

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 19TH JULY 2022 AT 5.30PM IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL**

Present:

Ms Elaine Woodburn (EW) Chairperson
Mr Stephen Bell (SB) Vice Chairperson

Also:

Mr Sam Pollen (SP) Mr David Wright (DW) who arrived at 6.45pm
Mr Neil Ferguson (NF) Mr Gareth Stringer (GS)
Mr Graham Calvin (GC) Mr Michael McVeigh (MM) who arrived at 6pm

Mrs Cheryl O'pray (CO) Assistant Clerk
Mr Chris Whiteside (CW) Cumbria County Councillor
Mr David Southward (DS) Cumbria County Councillor
Mr Simon Blacker (S Blacker) Gleeson Homes Agent

<p>50.22.23</p>	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RESOLVED to accept apologies (with reasons noted) from G Pritchard & J Lewthwaite, also D Wright & M McVeigh who would both be arriving late.</p>	<p>CO</p>
<p>51.22.23</p>	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA RESOLVED to note the following declarations of interest: GC & MM declared an interest in all planning applications. GC declared an interest in the Borderlands. NF declared an interest in Egremont Youth Project.</p>	<p>CO</p>
<p>52.22.23</p>	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION The Chairperson welcomed DS who asked if any Councillors had any questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EW asked for further information regarding the road closure on Market Street, DS said he would look into this & report back. 2. EW raised a concern about future services including adult & children care following the reluctance of the Westmorland & Furness authority to share facilities. Both DS & CW stated that when the change comes into operation, assets would be split but not sure how it would be done. 3. SP & NF stated that after reporting a problem using the Highways app, they felt it was a good system & easy to use. <p>Chairperson then welcomed CW to the meeting who reported on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He confirmed that he had emailed a draft letter of support to the local MP (for the Council's approval) for funding to improve works on the A595. Agreed to add additional information and to send to MP. 2. CW said that over the years, response groups such as the Environment Agency & ACT have helped communities in a variety of emergencies & as the flood season will soon be upon us, he asked that if the Council required any assistance regarding emergency plans, we could contact the County Council for assistance. 3. Works are scheduled to commence on a section of footway from Greendykes to Bookwell School on 22nd August thus enabling the bulk of the work to be carried out during the school holidays. 4. A grant obtained by a group who intended to create a community area around the Moor Row playing field but was deferred due to drainage issues resulting in the group disbanding & so the work will not now take place. <p>EW then thanked both DS & CW for attending & they duly left the meeting.</p>	<p>CO</p>



EW then welcomed S Blacker acting as a Gleeson Homes Agent who proceeded to update Councillors on the former Orgill infant school site & Howbank farm. There is currently a planning application in with Copeland to build 106 houses (consisting of 11 x 2 bed, 69 x 3 bed & 26 x 4 bed dwellings) which will cover 3.6 hectares. It has been a long process through planning with the aim to complement the recent flood alleviation scheme at Whangs Beck and to improve the overall situation but the whole site has been designed to the County Council's adopted standard though some parts of the land will remain with a management company.

Gleesons have recently had a request from the County Council to pay £442,000 to Westlakes Academy to accommodate the additional school places which will be required. EW asked how this was calculated. S Blacker replied that the County Council do a pupil yield assessment on each planning application where necessary & with regards this application, it has been estimated that 43 extra education places would be needed – 25 primary school places & 18 secondary school places presently & he reported that there were enough vacancies within the primary schools but insufficient places for secondary school children hence the request of £442,000 to provide these places.

SP asked about access and egress onto the site, S Blacker said that Gleesons have worked extensively with the Highways and there are no issues.

GS & NF both asked about construction traffic & where it accessed the work site, the main access is from Baybarrow Road with the access via Chaucer/Milton being used for emergency vehicles only, S Blacker stated that this could be changed if needed.

EW asked about the reduced amount of affordable housing (2 less than originally planned) & also the proposal to invest 14 million into the town via labour, goods & services, this all sounds good but would prefer a realistic figure on how much would be spent on purchasing local goods and how the workforce would be split between local and other workers and how many would be apprentices. She said also that public area spaces would not benefit the people of Egremont as a whole but for the estate residents only.

SP talked about funding for a play park for disabled & teenage children as there was plenty of land but to also include improvements to the Falcon path which needed to be resurfaced all along the path (and not just part of it as is currently the case).

MM reminded Councillors that once built, play parks still needed to be maintained which could cause problems, GC thought that approximately £70/£80,000 would be needed for a new play area. EW stated that regarding the Orgill play area, it was a strategic one & therefore Copeland should maintain it.

EW said that Egremont Town Council do not want to lose out on any benefit to our town. S Blacker replied that the amended plan had not yet been submitted to Copeland so this will give time for the Town Council to respond as a consultee whose comments would then have to be taken into account by the planning authority. With regards to any community benefits, S Blacker confirmed that Gleesons could work directly with Egremont Town Council & he agreed that there should be some benefit to the wider area and some agreement directly in place with the Town Council.

53.22.23

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

EW read out a card received from the ladies of Memory Lane thanking the Council for the support shown to them over the years up to the recent closure.

	<p>An invitation to place an advert in the Cumbria Guide was received - half a page costing £395 or a full page costing £595. It was RESOLVED that the details are emailed to Councillors for their decision. EW reminded GC, MM & DW to get photos of themselves presenting the new jubilee benches to the primary schools.</p>	<p>ALL GC.MM DW</p>
<p>54.22.23</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER, APPROVE & SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING: RESOLVED to approve & sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Egremont Town Council held on 21st June 2022</p>	
<p>55.22.23</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER & REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS 4/21/2398/0F1 <u>Amended & Additional</u> consultation on the following: Erection of a steel framed building for use as a garage, workshop & storage. Thornpike Farm, Little Mill, Egremont Comments No objections</p>	
<p>56.22.23</p>	<p>TO RATIFY COMMENTS WITH REGARDS PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS The following plans were ratified: 4/22/2237/001 Outline planning application including access for up to 30 No. self-build dwellings. Land at Summergrove Park, Whitehaven Comments Egremont Town Council submit this holding response and will submit a more detailed response following the meeting with the applicant in August.</p>	
<p>57.22.23</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER ANY REPORTS INCLUDING FINANCE, PERSONNEL, CEMETERY, BOWLING GREEN, MARKET HALL, WEBSITE, ALLOTMENTS, DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS, HEALTH & SAFETY, CUMBRIA IN BLOOM, PUBLIC REALM & WC PARTNERSHIP <u>Website</u> EW is to arrange a meeting with Luke Johnson for an update. <u>Bowling Green</u> SB reported that the bowling green had obtained sponsorship from Egremont Cabs for new uniforms. <u>Allotments</u> Sandholes 1. Mr Sharples attended a site visit to tackle the rat problem, SB & GC attended and will send a report to the office 2. RESOLVED to email T Bell & C Scott to thank them for the good work they have carried out in clearing the bank to facilitate Mr Sharples. 3. SP reported that the kissing gate within the site is still banging, RESOLVED to ask the lengthsmen to take another look. East Road 1. The Allotment committee made the decision that two trees have to be removed, currently awaiting a second quote 2. A path on site is overgrown with weeds/nettles & people are dumping their rubbish there, RESOLVED to ask the lengthsmen to cut it back.</p>	<p>EW SB.GC CO CO CO</p>



	<p><u>Bridgend</u></p> <p>1. Three tenancies that were allocated have been given up due to work & family commitments, one of the plots has been re-allocated & meetings with potential tenants are in progress.</p> <p><u>Market Hall</u></p> <p>EW reported that the Boxing Club are ready to officially open on 1st August, EW & SB asked for delegated authority to sign the lease on behalf of Egremont Town Council, this was RESOLVED.</p> <p>It had also been agreed by the Boxing Club that anything that had been changed in the supper room would be returned to as it was when the time came.</p> <p><u>Public Realm/Borderlands</u></p> <p>EW reminded everyone that there was a Teams meeting on Thursday at 6pm with Groundworks who have put together a feasibility study on the proposed works on Egremont Main Street, EW informed Councillors that she had also asked them if there was anything that could be done with the mosaic area near the Castle.</p> <p>SP reported that there had been a Borderlands meeting & funding had been discussed, it was on a ten-year plan but no funds would be released until at least next year, a further meeting was needed to discuss Borderlands.</p> <p>SP further reported on an update from the Elected Mayor Mike Starkie who stated that the Red Lion site would need £2.5million matched funding, an invitation will be sent out shortly to discuss this matter further.</p> <p>EW asked for an update on the Beck Green nursery, MM said an offer had been put forward from a private business owner a few years ago but nothing had come from this, GC stated that Works4you had put forward an interest and a business plan but were told the site could not be used due to health and safety issues. A discussion took place with concerns raised about the lack of clarity on what Copeland had told Works4You but the only way to challenge would be through Copeland's scrutiny process. The site has now been offered to Grow Well - a Kendal based firm who would be investing 100/150k into the site.</p> <p>EW stated this site had been empty for 10 years and the increase in traffic and activity in the area would raise concerns with those residents living close to the site and she stressed that it was essential that the plans were communicated thoroughly by Copeland to those residents in the immediate locality.</p> <p>EW also stated that if Councillors wanted anything clarified they could send their comments via the Town Council direct to the Mayor.</p> <p><u>Egremont Castle</u></p> <p>An email had been received from Charles Baker of Leconfield Estates informing the Council that he was having conversations with a contractor regarding clearance work within the castle & that the Council would be informed when they were in a position to make a decision on these works.</p> <p>DW who attended the recent Castle meeting, passed on the group's request for an update about a bench to replace the one that was burnt, it was stated that a bench purchased using the Welcome Back funding could be used in the Castle, RESOLVED DW to update the group. Also with regards the broken flagpole, DW had advised them to speak to the Egremont Partnership who had carried out the upgrades to the</p>	<p>EW.SB</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>DW</p>
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	<p>Castle 15/20 years ago, the group had already done this but were informed that the partnership was not responsible for any upkeep on the flagpole. One of the members said he would inspect further and report back & DW advised them to come back to the Council if they needed any further help.</p> <p>Finally, on 19th August Egremont Castle committee, in joint effort with the Methodist Church, will be running a competition to involve families about the history of Egremont,</p> <p><u>Lengthsman Scheme</u></p> <p>A complaint was received about grass cuttings being left on some headstones following the grounds maintenance. EW & SB met with the contractors who explained that the area in question had not been completed when the complaint was received but it was quickly rectified. It was suggested however that perhaps a supervisor was needed as overseeing the work was not the curator's job, Works 4 You stated that they would take this away and come back with a solution.</p>	
58.22.23	<p>CONSIDER & REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a CCC have allocated some of the 2022/23 environment funding to support a Planting for Pollinators scheme & they have asked if the Town Council want to submit any areas for consideration & which would benefit from this scheme. RESOLVED that the areas suggested by Councillors will be passed on. b Update on podiatry services across Cumbria, letters have sent out discharging low risk patients but if their condition worsens, they can be referred back, this was noted. c Age UK confirmed that the podiatry services carried out in the Market Hall will carry on, the person who carries out the service is retiring however they are recruiting for a replacement. d Age UK's community garden project is underway & they are keen to attract volunteers to clean up the area so it can be used by groups, Calderwood has already offered their assistance, this was noted. e A request from a member of the public to purchase the play park at Ling Road was passed onto Copeland Borough Council for their attention, it was noted however that the request came with a condition that they would be allowed planning permission at a later date to build upon the land. Councillors strongly objected to this & stated that any planning permission would have to be treat in line using the correct process. f An email from a Copeland officer regarding a post on Facebook about the Jubilee flower bed was read out, RESOLVED that no response was necessary. 	CO
59.22.23	<p>TO CONSIDER & RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT</p> <p>RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk's report.</p>	
60.22.23	<p>TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS</p> <p>RESOLVED to ratify the payments amounting to £3,139.58</p>	
61.22.23	<p>RECEIVE & APPROVE THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 13TH JULY 2022.</p> <p>RESOLVED to accept, consider & approve the financial statement at 13th July amounting to £16,480.60</p>	
62.22.23	<p>TO CONSIDER COSTS REGARDING THE UTILITY CONTRACTS</p> <p>RESOLVED to delegate this decision to EW & SB as the contracts were not due until the end of the year and some not until next year.</p>	EW.SB



63.22.23	<p>TO CONSIDER TAKING PART IN THE “HEDGEHOG R US” HIGHWAY PROJECT – GC</p> <p>Councillors agreed to purchase a box of fifty highway surrounds with leaflets and stickers to donate to the local schools & a few to be used in the cemetery.</p>	CO
64.22.23	<p>TO CONSIDER THE COST OF HALL HIRE FOR THIS YEAR’S CRAB FAIR GURNING EVENT.</p> <p>Councillors discussed the cost & it was proposed to either allow free hall hire or half hall hire, a vote took place & it was RESOLVED free hall hire is allowed.</p>	CO
65.22.23	<p>TO CONSIDER THE REMAINING YOUTH GRANT FOR EGREMONT YOUTH PARTNERSHIP & THEIR REQUEST FOR A DONATION TOWARDS NEW UNIFORMS</p> <p>NF spoke about the youth club & how important funding is for them to carry on, a discussion took place & it was RESOLVED that the remaining youth grant of £500 is donated which would help them purchase new uniforms.</p>	CO
66.22.23	<p>TO CONSIDER AND AGREE A DATE TO ADVERTISE FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THIS YEAR’S MARGARET WOODBURN’S GOOD CITIZEN’S AWARDS</p> <p>It was agreed nominations are invited throughout the month of August.</p>	ALL
67.22.23	<p>TO CONSIDER ANY UPDATE ON THE USE OF SELLAFIELD TRANSPORT – SP & NF</p> <p>Any update would be brought to the September meeting</p>	SP.NF
68.22.23	<p>TO CONSIDER ANY UPDATE ON THE TOWN HALL CLOCK – EW</p> <p>EW reported that the request to the lottery fund was turned down but she would be writing to the NDA and Sellafield to request funding.</p>	EW
69.22.23	<p>TO CONSIDER ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING PUBLIC TOILETS – SP</p> <p>RESOLVED there was no update and this item would be removed from the agenda</p>	
70.22.23	<p>TO RECEIVE AN UPDATED REPORT REGARDING THE FLOOD DEFENCE WORKS – SP</p> <p>Any update would be brought to the monthly meetings but RESOLVED that it will be removed from the monthly agenda.</p>	CO
71.22.23	<p>TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON CLINTZ QUARRY – SP</p> <p>SP said the volunteers had backed out and the project was on hold at present so it was RESOLVED that this item will be removed from the agenda.</p>	CO
72.22.23	<p>COUNCILLORS’ MATTERS - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION</p> <p>1. NF got in touch with Hoban’s who informed him that they are not extending any of their services & they may have to withdraw their service from Gosforth to Whitehaven via St Bees</p>	
73.22.23	<p>ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA</p> <p>1. To consider nominations & choose the winners of the Margaret Woodburn Good Citizen’s Awards</p>	

74.22.23

RESOLVED THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED the next meeting of Egremont Town Council will be held on Tuesday 20th September 2022 at 5.30pm in the Main Hall of Egremont Market Hall.

The meeting then moved into private.

