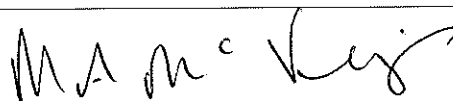


**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT 5.30PM IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL**

Present:	Mrs E Woodburn (EW)	Chairperson
	Mr Michael McVeigh (MM)	Vice-Chairperson
Also:		
	Mr Graham Calvin (GC)	Mr Sam Pollen (SP)
	Mr Gareth Stringer (GS)	Mr Chris Whiteside (CW)
		Mr David Wright (DW) who arrived at 6.15pm
	Mrs Geraldine Pritchard (GP)	Town Clerk
	Mrs Nicola Cattanaach (NC)	Assistant Town Clerk
	Mr Graham Minshaw (GM)	Cumberland Councillor
	Mr Simon Blacker (SB)	Gleeson Homes

157.23.24	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> RESOLVED to note that apologies were received with reasons noted from Town Councillor Jean Lewthwaite</p>	NC
158.23.24	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA</b> There were no declarations of interest on the agenda.</p>	
159.23.24	<p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> Mr Simon Blacker – Gleeson Homes Mr Graham Minshaw - Cumberland Councillor</p> <p>Cumberland Council report: GM has complained about the proposed road closure between Egremont North and St Bees near the Springfields estate at Bigrigg, the Outrigg road is currently flooded so closing the road will only cause more problems. The next meeting of the Whitehaven Community Panel will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> march at 6pm in the Mirehouse Centre. He intends to attend the teams meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March to discuss A595 issues, EW said that the Town Council will be relying on both his and CW's expertise at the meeting. GC asked GM about lighting at the Scalegill Road junction, GM said that unfortunately the area did not meet the criteria due to no reported incidents and lack of budget. CW said that the hazardous area is a National Highways road so it will be raised at the meeting. GC said he has asked for a list of lights that Cumberland Council are responsible for but it has not been provided, EW asked GM to raise this issue at the meeting. GM left the meeting at 5.45pm</p> <p>SB from Gleeson Homes was invited to the meeting to explain the amendments to the planning application for residential dwellings at Howbank farm/Orgill. He said in terms of the overall scheme, the amendments were minimal &amp; he went on to name some. He also said that approximately a year ago, Highways were fine with the plans, however they have now come back with another query to do with parking spaces and these changes are likely to go to consultation again. SB went on to say issues that had been raised were based on the landscape impact not being in accordance with the Local plan however this plan has not yet been adopted, it is still a draft local plan at this stage. Councillors were concerned that this development was being unnecessarily delayed.</p>	



	<p>It was therefore RESOLVED that the Town Council will write to Council to support this development.  It was confirmed that it is the 2016 Copeland Plan and not a Cumberland wide plan which CW could be rolled over to become part of the Cumberland plan.  EW then thanked SB for attending and he left the meeting.</p> <p>SP as a Cumberland Councillor reported that he had attended a Borderlands meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January where four people were in attendance &amp; where terms of reference, timelines, final proofing and a two-year plan was discussed. SP said that the next meeting will be held in April.  SP is in regular contact with Matthew Reeves from the Highways inspections &amp; he has been looking at road markings outside schools, they met with St Bridget's school governors and discussions are ongoing. Orgill school have applied for a grant for traffic calming measures, this was noted.  The next Community Panel is in Beckermest on 13<sup>th</sup> March &amp; he reported that the Farmers Market and Growing Well have received funding from this pot.  SP has delivered letters to local businesses to promote the High Street Business Grants available from Cumberland Council.  SP &amp; DW met with a representative from the GDF with regards to Nuclear funding being spread equally across the sector, he had also brought this up at the WCSSG meeting too.  The bus service from Cleator/Cleator Moor has been put back into circulation to the hospital, Whitehaven and back to Egremont and the dial-a -ride will be in place from spring.  SP will be attending a walkabout with Luke Leathers &amp; Julian Smith from Cumberland Council to look at local areas of concern.  GP for an update on school crossings, SP said conversations are ongoing and all schools have issues which are equally important and all available options are being looked at.  EW asked about Mr Hardy, Head teacher from Bookwell requesting an assessment outside the school to assess traffic. DW arrived at the meeting and said he would request an update.</p> <p><b>160.23.24 CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS</b>  EW has nothing to report.</p> <p><b>161.23.24 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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023  RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Egremont Town Council held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.</p> <p><b>162.23.24 TO CONSIDER &amp; REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b>  4/24//2432/0F1 Consultation on Additional/Amended Information:  Planning Application Reference: 4/20/2432/0F1  Residential Development (114 Dwellings in total)  Land at Howbank Farm &amp; former Orgill Infants school site, Egremont  No objections, Councillors feel that the amendments do not change the application significantly enough to warrant anything else but support from the Town Council.</p> <p><b>163.23.24</b> 4/24/2030/0F1 Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey extensions to side and rear of dwelling  5 Fairview, Egremont</p>	<p>GP</p> <p>SP</p> <p>DW</p>
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No objections

4/23/2191/0F1 Consultation on Additional/Amended Information:  
Planning Application Reference: 4/23/2191/0F1  
Proposed erection of a new dwelling & detached garage  
Land adjacent to 21 Scurgill Terrace, Egremont  
Councillors are in support of the application as long as there are no objections from neighbours on material grounds.

4/24/2050/0R1 Application for reserved matters relating to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline application 4/21/2360/O1 –  
Outline application for residential development with details of proposed access junction and all other matters reserved  
Land at Scalegill Road, Moor Row  
Councillors feel that the houses all look acceptable from a design point of view and although there is one affordable home, more would have been welcomed and a smaller house would have been more desirable to make it truly affordable.  
Although the homes are a mix of 3 to 5 bed homes with good sizes and decent gardens, we note no bungalows have been provided. Councillors did note that the access and egress runs adjacent to the Moor Row Social Club, could consideration be given to traffic movements with people accessing and leaving the Club, through any potential safety measures? There is also a well-known flooding problem on the adjacent play area and hope the proposed water management system helps alleviate the flooding and does not make it worse.

4/24/2044/0F1 Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a discount food store, alterations to vehicular and pedestrian access, provision of car and cycle parking, servicing area, hard and soft landscaping and associated works  
Land at East Road, Egremont  
Overall Councillors are in support of the new business to replace the current derelict building/site and believe it would be an asset to the town.  
Councillors would welcome engagement on the Section 106 requirements, used to mitigate the impact of the development on the local community and hope that the developer is committed, not just at the planning stage but through the construction and retail, including employment opportunities for local residents.  
Pedestrian access to the site is of high importance and it should be highlighted that the underpass, the main pedestrian access, is an area where there is frequent antisocial behaviour. Councillors would expect the developer to adopt the underpass and ensure it is kept clean, safe and well lit.  
The Town Council is willing to discuss these in more detail and at the appropriate time.

164.23.24

**TO RATIFY COMMENTS WITH REGARDS ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

There were no plans to ratify

165.23.24	<p><b>TO 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></p> <p>A finance meeting was held on 19.02.24 &amp; the following was RESOLVED:  The hall hire costs for the Farmers Market will increase from £60 to £70.  The organiser of the Farmers Market will be informed that from their next market, the fire doors are to remain open until 9.30am only, after which they must remain closed until the market has ended, the public can use the main doors to access the market.  To renew the subscription of £110 to the Rural Services Network, Rural Market Town Group for 12 months. GP  The Finance Committee were satisfied with the work of the Internal Auditor and want to continue with her services. GP  The Finance Committee are aware of the large reserves held by the Council however they are there to cover any emergencies in relation to the responsibilities that are Council is responsible for.  To accept a quote of £190 to fit an LED light in the basement to allow safe visibility/access to the water pump and electric meter.  To accept a quote of £175 to fit a light in the left hand chapel. GP  To accept a quote of £3,291.39 + vat to purchase new shutters &amp; end panels to use when digging a grave &amp; two lockable grave covers. GP  A donation of £100 is made to Friends of Egremont Castle Group for their Medieval event in the summer GP  A donation of £300 is given to Calderwood for the assistance given to the curator during the caretaker's absence. GP  A local arborist is asked to inspect the trees within St Mary's and St Michael's churchyard &amp; report back GP  No programme of maintenance will be entered into for benches within St Mary's &amp; St Michael's Churchyard. GP  To accept the quote of £29,105.18 + vat for the lengthsman scheme for 2024/25.  To accept the quote of £329.65 + vat for grasscutting in St Mary's &amp; St Michael's Churchyard for 2024/25 GP  To accept the quote of £15,767.12 + vat for the grasscutting contract in Egremont Cemetery for 2024/25. GP  To not accept a quote to grind down the stumps in the cemetery following the removal of the trees but to make a feature out of them by creating animal sculptures, will contact Works 4 You &amp; Westlakes Academy. GP  To increase the Market Hall hire charges for Age UK from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 to £50. GP  To increase the Market Hall fees as recommended from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 GP  To increase the cemetery fees as recommended from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024  To continue giving out the maximum of 100 years for the Exclusive Right of Burials.  To give 12 months' notice of the increase (as recommended) to allotment tenants at Bridgend and East Road from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. GP.NC  To accept the recommendation that the cemetery house rent from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 will be £425 per calendar month. GP  To look into getting the Toll bar field &amp; grazing field assessed.  To turn down the offer of taking on a piece of land at Smithfield. DW  To remain in contact with the primary school heads regarding cost of living management following information given to them re: hardship funds. GP  GP</p>	
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	<p><u>Allotments</u>  <b>SANDHOLES</b>  Following complaints from residents about possible rat activity, GS met with a Cumberland officer on site where it was recommended that the entrance bank was cut back (the lengthsmen has now carried out this work).  This officer also recommended that permission is sought from a nearby resident to ask if the pest controller can check for any rat activity under his decking.  Since then, the pest controller has been out &amp; has seen no sign of any rat activity in the entrance bank but he did say that residents of Sandy Grove are feeding birds which will only attract vermin, this was reported back to the Cumberland officer &amp; he confirmed that this had been raised with them already.</p> <p>A meeting was held on 25th January with Councillors along with Luke Leathers &amp; Julian Smith from Cumberland Council to discuss working together going forward and the transfer of the Sandholes Allotment site.</p> <p><u>Cemetery</u>  The Curator reported his concern that the boundary dry stone wall in the cemetery was crumbling and leaning towards the Toll Bar field, Councillors were asked to inspect this wall &amp; report back &amp; the curator has been asked to partition off the wall with barriers on both sides.</p>	
166.23.24	<p><b>CONSIDER &amp; REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE</b>  Notification from CALC that there will be two royal garden parties held this year &amp; they were inviting nominations from Councils, RESOLVED that DW is put forward.</p>	GP
167.23.24	<p><b>TO CONSIDER &amp; RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT</b>  RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk's report.</p>	
168.23.24	<p><b>TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS</b>  RESOLVED to ratify the payments at 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 amounting to £10,144.33.</p>	
169.23.24	<p><b>TO RECEIVE &amp; APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 14TH FEBRUARY 2024</b>  RESOLVED to accept, consider &amp; approve the financial statement at 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 amounting to £20,959.13.</p>	
170.23.24	<p><b>COUNCILLORS' MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION</b>  SP requested that a Christmas meeting and Personnel meeting be organised soon.  Councillors were reminded of the teams meeting to discuss A595 issues to be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm and that EW would send a link to join.  DW said that following the Florence Arts Centre board meeting, future plans for activities to increase footfall and resident engagement were discussed, they also planned to apply for funding towards an outside play area. Arts Centre staff wanted to update the Town Council so it was suggested that they be invited to the next Town Council meeting.</p>	GP ALL
171.23.24	<p><b>FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA</b></p>	
472.23.24	<p><b>RESOLVED THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</b>  RESOLVED the date of the next meeting on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 5.30pm.</p>	

*M A M'kins*

The meeting was then brought to a close at 7.40pm

M.A.M. - Klein