MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 5.30PM IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL

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

Mr Sam Pollen (SP) Mr Chris Whiteside (CW)
Mr Chris Colley (CC) Mrs Jean Lewthwaite (JL)

Mrs Geraldine Pritchard (GP) Town Clerk
Mrs Nicola Cattanach (NC) Assistant Town Clerk

		ACTIONS
071.26.27	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** RESOLVED to accept with reasons noted, apologies from Councillors, Patrick McMahon, David Wright, Robbie Tear, Graham Calvin and Cumberland Councillor Graham Minshaw.	NC
072.26.27	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA** RESOLVED to note that Councillor Elaine Woodburn, Geraldine Pritchard and Nicola Cattanach declared an interest in matters relating to staff.	
073.26.27	**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** EW invited SP to give his Cumberland Councillor report: SP spoke about the Egremont Boxing Club vacating their current premises and said that they are looking for a suitable venue to be able to house their equipment and continue with training and tournaments, Councillors were asked if they knew of anywhere that may be suitable, CC said possibly the Rugby League Club in a couple of years time. SP has been discussing traffic calming measures with Cumberland Council, following a recent accident, CC said speeding in this area has been going on for years and he felt that more should be done above the 20mph advisory signs & warning lights. SP said a police investigation is underway so this could result in improvements. SP said there should be an official announcement towards the end of September regarding the Borderlands project. SP said the recent temporary road closure at East Road closure had resulted in a lot of complaints, a major one being the lack of communication with residents, following ongoing talks with the Highways however, the initial closure of 22 days was reduced to 9 days. SP read out a brief report from GM, in his absence: New TRO yellow lining locations passed earlier this year are expected to be carried out later this month; these are at Moor Row, outside of the school on the corner of Penzance Street/Scalegill Road and at Bigrigg at the Chapel Street junction. GM has put in a request to Cumberland Council for traffic calming measures on Scalegill Road, Moor Row as discussed at the previous Town Council meeting. CW said he had requested information on the statistics on usage of buses in the area and said it would be an idea to have a separate meeting to discuss this, it was therefore RESOLVED that once all the information has been collated, a meeting will be arranged.	CW

074.26.27	**CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS** EW informed Councillors that Egremont Branch of the Royal British Legion is no more, Mr Rod Egln from the Whitehaven Branch had organised a meeting to discuss the future of Egremont branch but only 3 people turned up & no-one was willing to continue running the branch. This means that there will not be an Egremont Standard to be carried at this year's Remembrance parade (if there is no branch, a standard cannot be used). Mr Eglin said he would ask Mr Farrell to attend but he would be carrying the Wath Brow standard, RESOLVED that having a standard was better than having none at all. EW reminded Councillors that decisions taken at the Town Council meetings are a collective decision and stand for 6 months. EW also advised Councillors not to speculate on social media posts made by the public & automatically believe them to be true without checking all the facts for themselves. Due to the caretaker being on holiday leave, EW asked if any Councillors would be willing to cover the Market Hall duties over 3 days. CW & CC volunteered & it was RESOLVED that details to be sent to all Councillors so hopefully cover will be found for the remaining day. EW said that going forward there would be an addition to the reports on the agenda, i.e. Egremont Regeneration Board (ERB). EW said that although she, SP & DW are representatives for the Borderlands scheme, a nominated person needs to be agreed to sit on the ERB to represent Egremont Town Council & as she would like to be this representative. Councillors gave their full support & it was RESOLVED that the Chairperson (currently EW) should be the representative.	GP CW.CC
075.26.27	**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 21st July 2026.	
076.26.27	**TO CONSIDER & REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS** 4/26/2266/0E1 — Lawful development certificate for existing single dwelling Lakeland View, Chaucer Avenue, Egremont No objections 4/26/2270/0F1 — Change of use of the existing ground floor premises from its previous use as a public house/restaurant (class E) to a community health and wellbeing hub (sui generis) and the refurbishment and alteration of exterior of building, including the replacement of ground floor window on front elevation and creation of external garden including new boundary treatment No objections 4/26/2270/0F1 — Also re-consultation on Additional/Amended Information: 25 Main Street, Egremont No objections 4/26/2274/0F1 — Demolish existing detached garage, replace with larger attached garage West Garth, Scalegill Place, Moor Row No objections	

077.26.27	**TO RATIFY COMMENTS WITH REGARDS PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN MEETINGS** 4/26/2242/0F1 — Line application for residential development for up to 45 dwellings with access considered Land off Dalzell Street, Moor Row, Egremont No objections 4/26/2244/0F1 — Advertisement consent application for one illuminated fascia, one illuminated totem sign, one non-illuminated directional sign and one non-illuminated vinyl sign Land at East Road, Egremont No objections 4/26/2251/0F1 — Single-Storey extension to the rear of the property providing a wet room 20 Tennyson Drive, Egremont No objections 4/26/2256/0A1 — Advertisement consent application for display of 6 boards on existing boundary hoarding Red Lion Hotel, 2 Market Place, Egremont No objections	
078.26.27	**TO CONSIDER ANY REPORTS INCLUDING FINANCE, PERSONNEL, WEBSITE, BOWLING GREEN, ALLOTMENT, CEMETERY, MARKET HALL, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, EG CASTLE, PUBLIC REALM/BORDERLANDS & LENGTHSMAN SCHEME.** **Personnel** For discussion in private **Bowling Club** Minutes were received from Bowling Club meetings, held on 5th August and 1st September. **Allotments** Awaiting a re-inspection of plots on both sites following letters being sent to tenants asking them to show some improvement. **Cemetery** A recent social media post from a member of the public showing a recently dug grave was deemed to be inappropriate as it is disrespectful to the family it related to. EW said that if Councillors have any concerns, they should visit the cemetery and if residents have any concerns regarding the cemetery they should contact the Town Council office in the first instance. SP said he carried out a recent inspection in the cemetery and he thought it was very well kept and an asset to our town. Whilst there, he also saw the installation of the new defibrillator being carried out. A local roofer had attended promptly & replaced a broken slate & guttering on the right hand cemetery chapel roof.	GS.RT

	A Housing Officer from Cumberland Council had re-inspected the property on 29th July following the Improvement Notice, requested information that she had requested has been sent but no further correspondence has been received. The Cemetery House tenant emailed on 4th September to inform the Council that she was giving one month's notice to leave the property. Following a discussion whereby the option to allow one month's notice was considered, it was RESOLVED that as per new legislation, two month's notice would be required. Further RESOLVED that once the house was vacant, a house inspection would need to be carried out. **Market Hall** The Market Hall roof was inspected by a local contractor who returned promptly to repair at a cost of £380 which was much cheaper than the previous verbal quote of £600. SP carried out the Market Hall inspection on 11th August & raised a few minor issues which have been passed on to the caretaker. **Egremont Castle** The last day for the Lengthsman to empty the bins in the castle grounds was 31st July, the responsibility of the bins has now been taken over by the same contractor who carries out the maintenance of the grounds. An update was requested from K Nichol from the Friends of Egremont Castle (FOEC) with regards the maintenance cover, he responded that the FOEC & Lord & Lady Egremont are happy with the new contractor. **Public Realm/Borderlands** The maintenance programme is continuing and on the latest inspection report, it showed no mares tail in any of the beds, which is good news. **Other Reports – Defibrillator** A metal post with fixing plate to hold the defibrillator casing has been locally made at a cost of £258.52, now awaiting an MPAN number from the electric company then Cumberland Council can attend to put the defibrillator into position.	
079.26.27	**CONSIDER & REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE** Following a site visit at St Mary's & St Michael's Church with Cumberland Council officers, EW, GP & Church representatives, the following was agreed: Cumberland Council will inspect the trees within the churchyard (and carry out any necessary works to retain the trees in good health) at least every two years. Egremont Town Council will carry out regular weed spraying in the grounds The Church Parish Council will be responsible for the general tidy up of the grounds including the removal of moss from the church steps. A church volunteer currently carries out the grass cutting of the church grounds and will do for the foreseeable future. Request from C Scott of the Crab Fair Committee regarding the structural survey of the greasy pole which now has to be carried out before it can be used on crab fair day. C Scott asked if the Town Council would be willing to pay for it or pay half the costs as it is used also for a Christmas motif. CC said he has sorted this. GP said that (following the crab fair event), the Town Council will have to pay for their own structural survey of the pole to allow the motif to be erected for Christmas.	

	Following an application to Cumberland Council for a road closure for the Remembrance Sunday Parade, it has been confirmed that Cumberland Council will process this free of charge. The Highways update on the enquiry regarding speed restrictions at Orgill was given to Councillors. This matter was previously raised & discussed in 2023 and an advisory 20mph speed limit has been introduced outside Orgill School. There are flashing signs to advise drivers to reduce their speed to 20mph or below during school arrival and departure times, helping to improve safety for pupils and other pedestrians. Following the recent incident involving a child, Cumberland Council will be discussing the circumstances of the incident with Cumbria Police. An email from Cumberland Council to say that it is changing the way it manages the funding process for the annual Market Hall grant which is distributed from the Sellafield Social Impact Investment Fund, it will now be managed by the Cumberland Community Funding Team.	
080.26.27	**TO CONSIDER & RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT** RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk's report.	
081.26.27	**TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS** RESOLVED to ratify the payments at 9th September 2026 amounting to £35,827.33.	
082.26.27	**TO RECEIVE & APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 9TH SEPTEMBER 2026** RESOLVED to accept, consider & approve the financial statement at 9th September 2026 amounting to £19, 325.22.	
083.26.27	**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN –EW** EW is working on the document and it will be deferred to a later date for discussion.	EW
084.26.27	**TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AT ORGILL FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT – CC** This was discussed under the Cumberland Councillor report & in the update under correspondence	
085.26.27	**TO DISCUSS THE LACK OF PREMISES FOR THE ABC BOXING CLUB** This was discussed under the Cumberland Councillor report & CC then reported that during this meeting, he had received notification that the group has now disbanded due to the lack of suitable premises.	
086.26.27	**TO CONSIDER & MAKE A DECISION WITH REGARDS THE PURCHASE OF 4 X CHRISTMAS TREES FOR THE PARISH AT A COST OF £1,660 + VAT.** It was RESOLVED to accept this quote.	GP
087.26.27	**TO CONSIDER & MAKE A DECISION WITH REGARDS THE PROVISION OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FROM 2027 ONWARDS** The Town Council are in the last year of a 5 year contract period at £15,000 per year, it was RESOLVED that the Town Council should continue to provide Christmas lights & to pledge (in principle until quotes have been obtained), £15,000 per year for a 5 year period. Also RESOLVED that GS will look into obtaining quotes for consideration.	GS

088.26.27	**TO CONSIDER AND MAKE A DECISION REGARDING THE QUOTE FOR WINTER PLANTING OF £1,744.50 +VAT** It was resolved to accept this quote.	GP
089.26.27	**TO ACCEPT THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT** It was RESOLVED to accept the report and to thank the Town Clerk for her hard work in preparation for the audit with no discrepancies found.	
090.26.27	**TO CONSIDER & AGREE A RESPONSE TO THE INTERIM POLLING DISTRICT & POLLING PLACE REVIEW 2026** CW questioned whether the proposed change of district for some voters at Woodend would cause issues, however the general consensus was that the districts were acceptable. EW raised the point that the polling station at the Masonic Hall was not easily accessible to those with disabilities, RESOLVED that this is mentioned in the response.	GP
091.26.27	**TO CONSIDER & MAKE A DECISION ON THE QUOTE FROM GEMINI OF £888.36 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT OFFICE COMPUTER, DELIVERY & INSTALLATION** It was RESOLVED to accept this quote.	GP
092.26.27	**COUNCILLORS MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION**	
093.26.27	**ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA** Next month is the presentation of the Good Citizen's Award, EW submitted her apologies & it was agreed that SP & GS will carry out the presentation.	
094.26.27	**RESOLVED THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** RESOLVED the next Ordinary meeting of Egremont Town Council will be held on Tuesday 20th October 2026 at 5.30pm. The meeting was then brought to a close at 7.15 pm	