

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 21ST MAY 2024 IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL AND IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING THE AGM**

Present: Mrs Elaine 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)
Mrs Jean Lewthwaite (JL) Mr David Wright (DW) who arrived at 6.00pm

Mrs Nicola Cattanach (NC) Assistant Town Clerk

Mr Graham Minshaw Cumberland Councillor

011.24.25	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RESOLVED to note that apologies were received from Geraldine Pritchard.</p>	NC
012.24.25	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
013.24.25	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GM talked about the ongoing issues with the footpath at Moor Row. He & GC took photographs of where gardens had been extended and of trees with branches overhanging the narrowed path. GM noted that there was also some building work going on from a resident. GC said that the path is now so narrow that the Lengthsman cannot get machinery along to cut the grass. GM said he is due to attend a Cumberland Council liaison group on 20.06.24 with National Highways to discuss A595 issues from Calderbridge to Carlisle. Public participation is to begin at 5.00pm with the private meeting beginning at 6.00pm. CW said he hoped the local issues with the A595 would be considered in the whole system. GM said earlier today he had attended a National Park Authority meeting and he was told that work on the St Bees Road to create a new culvert and manhole will commence in early June. SP gave an update of events and said that he, EW & DW had met with Jane Meeks from Cumberland Council to look at investment and funding opportunities for areas in Egremont, such as the old Red Lion site and the play area at Orgill. He is due to meet with the Chief Executive of Cumberland Council in July to look at how Sellafield site can benefit Egremont and he will also speak with Gillian Elliott with regards to NDA funding. SP said there are plenty of opportunities and with the new Uldale housing development and local employment along with partner support the Council will do what they can to turn Egremont around. Cumberland Council have been out on pathways spraying stencils to discourage dog fouling. SP said that he and MM attend WCSSG meetings and he was due to attend the meeting place in Egremont this evening to discuss resident's issues and the way forward for Asylum Seekers living/moving to the area. He spoke of hotels housing migrants, dispersing residents around the country. SP said that there was no consultation on this and houses of multiple occupancy (HMO) were being sought after. SP said that hubs in Whitehaven Library and the meeting place were trying to help.</p>	GM, SP

	<p>DW asked GM if National Cumberland selected members, sit on the Lake District National Park committee. He had a suggestion to take forward for future consideration. He said that particularly at weekends Ennerdale and Wasdale was full of visitors and it would be a great idea to have a park and ride scheme in Egremont, having a drop off point at the Sawmill and also a shuttle bus from Ravenglass to Wasdale for those who may not have transport which would save on traffic and parking overall.</p> <p>GM said the group would be looking at what is feasible in the current climate. He said members of the committee are predominantly from the Lake District and not many were from the west. There are no Tourist Information centres in the west area anymore and Egremont is not classed as a Lake District town. DW said he would pass details of a contact to GM should any progress be made on the subject.</p> <p>GM left the meeting at 6.05pm.</p>	DW
014.24.25	<p>CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS</p> <p>EW said that a member of the public has expressed an interest in a Town Council vacancy and he would be attending the Town Council meeting on 18th June. She also said that the new owner of the former Central Pub will be attending the meeting to discuss her plans for the building.</p> <p>EW informed Councillors that John Edwards was standing down with immediate effect from the Royal British Legion and that there would be no Egremont branch. He will pass on contact details for a Kendal representative so that the town Council can organise the Remembrance Sunday parade.</p> <p>It was agreed to write a letter of thanks to Mr Edwards for his 40+ years' service of being a standard bearer for the RBL.</p> <p>EW announced that the Town Councillors had received an official invitation for the opening of Growing Well Nursery on 14th June.</p>	NC
015.24.25	<p>TO CONSIDER, APPROVE & SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <p>RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Egremont Town Council held on 16th April 2024</p>	EW
016.24.25	<p>TO CONSIDER & REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS</p> <p>4/24/2138/0F1 Prior approval for a change of use from commercial to commercial at ground floor with residential above 25 Market Place, Egremont No objections</p> <p>4/24/2102/0F1 Consultation on additional/amended information: Planning application reference: 4/24/2102/0F1 Erection of double garage with pitched roof and green house attached And erection of 2M fence 16 Main Street, Egremont No objections</p>	



4/24/2154/OL1 Listed building consent for inclusion of a waterproofing membrane and associated drain, behind approved dry-lining, to prevent water ingress to sections of internal walls that are below the external ground level Ghyll Farm, Egremont

Councillors are happy to support the application; it will have minimal impact on the listed building and ensure it can remain in a viable use with a sustainable future.

4/24/2160/0E1 Lawful development certificate for proposed erection of a detached garage
9 The Reading Rooms, Springfield Road, Bigrigg
Town Councillors await Cumberland Council's decision to see if the proposed development is lawful or not but request the Council review if there were any permitted development rights restricted when the properties were converted to residential dwellings. The Town Council will comment if necessary should a planning application be submitted.

017.24.25 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 16th May where the following was RESOLVED:
The Town Clerk could work from home to complete audit work, where necessary and claim back any extra hours in lieu.

The welcome to Egremont sign can be adapted to create a new notice board for the cemetery, at a cost of £75.00, as well a new cemetery rules sign at a cost of £115.00.

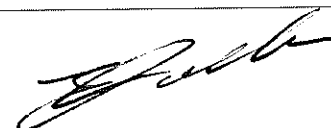
To donate £100 to the Girl Guides to go towards providing uniforms to those from the parish on their International trip to Canada in July.

To sign the bank reconciliation sheet as a true record. Also any underspend in the set budgets are not to be carried forward but to be incorporated back into the accounts and the same set budget will start at the beginning of each financial year.

EW said the running/upkeep of the Market Hall and Cemetery were discussed and as it is costing more than the incoming funds to run the Council will need to consider how to utilise workload in the Cemetery and how we can attract events in the Market Hall. SP and MM said that clubs don't get functions like they used to and all similar businesses are struggling.

CW said it was a problem across the board as more is being done online and it is becoming harder for businesses to put on events. He said in other towns some clubs have closed altogether or have been taken over by bigger organisations. CW said it would be a shame to lose the Market Hall as it is a huge asset to the town and he asked if it would be an option to attract a partner of some kind. GC said Moor Row club has gone and EW said Cleator Moor Town Hall has been taken over by the Masons. CW said they now hire it out to organisations. SP said it is difficult to have a space like the Market Hall unused and we could engage with schools and NDA could be a possible partner.

NC



Website

EW said that working on the website was much easier with the recently purchased laptop and all minutes and agendas are up to date and information is compliant.
CW congratulated EW on the much improved website.

Allotments

Outstanding garage ground rent from a tenant that owed money from last year and this has now paid in full.

Cumberland Council have collected all tenancy agreements and historical information for Sandholes allotment site.

A tenant from East Road has reported that there is a large sycamore tree overhanging her plot and she would like this to be removed. It was agreed to forward this on to the Allotment Committee for them to go and have a look. DW said unless the tree is a danger then it would have to wait until Autumn before being cut down.

GC said he had been talking to the pest controller and it is taking a long time to net up one allotment before moving on to the next. The current agreement is that he will attend East Road site once a month. GC felt this is unnecessary unless the population of rats is a problem and perhaps the policy could be changed where he attends to eradicate the rats and then in between go for a half hour inspection once a month with a committee member.

GC said Mr Sharples is also finding it difficult with some tenants not allowing him access to plots. EW confirmed that a particular tenant has been contacted about this. GC said all tenants should be told that they should obey the Town Council regulations and anyone that doesn't will have their tenancy revoked.

GC to take the pest control policy to the next Town Council meeting.

GC

Cemetery

EW said that Cumberland Council intend to have a Public Space Protection Order on the Cemetery with a dog exclusion zone. If this is passed, then signage will be issued. Cemetery House has been decorated by the Curator to prepare for a new tenant moving in.

GEO Environmental Engineering have confirmed that they have carried out the relevant surveys of the land and are in the process of preparing reports with their findings.

Interviews have taken place for the tenancy of Cemetery House and someone has been informed that they were successful. It has been suggested that 10th June is when the tenant will move in.

Following an inspection by a Housing Enforcement Officer from Cumberland Council he reported that various remedial works must be carried out before a tenant can move in. This will obviously have an impact on the proposed start date of the tenancy.

SP said a review of the spending on the house was required.

GS said the offer of tenancy should be suspended and look at the cost involved.

DW said once we receive the full report we should engage with the housing officer to discuss the potential work. It was RESOLVED that no further action can be taken until the official report is received.

Egremont Castle

Calderwood House secured funding and purchased rosebushes for flowerbeds, these have been pulled out deliberately and taken.

The Friends of Egremont Castle Group reported that apertures in the castle wall have been filled in with bricks and concrete. Someone has gone out of their way to do this for an unknown reason. CW wondered if any residents may have CCTV which would show someone carrying cement/equipment in to the castle.



	<p>It was RESOLVED that the Lengthsman would be asked to remove the cement in the Autumn, after bird nesting season. EW said that the Town Council had purchased a flag to commemorate D-Day 80 and this would be flown from the castle on the morning of 6th June; all Councillors were invited to attend.</p> <p><u>Public Realm</u> The Maintenance of Street Furniture Agreement was signed by the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. EW agreed with Cumberland Council that the responsibility of bollards would be theirs as it is a safety issue. Egremont Town Council will not be taking responsibility for the planters until the problem of contaminated soil with Marestail is eradicated. The planters need to be emptied and treated, with new soil then put in so that the summer plants can be put in.</p> <p><u>Borderlands</u> SP has been assured that a Borderlands meeting will be arranged in the near future, he is awaiting dates from Liz Shaw and others.</p>	NC
018.24.25	<p>CONSIDER & REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE EW read out a letter received from the Head teacher at Bookwell school to thank the Caretaker for his help and service during a recent school concert. CW suggested putting the letter on the Town Council website, if the Caretaker was in agreement.</p> <p>EW said that correspondence had been received to ask the Town Council for a donation towards bikes and personal items for the Asylum seekers that had moved to the area. SP said immediately after the Town Council meeting, he would be attending a meeting at the Methodist church warm hub to discuss the situation. He will find out what is needed and report back. He asked Councillors if they can offer any help or support it would be appreciated. MM said Calderwood house are providing 1 months' worth of bus passes.</p>	EW SP
019.24.25	<p>TO CONSIDER & RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk's report.</p>	
020.24.25	<p>TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS RESOLVED to ratify the payments at 15th May 2024 amounting to £10,823.86.</p>	
021.24.25	<p>TO RECEIVE & APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 15TH MAY 2024 RESOLVED to accept, consider & approve the financial statement at 15th May 2024 amounting to £14,110.52.</p>	
022.24.25	<p>COUNCILLORS' MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION CW mentioned the shocking vandalism at Thornhill church and the release of livestock.</p>	
023.24.25	<p>ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA</p>	



024.24.25	<p>The new owner of the Central Pub to attend the meeting on 18th June. Member of the public to attend the meeting on 18th June, regarding becoming a new Councillor.</p> <p>MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE</p> <p>There were no matters to be discussed in private</p> <p>The meeting was brought to a close at 7.00pm</p>	
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