own suggestions. EW thanked RT & PM for registering for the Cumberland Council Wellbeing Event being held at Westlakes Science Park in March. EW told Councillors that a Personnel meeting was going to be arranged in the next few weeks.

CW mentioned the gridlock that occurred following the recent road accident at Bigrigg and how the highway network became impassable therefore emergency diversions need to be looked at.

EW raised her concern about the North Road traffic lights that were faulty & children were risking their lives crossing the road in between the lights changing. There had been a police presence but once they left, the children continued. SP said he had reported these traffic lights to the Cumberland Council.

SP in his capacity as a Cumberland Councillor gave his report as follows:

There should be some form of re-engagement with the Community Police presence to deal with anti-social behaviour.

The Fire Service and Police have visited the former Castle Mount care home to maintain security.

Sellafield workers parking in residential areas is ongoing with Cingletwaite being a hotspot. There is a meeting on 14th February where this will be discussed.

MM said that he had approached a Sellafield representative at a WSSG meeting regarding this issue but his concerns were dismissed & told that if there were no legal restrictions, then nothing could be done. MM reiterated that there are 30 parking bays at the Rugby League club that are not being used.

SP said the Sellafield travel plan was a problem in local areas from Frizington to Gosforth. DW suggested that Sellafield could get more involved with the communities affected & look at ways of alleviating this problem perhaps carry out vehicle checks on cars parked irresponsibly & put flyers on those cars to ask them to park more considerately.

A pilot scheme for safety features outside of primary schools with signage and improvements is ongoing.

The hub in Egremont is welcoming isolated people, supporting new residents, including asylum seekers.

SP & DW are due to meet with nuclear partners to discuss potential investment opportunities for the town.

that before planning permission is given, a condition is put in place to address other structures that have sprung up on the site and which could, if not addressed, become a blot on the landscape.

4/24/2424/0F1 Demolition of outhouse and replacement single storey extension
11 Gillfoot Road, Egremont
No objections

4/24/2425/0F1 Extension of existing small staff car park into unused adjoining grassed area and provision of new outdoor safety play flooring to grassed areas
St Bridget's R C school, St Bridget's Lane, Egremont
No objections

4/24/2429/0F1 Proposed two storey link extension to connect existing units 10 and 14, including re-cladding of unit 10 and formation of new openings to units 10 and 14 and external works (part retrospective)
10/14 Bridge End Industrial Estate, Egremont
Councillors welcome the expansion of a local business and therefore have no objections

GP reported that a few residents had complained about the boundary wall between Wyndham Way and the back of 70 Main Street (the old Central pub) being knocked down by the developer without any consultation. This was concerning as there was no mention of this within the original planning application, the matter has been raised with the planning dept at Cumberland Council, RESOLVED to inform Councillors of any updates. The ongoing issue of vehicles parking on the pavement outside of Greys continues, RESOLVED that an email is sent to the planning dept to ask about these issues as the Town Council had raised this concern on their original comments when the application was first submitted. RESOLVED to keep Councillors informed of any updates.

TO RATIFY COMMENTS WITH REGARDS ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN MEETINGS

4/24/2391/0F1 Proposed surface water dry retention basin and associated infrastructure to serve new residential development pursuant to outline application reference 4/23/2076/001
Land off Dalzell Street, Moor Row, Egremont
No objections

4/24/2394/0F1 Outline application with some matters reserved including approval of access for self/custom build detached dwelling and garage Southcroft, Woodend, Egremont
This proposal is for a self-build dwelling in a back garden, therefore no objections as long as:

- Highways department are satisfied that a safe access can be made between the new dwelling and the existing neighbouring dwellings

The planning officer is satisfied that there is at least going to be a 12 metre gap between any dwelling that would be located on the land and existing windows on neighbouring properties.

- The planning officer is satisfied that there is going to be at least a 21 metre gap between any proposed windows of the new dwelling and any windows of existing dwellings.

4/24/24/2409/0A1 Application for consent to display a new ATM tablet sign
29 Market Place, Egremont
No comments

CONSIDER ANY REPORTS INCLUDING FINANCE, PERSONNEL

WEBSITE, BOWLING GREEN, ALLOTMENT, CEMETERY, MARKET
HALL, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, EG CASTLE, PUBLIC REALM
& BORDERLANDS, LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

Allotments

The Allotment Committee will organise a meeting to consider possible improvements to the access joinings at both ends of the East Road allotment site. It was suggested that perhaps residents/tenants could help.

Cemetery

GP reported the increase of £70 from April 2024 in grave digging costs, it was therefore RESOLVED that other quotes are obtained.

The tenant in Cemetery House has reported black marks on the ceiling in one of the bedrooms, the curator will take a look at this, in the meantime, GC was asked if the tenant could borrow his humidifier.

The curator also recommended that regular house inspections are carried out to check to see that there is nothing the tenant is doing that may be contributing to any damp rather than waiting until any potential problems get out of hand.

A chapel sub-committee meeting needs to be organised, DW said he will forward information he has been sent from the Conservation and Design Officer at Cumberland Council.

Market Hall

Quotes are being obtained to replace the guttering at the Market Hall as the existing cast iron is rotten.

Christmas Lights

SP thanked GS for his work in sorting out the Christmas Lights on Egremont Main Street and he also thanked the members of the Amenity Committee for their efforts leading up to the Christmas event even though it unfortunately had to be cancelled due to stormy weather.

Egremont Castle

The Lengthsmen is to meet, along with K Nichol from FOEC, Mr Towers from Savills to look at the entrance bed in Egremont Castle where some of the stones are falling out. PM mentioned a tree in the castle grounds that is near to a resident's boundary wall & which needs cutting back, advised that Lord Egremont is contacted & it would be down to him to arrange this. Disappointing to see images on social media that the castle bins were overflowing with, mainly dog bags during the Christmas period. Unfortunately, the lengthsmen does not work

133.24.25

over the Christmas holidays and therefore the bins were not emptied, PM said that he and his wife often picks up litter in the castle grounds & he would be willing to carry this out over the festive holidays, PM was thanked for this & it was further stated that people should use their common sense & take their dog mess home with them when the bins are full.

SP said that he had received many complaints about dog waste which he has reported to Cumberland Council.

GP reported that the new castle gates are now in place & she thanked PM for his persistence in this matter.

Public Realm/Borderlands

There is to be a Public Realm meeting at the end of January.

Lengthsman Scheme

A meeting needs to be arranged with Works 4 You & the clerk of St Bees Parish Council to discuss the continuity of the scheme.

CONSIDER & REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE

It was RESOLVED to accept the quote from the pest controller for a quarterly service contract for Egremont Market Hall at a cost of £250.00

A request from GNAAS for funding, RESOLVED to donate £100.

Following tree pollarding on the trees within St Mary's & St Michael's churchyard, there is still a concern that the trees are blocking the view of the clock tower & causing moss on the paths. A report from Cumberland officer J Smith stated that the health of the trees could be affected if pollarded further but a tree expert will be consulted for advice.

Notification from CALC re: copyright issues for council websites, it was RESOLVED that the Town Council website does not breach any copyright regulations.

The developer of a new housing estate in Moor Row, has confirmed that they have agreed to the Town Council's suggestion of Wildridge Drive as the name of the estate.

It was RESOLVED not to give a donation to the Cumbria Community Fund for hubs across Cumbria as there are already two warm hubs in Egremont parish which the Town Council donates to as it supports directly the residents of our parish.

An update was given on the progress of Growing Well and their subscription options. It was noted that families from a primary school benefitted from sponsored food boxes, RESOLVED to give other local schools the details of Growing Well so they can make enquiries which may help families who they know are struggling.

GP read out parts of the Mid Copeland GDF CP Community Investment Funding update on how funding had been distributed in the south of the borough & it was noted that Florence Mine had benefitted from a large donation and also Egremont Town Band which was good to note.

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 15th January 2025 amounting to £11,081.62

TO RECEIVE & APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 15TH JANUARY 2025

RESOLVED to accept, consider & approve the financial statement at 15th January 2025 amounting to £19,625.12

TO CONSIDER & AGREE THE 2025/2026 PRECEPT AMOUNT

RESOLVED to accept the 5% increase as discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

134.24.25

135.24.25

136.24.25

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139.24.25	DISTRIBUTION/LOCATION OF DEFIBRILLATORS – CW CW read out his report on the location of defibrillators in the parish and there are approximately 12 in the area. He discussed the possibility of having one at the Market Hall or moving the one from outside of the Co-op to the Market Hall. CW suggested setting up a small task group to look into grants or matched funding. It was agreed that DW & PM would join CW to do this. There was a suggestion that a defibrillator being installed in Aldi when it is built.	140.24.25	COUNCILLORS' MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION PM announced that he would be submitting apologies for meetings up to 6 weeks due to a family matter. SP mentioned the possibility of the Market Hall being used as a welfare day centre, RESOLVED GP speak to the organiser to find out more. EW announced the sad news that this was Councillor Michael McVeigh's last Town Council meeting as he was retiring. EW read out a small speech in which it was stated that MM had become a Town Councillor in 1998 and during his time, he has served alongside many other Councillors some of whom are no longer with us such as Colin Jackson, Joan & Arnold Morgan, George Woodburn & others who retired like himself – Jennifer Carver, Doreen Platt, Jimmy Redden – all good Councillors who gave their time and expertise voluntarily. MM was also bestowed the honour of Mayor of Copeland and sadly one of his first official duties was the aftermath of the Cumbria shootings in 2010. EW said it was sad to see him go after serving the community for so many years, MM said he had enjoyed his time on the Council but it was now time to step back. MM was then presented with a silver salver from the Town Council & meal vouchers from Councillors along with everyone's best wishes. Chairperson stated that MM will have to be removed as a signatory and remove his name from the Town Council's bank account. This was RESOLVED. GS said that a business owner had contacted him to clarify the purpose of Calderwood House as the belief was that it was originally set up to help ex-service personnel/veterans but this did not appear to be the case. SP said it is difficult managing such a facility in the town, however some residents have complex issues and the centre is doing a great job. GS was advised to pass on the contact number of R Holliday to the complainant so he can discuss any concerns he has direct with the correct person.	141.24.25	ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA No items were brought up at the meeting - The meeting was brought to a close at 7.30 pm MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE EXCLUDING THE PRESS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC
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