

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2026 AT 5.30PM IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL**

Present:

Mrs Elaine Woodburn (EW)	Chairperson
Mr Gareth Stringer (GS)	Vice-Chairperson
Mr Patrick McMahon (PM)	Mr Robbie Tear (RT)
Mr Chris Whiteside (CW)	Mr David Wright (DW) arrived at 5.50pm
Mr Graham Calvin (GC)	Mr Chris Colley (CC)
Mr Graham Minshaw (GM)	Cumberland Councillor
Mrs Nicola Cattanach (NC)	Assistant Town Clerk
Members of the general public	Katherine Jewell (KJ)
Cumbria Police	Neighbourhood Insp/Nuclear Estates Team Mike Hird (MH)
	Police Constable Matthew Garrett (MG)

141.25.26	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	ACTIONS
	RESOLVED to accept with reasons noted, apologies from Councillors Sam Pollen, Jean Lewthwaite and Geraldine Pritchard.	NC
142.25.26	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA	
	RESOLVED to note that RT declared an interest, in matters relating to staff. GC declared an interest in matters relating to Works 4 You.	
143.25.26	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
	<p>EW introduced Katherine Jewell to the meeting. KJ said she was very interested about the Coast to Coast being adopted as a national trail and wanted to know who best to speak to about it crossing the A595 at Moor Row. GM said he went to a recent photo shoot and National England are signposting it so he would get a contact for KJ. GC said there is a meeting at Moor Row Club on Thursday 19th February which KJ is attending so she could also liaise with him and GM there. GC said the meeting was for fundraising ideas for the club as members or the committee are at times inactive. EW asked who owns the club, GC said it is registered but not a community owned club at the moment. He said to be eligible for grants they will have to change the social status of the club to a sports and social club and a community register put down. EW said it might be worth contacting the former British Legion, now Veterans club as they went through a similar transition. He said that the club is the centre of the community but people cannot be forced to take on guidance and help.</p>	
	EW asked the two members from Cumbria Police to introduce themselves and asked them to give an update of issues they were addressing.	
	MH said Anti-Social behaviour has increased in Egremont by 60% in the year with an influx of youths coming to the area from other places. The Neighbourhood Team are increasing high visibility patrols but there is a peak in demand in the evening and on weekends. Dispersal Orders have been issued, giving the Police the power to remove groups from the area but when these are actioned the trouble moves to neighbouring towns and villages, proving that some youths do reside out of the parish. it happens so that there was a chance of it being dealt with. The worst problems escalated at the Castle from Summer into Autumn, with the most severe incident resulting in a moving vehicle having their windscreen smashed. December	



and January were quieter months. The Police reported that young people had a level of co-ordination in large groups congregating due to WhatsApp groups. They are not necessarily doing anything illegal, however it was reported that recently 60+ youths were on Egremont Main Street and this is very intimidating for residents. MH said the Police are aware of the issues and these are a priority for the Neighbourhood Team. EW mentioned a meeting last year with the Police and Crime Commissioner where it was reported that ASB in Egremont was reported as quite low and was shocked to hear that there was an increase of 60%. She was also interested to hear that the PCC and MP get onto the Police as for many residents their first port of call is Facebook even though they have been encouraged to log issues to Police. EW asked if there has been an increase in the PCC & MP reporting issues or to 101; MH confirmed there has been an increase in reports to 101, hence the 60% figure. EW said it was a concern that the Egremont Youth Group was attracting more people to congregate as there doesn't appear to be big numbers inside the group premises. There are big numbers outside of Heron's and some older residents are afraid to go out. EW asked if businesses could have training from the Police. MG said that several shops have been visited and a local shop watch set up as sometimes it is not just outside that people cause trouble, they are also doing things inside shops as well. There is the option of installing mosquito devices which give out a high pitched noise to deter young people, although senior managers at Heron's Head Office will have no interest in spending additional money. GC said he had noticed a decline in motorbikes on the Cycle Track from Mirehouse to Cleator Moor past Moor Row and asked if there was a reason. MH said there were mixed reports and there were increases in other areas, however younger people are using E-bikes and scooters. GC said Moor Row residents had complained about youths congregating in the school car park so he had a walk round and he understood why they liked it there as there is a wall to sit on and good lighting, however he explained concerns that they could be intimidating. EW asked if in extreme cases of continued ASB, could housing providers use their power to potentially evict tenants. She said that a visit from Police and Home Group, for example, to give a warning, could carry some weight. MH said the police have a positive relationship with Home Group and this could be something to work towards, having an effect on tenancies if bad behaviour continues. He said there were increased patrols and Housing Officers around Beckgreen due to reports of bins being set on fire and dragged to the river. GS said he understood that 50+ youths on the street would be intimidating for Police and would it be feasible to speak to Cumbria Nuclear Constabulary to tie them in with additional patrols as they have external powers, even if it was a few times driving around to show a presence. MH said there is an agreement that the Nuclear Constabulary can be called upon to request assistance in an extreme emergency and pre-planned help can be arranged but he would take the point forward. EW asked about the youth group attracting people from other areas into the town on a Friday evening; MH said based on the knowledge they have it appears that this is the case. EW asked if the youth group has increased their staff and engaged with those outside of the building. MH said there needs to be a better balance of provision as the club attracts youths to the area and there is the challenge of limited Police provision all partners need to work together and co-ordinate. EW asked if the Town Council should be a partner around the table. MH said he understood that issues would be raised with the Town Council once they had been agreed with the partners immediately dealing with what the plan of attack should be.

	<p>EW said the Town Council were appreciative of the Police visit to the meeting however she would like the Police to attend quarterly and give more regular updates. MH said he was open to that and asked for an email to be sent to request this. EW asked if there was an increase of drugs in the areas and there was a discussion about that, unfortunately, drugs are in every community and a lot of work is undertaken behind the scenes and it is worthwhile to keep awareness as a community of any changes in behaviours and residents are encouraged to report these. GM asked the Police representatives about anti-social parking around O'Halloran's, blocking visibility and access to properties. GM said he had looked at the area with a Highways officer. MG said the Police don't have the power to issue parking tickets, they can only consider dangerous obstructions and of the photographs they have received it is more inconvenient rather than dangerous. EW & GM agreed it is frustrating but there is a car park and it is a symptom of the success of the business. MH said if a car is parked dangerously on the road and is going to cause a serious accident then the Police can be contacted. EW thanked MH & MG for coming to the meeting and asked them to update the Town Council with any escalation in issues, they then duly left.</p> <p>EW then invited Cumberland Councillor GM to give an update: GM said he had been contacted about a few issues for Sam Pollen and he said Councillors can ask him anything and he can deal with it on pass on to Sam. As said previously GM had a walk around with the Highways officer looking at parking issues in Moor Row: Scalegill Road, Moor Row School, West Spurr and Hollins Park. GM informed that St Bees Main Street is to be resurfaced from 23.02.26 for approx. 6 weeks; the village will still be accessible by various means and the bus service will be running. EW thanked GM for his report. RT asked if the double yellow lines have been removed at West Spurr Moor Row. GM said they were put down but now removed during roadworks; he has asked for them to be re-done. EW then confirmed that all Councillors had received a copy of Sam Pollen's report.</p>	GP
144.25.26	<p>CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS EW thanked Councillors for volunteering for CALC courses and staff have also enrolled.</p>	
145.25.26	<p>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 20th January 2026.</p>	
146.25.26	<p>TO CONSIDER & REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS 4/26/2011/0F1 Demolition of partial area extension & erection of replacement single storey extension with flat roof 1 Greendykes, Egremont No comments</p>	



	4/26/2012/0F1	Erection of a pigeon loft (retrospective) East of Ehen, Little Mill, Egremont No comments
	4/26/2022/0F1	Proposed extension to existing battery storage facility Woodend Farm, Woodend, Egremont No comments
	4/26/2027/0F1	Proposed single storey rear extension to form sun/garden room 6 Goldsmith Rd, Woodend Farm, Woodend, Egremont No comments
	4/26/2023/0F1	Change of use from four No. apartments to one apartment 1A Main Street, Egremont No No comments
	4/26/2044/0F1	Refurbishment and extension of existing two storey building for community use, creation of new public realm, construction of new single storey building for commercial and community uses Red Lion Hotel, 2 Market Place, Egremont It was RESOLVED that as Councillors had not looked at the plans in details, they would do so and submit comments by the deadline date of 12 th March 2026
	4/26/2045/0F1	Proposed rear single storey replacement kitchen extension 64 Penzance Street, Moor Row No comments
147.25.26	TO RATIFY COMMENTS WITH REGARDS PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN MEETINGS	
	4/24/2425/0F1	Consultation on Additional/Amended information: Planning Application Reference: 4/24/2425/0F1 Extension of existing small staff car park onto unused adjoining grassed area St. Bridget's R C school, St. Bridget's Lane, Egremont No objections
	4/26/2002/TPO	Removal of trees situated within a conservation area 63 Main Street Upon looking at the Arboricultural Report Councillors have No objections
148.25.26	TO CONSIDER ANY REPORTS INCLUDING FINANCE, PERSONNEL, WEBSITE, BOWLING GREEN, ALLOTMENT, CEMETERY, MARKET HALL, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, EG CASTLE, PUBLIC REALM/BORDERLANDS & LENGTHSMAN SCHEME.	

Finance

A Finance meeting was held on 4th February & attended by Town Clerk G Pritchard & Cllrs E Woodburn, S Pollen & C Whiteside with an apology from J Lewthwaite. The following recommendations were made & subsequently RESOLVED:

- a. Increase in the following Market Hall hire fees:
 - Main hall rate (with bar) from £23.00 to £25.00 per hour
 - Use of the kitchen/servery from £8.00 to £10.00 per event
 - Use of the crockery from £3.00 to £5.00 per event
- b. During the months from 1st October to 31st March, an additional £5 per hour will be added to the hire fee to go towards the cost of heating, caretaker's wages etc.
- c. The Farmers Market will be charged the normal hourly fee from April 1st plus the fee for the use of the kitchen.
- d. GP to use her discretion with regards a reduced rate for hall hirers wishing to decorate the hall for a special occasion.
- e. SP to find out about how the parking situation works at Seascale & Cleator Moor as they offer free parking & to suggest to Cumberland Council that due to the set payment they receive from Sellafield to allow their staff to park, could the remaining places be offered for free.
- f. Increase in the cemetery fees – see attached.
- g. No increase will be made on the allotment/garage rents at East Road and Bridgend for 2027/28 (pending the agreement of the allotment sub-committee)
- h. A skip will be provided for the East Road and Bridgend site in April (for one day only) as an incentive for tenants to get their plots cleared up and ready for the growing season
- i. No increase in the cemetery house rent from April 2027, the current rent will increase to £450 per calendar month as from 1st April 2026.
- j. No automatic grant is given to the Egremont Youth Partnership on an annual basis as the council at the least would expect an annual presentation to be given to full council before any grant is released.

Cemetery

The cemetery wall has still not been re-inspected.

The Christmas wreaths & floral tributes are currently still on the graves due to the curator's absence, it was felt that as the Market Hall caretaker has had to cover several interments, these could wait until the curator returns to work.

Cemetery House

Matters regarding Cemetery House were moved to matters in private.

Castle

PM said the Friends of Egremont Castle had received funding from the police & Crime Commissioner. He said there is still anti-social behaviour in the castle grounds and one resident has reported youths throwing items at their windows, so much so



PM said that the Friends of Egremont Castle had submitted a grant application to the National Lottery, to go towards CCTV, solar lights and storage facilities.
DW said he would email the FoEC with a contact regarding funding opportunities for public open spaces events, such as the Easter Egg Hunt.
CC mentioned signage being put up with directions to the Falcon Club. DW suggested that CC could the Highways department and EW suggested he could contact Gleasons to see if signs could be attached to posts on their land.
DW said that he has contacted Westlakes Academy for a follow up meeting with him and Sam Pollen and is awaiting a date. He said if any Councillors have any issues that they would like brought up to let him know.
KJ left the meeting at 7.35pm

154.25.26

**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 March 2026 at 5.30pm.

The meeting was then brought to a close at 8.15 pm

