

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 21ST JULY 2026 AT 5.30PM IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL**

Present: Mrs E Woodburn (EW)
Mr Gareth Stringer (GS)

Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson

Mr Sam Pollen (SP)
Mr Chris Colley (CC)
Mr Chris Whiteside (CW)

Mr David Wright (DW) arrived at 5.40pm

Mr Patrick McMahon (PM)

Mr Graham Minshaw (GM)

Cumberland Councillor

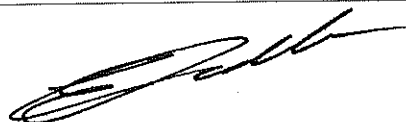
Mrs Geraldine Pritchard (GP)
Mrs Nicola Cattanaach (NC)

Town Clerk
Assistant Town Clerk

051.26.27	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RESOLVED to accept with reasons noted, apologies from Councillors Jean Lewthwaite, Graham Calvin and Robbie Tear	ACTIONS NC
052.26.27	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA RESOLVED to note that Councillor Chris Colley declared an interest on the nominations for the Margaret Woodburn Good Citizens Awards.	
053.26.27	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION EW invited GM to give his Cumberland Councillor report: GM is awaiting a response regarding bus services in the Egremont area, he has however, got information from the Highways Department and talked about the viability of the buses so far. Routes are categorised into Low Medium and High cost per passenger, Egremont being medium. The no. 32 bus to Egremont via St Bees is classed as high but the period included the road closure which pushed the price up. EW asked if there is a timescale where the Council will say if the buses are viable or not. GM said the buses are funded for 12 months and the expectation is that the buses will continue dependant on usage and funding. CW said it would be useful to have precise numbers for the next meeting from GM. TROs to ease congested parking have been passed at Springfield Gardens & Chapel Street at Bigrigg and Scalegill Road & Penzance Street at Moor Row. The parking problems at O'Hallorans are continuing but the police have spoken to the owner to ask him to encourage customers to use the restaurant car park & residents are encouraged to contact the police if they have issues with dangerous or obstructive parking. It was agreed that Agenda item 17 could be brought forward so it could be discussed in the presence of GM. A resident had asked CW if a radar feedback sign could be installed on Scalegill Road near the Working Mens club in Moor Row. CW asked if GM could raise the matter with Cumberland Council and find out if it would be an appropriate use of section 106 money. DW arrived at 5.40pm Cumberland Councillor, SP then gave his report: There was a visit to Gulley Flatts with Cumberland Council to look at a potential area to install a defibrillator. SP is meeting Cumberland Council Enforcement Team to discuss the problem of dog fouling and other issues.	

	A date is to be arranged for a street deep clean. The Police have attended the former Castle Mount Care Home along with Enforcement Officers, SP said that the owner needs to be encouraged to develop the site or sell it on to dispel anti-social issues that have been going on for a while. The dilapidated building opposite the Wheatsheaf also needs to be addressed and hopefully investment in the town will help problem areas. EW had received a complaint about the parking of contract vehicles at the Aldi construction site & their concern that emergency vehicles might not get through. SP said he had met with the site manager (who is very sensitive to all concerns) and although space is tight, vehicles can get down the road. This is a short term problem and the road will be widened to allow access and egress. SP said safe access for pedestrians in the underpass needs to be addressed for when Aldi opens up. CW asked if the underpass is well lit at night and suggested LED lighting would make a difference. DW said a lot of people using the store, especially in the evening, will walk across the roundabout and avoid using the underpass. SP met went to the Police and Home Group antisocial behaviour event which was very positive. SP met with Mark Fryer, Chief Executive of Cumberland Council to discuss the challenges and opportunities of the town. Borderlands meetings are continuing regarding development in the town. GM left the meeting at 6.00pm.	
054.26.27	CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS EW spoke about the Lengthsman spraying the weeds around the walker's statue at Moor Row. There is the possibility that Works 4 You could provide some shillies to tidy up the area and Councillors agreed that a donation could be made. GP reported that there is some damage to ridge tiles on the Market Hall roof, the contractor who has carried out work in the roof previously can do it for an approximate cost of £600, GS said he knew a good roofer & he would pass on the number to the clerk. It was also noticed that there was damage to the ceiling of the Conference Room, GP said she would ask the Lengthsman to have a look at this. EW said that 5 flower hanging baskets outside the Market Hall had not survived and to buy 5 more from the supplier would cost £125.00. This was RESOLVED. EW asked for a volunteer to open the Market Hall for a class at the end of August, due to the Caretaker being on holiday, Councillors will check if they are free & let the clerk know. EW announced that inspections of the Market Hall and Cemetery were to be carried out by 2 Councillors on a monthly basis. DW suggested a tick list that Councillors could complete, this was RESOLVED.	GP DW
055.26.27	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 16th June 2026.	EW
056.26.27	TO CONSIDER & REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS 4/26/2101/0F1 Re-consultation on Amended Description and Additional/Amended Information: Planning Application Reference: 4/26/2101/0F1	

057.26.27	Change of use from residential (C3) to a self-catering holiday let (Sui Generis) including use of detached store (Retrospective) 2 Gill Grove, Grove Road, Egremont No objections 4/26/2211/0F1 Proposed single storey side extension & internal alterations Endotrack, Springfield Road, Bigrigg No objections 4/26/2226/0F1 Single storey side extension 80 Kings Drive, Egremont No objections TO CONSIDER ANY REPORTS INCLUDING FINANCE, PERSONNEL, WEBSITE, BOWLING GREEN, ALLOTMENT, CEMETERY, MARKET HALL, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, EG CASTLE, PUBLIC REALM/BORDERLANDS & LENGTHSMAN SCHEME. <u>Personnel</u> To be moved to Matters in private <u>Bowling Club</u> A worthwhile meeting (at the request of the Bowling Club) was held on 1st July with the Chairperson, Town Clerk and Ian Hall & Greg Butler from the Bowling Club. This meeting was held to discuss the electric & water bills and the costs of general ground maintenance. Mr Butler stated that the cost of materials for the green had risen dramatically & asked if the Town Council could assist by purchasing the materials thus saving the Club paying the vat, the clerk replied that this was not possible but if the Club wanted to submit a request for a donation, they could do so. The club members enquired about the possibility of holding indoor bowling sessions in the Market Hall during the closed season Oct – March. It was agreed that measurements would be taken & to check what storage facilities would be available. <u>Allotments</u> Several tenants at both sites have had letters sent out, following reports of allotments not being worked and the area around garages being left untidy. There had also been a complaint of a garage being in an unsafe condition. <u>Cemetery</u> A meeting was held on 1st July between Works 4 You and the Chairperson & Clerk to discuss the agreement for the Lengthsman's work in the cemetery. Memorial inspection training with the ICCM (Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management) is in the process of being arranged for the new Cemetery worker and his support. There are two options to choose from: The Town Council can host the training at a cost of £950 + vat with the hope of inviting others to share and therefore reduce the overall cost, to date however, no-one has come forward to join this training. The second option is for ICCM to organise the training, the Town Council would receive two free places and the ICCM would invite others and charge them direct,	
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the earliest they can do is September but if at least 12 are not booked on the course, it will be cancelled.

RESOLVED to choose option 2.

It was RESOLVED that Item 16 on the agenda was brought forward & discussed under the cemetery report.

CC reported that he had liaised with a contact who could dispose of the rabbits at night.

EW said that it was agreed at the last meeting that no shooting would be permitted & the situation would be monitored. CW agreed this was the right thing to do, especially if there was no further evidence of them burrowing under headstones.

SP said the site did not appear to be over-run & GP said the Lengthsman had reported that he has not seen any rabbits of late and there are no new holes that he has noticed, he did have to re-block the one previously dug but there has been no movement since.

RESOLVED therefore to leave the situation as it is with monitoring only.

Market Hall

A recent event booked in the Market Hall had caused some damage and had left a lot of mess for the Caretaker to clear up.

CW said it was a concern that the event organiser treated the hall in this way.

EW said that the hall hirer must pay an additional cleaning cost and similar events will not be permitted in the future. RESOLVED also that a letter is sent to the Rugby League committee highlighting what had happened & the reason the Council will not permit such events going forward.

Egremont Castle

GP said she had noticed that in the Friends of Egremont Castle Group's minutes that the refurbishment of the sun dial was mentioned, she sent an email to K Nichol to inform him that the dial was listed, PM confirmed that the group are aware of this.

EW asked CC if the same would apply to the refurbishment of the Town Hall clock, DW said that as long as the replacements were like for like, it should be okay.

CC said that the group were a registered charity and would be collecting for donations on Saturday.

Other Reports

A Community Investment Grant has been awarded to purchase a defibrillator to be sited at Egremont Cemetery, EW asked the office staff to obtain prices for a defibrillator, post and fixing panel to site a defibrillator at Gulley Flatts. Following complaints sent to the Highways Department, responses were sent as follows:

Following resurfacing works at Bigrigg, the remaining materials from the verges would be removed & the grass would be cut right back to the hedge.

Regarding the two parked food vans in the Cemetery layby, one vehicle has not been granted permission & now has an eviction notice on it.

The second vehicle was granted a licence to trade here however following the Council's complaint, the Highways are reviewing the suitability of the location with Cumberland Council and relevant partners.

SP had enquired as to the Lengthsman helping to cut back areas which are overgrown, he also mentioned a member of the public who had cut back shrubs on the cycle path to enable him to see his wife's grave in the cemetery. This was

	concerning & it was RESOLVED that the Lengthsman will not be helping in cutting back these shrubs. It was also RESOLVED that the Lengthsman has his own duties & it would be unfair to put more work on him for land that belongs to someone or an authority already. GP asked SP if he could ask Cumberland Council to cut the boundary hedge at the Bowling Club.	
058.26.27	CONSIDER & REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE Businesses on the Main Street have been contacted to ask if they would water the planters near to their premises and a few have obliged. The Herdwick News asked if the Town Council would be willing to submit articles for their monthly newsletter to be distributed to residents. All Councillors agreed this would be a good idea. 4th Egremont Brownies asked the Town Council for a donation towards a pack holiday. It was resolved to give a £200.00 donation.	
059.26.27	TO CONSIDER & RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk's report.	
060.26.27	TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS RESOLVED to ratify the payments at 15th July 2026 amounting to £6,602.17.	
061.26.27	TO RECEIVE & APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 15TH JULY 2026 RESOLVED to accept, consider & approve the financial statement at 15th July 2026 amounting to £18,378.67.	
062.26.27	COUNCILLORS TO MAKE A DECISION REGARDING THE PUBLIC REALM PLANTING BEDS FROM OPTIONS SUGGESTED BY GROUNDWORKS RESOLVED that option 2 is the preferred choice if approval is given by Cumberland Council which would mean that Groundworks would transfer the budget to the Town Council to support the remaining contracted works by Thomas Armstrong (TA) to be carried out plus additional delivery. Upon completion of the works, to hand over the retention funds to (TA) Pay the Groundworks fees for monitoring the maintenance carried out by TA to ensure the treatment has worked in eradicating mares tail. The balance of the funding is transferred to the Town Council to cover establishment of the plants, watering if required and if any remaining, Cumberland Council suggest the refurbishment of the war memorial gate and railings.	
063.26.27	TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR THE MARGARET WOODBURN GOOD CITIZEN AWARDS RESOLVED that Mr Raymond Colley who was nominated by GP for the help he has given to our community over the years including helping with the Amenity Committee, Crab Fair and being a Community Fireman, was a worthy winner. EW nominated 1st Egremont Scouts (in particular Anne Mawson & Susan Rosewarne) for the many years of service that they have given to the 1st Egremont Scouts group. RESOLVED that they were both deserved winners.	

064.26.27	TO CONSIDER A DONATION REQUEST FROM EGREMONT BOWLING CLUB It was RESOLVED to donate £185.00 towards the cost of purchasing grounds maintenance materials for the green.
065.26.27	TO DISCUSS THE RABBIT POPULATION IN EGREMONT CEMETERY – CC – This was discussed under the Cemetery report
066.26.27	TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A RADAR FEEDBACK SIGN IN MOOR ROW – CW – This was discussed under the Cumberland Councillor report.
067.26.27	UPDATE ON THE BUS SERVICE IN THE LOCAL AREA – CW – This was discussed under the Cumberland Councillor report.
068.26.27	COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN – EW. This is to be an Agenda item in September.
069.26.27	COUNCILLORS MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION PM & EW are looking into the possibility of applying for a development grant for the chapels within the Cemetery.
070.26.27	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 <u>Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 5.30pm.</u> The meeting was then brought to a close at 7.30pm