

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024 IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL AT 5.30PM**

Present: Mrs Elaine Woodburn (EW) Chairperson  
Mr Michael McVeigh (MM) Vice Chairperson

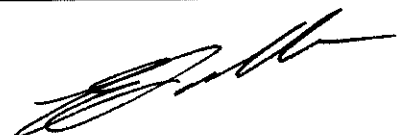
Also: Mr Graham Calvin (GC) Mr Chris Whiteside (CW) who arrived 5.40pm  
Mr Sam Pollen (SP) Mr Gareth Stringer (GS)  
Mrs J Lewthwaite (JL) Mr Patrick McMahon (PM)  
Mr David Wright (DW) who arrived 6.00pm

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

Members of the public:

Mr Robert Tear (RT)  
Mr S Scott (SS) & Mr J Conway (JC)

<b>050.24.25</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> RESOLVED to note that apologies were received & accepted from Cumberland Councillor Graham Minshaw	NC
<b>051.24.25</b>	<b>NEW COUNCILLOR TO SIGN THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE</b> PM signed the document which was witnessed by SP. PM was then invited to the table as a Town Councillor.	
<b>052.24.25</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER &amp; RATIFY (IF ACCEPTED) C WHITESIDE'S BELATED APOLOGIES FOR THE JUNE MEETING</b> RESOLVED to accept C Whiteside's apologies & reason was noted.	
<b>053.24.25</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA</b> EW declared an interest in item 15 - Councillors training as she is a CALC trainer and could be delivering training to Councillors. DW declared an interest in item 8 - Planning Application 4/24/2208/0F1 as he is the Land Agent for the owner. SP declared an interest in item 8 – Planning application 4/24/2208/0F1 as the owner consulted him on the planning application. GS declared an interest in item 8 – Planning application 4/24/2208/0F1 as he has been approached by the owner to carry out work.	
<b>054.24.25</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> The Chairperson introduced Steve English as the new Caretaker of the Market Hall and said that he had been in role for two weeks.  EW introduced Robbie Tear to the meeting and explained that he had expressed an interest in becoming a Town Councillor so he was invited to give a short presentation. RT gave a brief overview of his background and explained his reasons for wanting to become a Town Councillor. EW explained that the Town Council was non-political and as a Council, we aim to work well together for the good of the town. RT said that he had some IT skills & upon being asked, he said that the website could be	



improved. EW said the website is compliant but she would welcome any advice & assistance.

RT was then thanked for attending & was informed that his application will be discussed in private and he will be informed of the Council's decision tomorrow. RT stayed to observe the remainder of the meeting.

In GM's absence, EW read out his submitted report:

There are two proposals for a speed reduction to 40mph on the Moor Row to Galemire road and also to 30mph at Woodend. EW said Councillors are supportive of these, however she wanted it noted that the Town Council would like to be consulted of any future works if in Egremont parish.

EW said that the next Whitehaven and Coastal Community meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> September with public participation starting at 5.30pm

Regarding the Outrigg road, drainage work is nearing completion & the road is now open again, this should hopefully be the end of this long-standing problem.

SP then verbally gave his Cumberland Council report.

SP said he had met with Neil Dixon for a Main Street inspection which covered the bottom of the Main Street trees, weeding which had been started but not completed, the former Red Lion site then up to the Brisco Mount play area with regards overgrown hedges.

They also looked at the allotments in front of Brisco Mount and discussed those that aren't used & a possible opportunity for community gardens, next was onto The Pastures and the un-adopted road by the Skate park.

The Falcon Path was discussed and Cumberland Council to report if they have complete ownership. More bins have already been provided along with more signage and frequent inspections are to follow.

SP looked at the estates at Woodbank and ownership of the thoroughfares. SP also highlighted dilapidated buildings including the former Castle Mount care home where vandalism has taken place.

SP reported that himself & MM had attended the site visit at Uldale View and that the planning meeting is tomorrow.

SP has a Home Group inspection on Thursday where he will be raising many issues.

SP reported that a tour of Egremont to look at regeneration plans will take place shortly with representatives from LLWR & Sellafield along with the Chief Executive of Cumberland Council.

Operation Respect is a community event at Beck Green on 31<sup>st</sup> July & all Councillors are welcome.

South Cumberland Panel will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

SP met with Matthew Reeves, lead officer on the Highways team, about the desired 20mph speed limit outside schools and the loss of school crossing patrols. He will send a report to look at all effective options, depending on funding.

EW asked if the proposed 20mph speed limit would be in operation during school times only, SP said it would be during school times as it would prompt drivers to comply.

On behalf of the Chairperson who was away, SP & MM (along with our new MP Josh McAllister) attended the Original Factory Shop to commemorate their 50-year anniversary.

CW asked for a more detailed report at the next meeting or to ask Matthew Reeves to attend a separate meeting to discuss in more detail how the 20mph policy will operate, this was RESOLVED.

ALL

	<p>EW asked if SP knew of any plans for the Age UK building, SP replied that there had been talk of local clubs wanting to use the space but he would find out &amp; report back.</p> <p>EW then invited member of the public SS to speak. SS said that he had received a copy of the GEO Environmental Engineering report &amp; stated that he had thought drainage would be included but it wasn't. EW said the original survey was to see if land in the cemetery would be suitable for future burial ground but that Councillors still had to study the report in more detail to see what the next step is.</p> <p>A heated discussion took place where the Chair had to request the two members of public to act in a respectful manner towards Councillors. There was some dispute about who said what at a previous site visit at the cemetery &amp; SS requested that the discussion is put on hold until DW was in attendance, this was RESOLVED.</p> <p><b>055.24.25 CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS</b></p> <p>EW said the interviews for the Caretaker role had gone well and there were a couple of strong candidates. Mr Steve English was the successful candidate and he had been able to shadow S Bell for a week.</p> <p>EW asked PM to speak to GP at a later date to discuss the sub-committees of Egremont Town Council with regards which ones he would like to join.</p> <p>EW said that Councillors needed to look at the engineering report but would discuss further when DW arrived. MM felt that the cost of the GEO Environmental Engineering report had been expensive (GP confirmed it was £1,668).</p> <p>EW asked for Councillors to submit their nominations for the Margaret Woodburn Good Citizen's Group and Individual Award.</p> <p>EW announced the official re-opening of Egremont Youth Partnership will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July following the improvements used from grant funding, SP and MM volunteered to go.</p> <p>EW thanked SP and MM for attending the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Factory shop on her behalf.</p> <p>EW said Growing Well is up and running and the official opening will be in October.</p> <p>EW asked GP to write to Cumbria Police to report children sliding down the banks of Egremont Castle which is a risk to themselves but is also causing damage to the castle area and to plants. PM confirmed that he had witnessed this himself.</p> <p>EW also spoke about vandalism and graffiti on benches in the castle.</p> <p>SP asked for the local PCSO to be invited to the Town Council meeting in September or October.</p> <p>PM said that Friends of Egremont Castle were going to ask a local school to participate in planting which would hopefully deter the anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>As DW arrived, the meeting was taken back to Public Consultation.</p> <p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONTINUED</b></p> <p>EW went back to public participation as DW had arrived.</p> <p>SS reported that the study contained little about the drainage issue, DW explained that the study was carried out to look at two areas of land to try and work out what is underground to find out any potential issues which there appears to be but no decision has yet been made. SS said that the land could be dug out and used as a soakaway &amp; if covered up, could still be used for burials, he said that he had the initial issue he had raised was the flooding and not extra burial space and he thought that the drainage was taking a back seat. DW said the report was a first step and now the Council has to explore all options.</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>PM</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>SP.MM</p> <p>GP</p>
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SS was informed that potential future burial land was always something that the Town Council needed to look into & the report was not commissioned on the back of his complaint. SS was also reminded that no decision had yet been taken and wouldn't be until studied in much more detail and all factors had been taken into consideration.

SS asked that if there was a meeting, could he attend, EW confirmed that the public can attend any public meeting of the Town Council.

**056.24.25 TO CONSIDER, APPROVE & SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING:**

GP reported that following an email from GS & JL to say their apologies were not on the July minutes, the minutes were corrected to show their apologies so including these amendments:

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Egremont Town Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

**057.24.25 TO CONSIDER & REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS**


4/23/2418/0F1 Town and Country Planning Act 1990  
Appeal by Mr Wayne Dunn  
Site at land adjoining Lakeland View, Chaucer Avenue,  
Egremont  
Planning Inspectorate Reference: APP/Z0923/W/24/3343278

For Councillors' information, Egremont Town Council's previous comments to the initial application was:

4/23/2184/0F1 - Detached single storey three-bedroom dwelling and new access to Highway. Land adjoining Lakeland View, Chaucer Avenue, Egremont  
Councillors object - they consider this dwelling to be an over development of the site and the design and materials are not in keeping with neighbouring properties

Also for Councillors' information, Cumberland Council refused this application for the following reasons:

1. The proposed development, due to its scale and siting within a constrained site, would exert an overbearing and dominant effect on and would result in loss of amenity and oppressive living conditions for the existing and future occupiers of adjacent residential properties. The overall design of the proposed development would also be out of keeping with the character of the adjacent residential properties and would be considered to be overdevelopment of the site resulting in harm to the character and appearance of the surrounding area. As consequence, the proposal would be considered to be contrary to Policies ST1, DM10 and DM12 of the Copeland Local Plan, Policy DS6PU of the Emerging Local Plan and the provisions of the NPPF.
2. The submitted application has not adequately demonstrated that that proposed development would not have a detrimental impact on the flood risk within the site or the surrounding area, due to the supporting Flood Risk and Drainage Assessment being outdated and produced for an adjacent development. As a consequence, the proposal is considered to be contrary to Policies ST1, ENV1 and DM24 of the Copeland Local Plan, Policies DS8PU and DS9PU of the Emerging Local Plan and the provisions of the NPPF.



Councillors have no further comments; however, they reiterate their initial comments.

4/24/2216/0F1

Alterations and first floor extension  
Crosswater Mill, Cross Side, Egremont  
No objections

4/24/2202/0F1

Consultation on Amended Description:  
Planning Application Reference: 4/24/2202/0F1  
Change of use from ground floor retail and first floor residential (class E & C3) to form a short term let/holiday cottage (class C3) and external alterations involving the replacement of existing windows and doors, the installation of roof lights and the widening of an existing door opening on the rear elevation and the demolition of a chimney.  
70A Main Street Egremont  
No objections

4/24/2208/0F1

Consultation on Amended Description:  
Planning Application Reference: 4/24/2208/0F1  
Material change of use of garage and workshop to form conference/community facility and the demolition and replacement of an existing single storey extension and minor external alterations to the rear elevation to enlarge a window and door opening.  
Former Brick House Bakery to rear of 27 Market Place, Egremont  
Councillors would like to defer comments as they request a definition of the term "conference/community facility" and what the intended use will be as there is concern as to what events the building may be used for. They also ask that the deadline for comments be extended so that when the explanation of the facility is received, comments can then be made upon that.

**058.24.25 TO CONSIDER ANY REPORTS INCLUDING FINANCE, PERSONNEL WEBSITE, BOWLING GREEN, ALLOTMENT, CEMETERY, MARKET HALL, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, EG CASTLE, PUBLIC REALM & BORDERLANDS, LENGTHSMAN SCHEME**

Personnel

There is a Personnel meeting due to be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 10.00am

Bowling Green

EW & GP had a meeting with the Secretary and Treasurer of Egremont Bowling Club. The Club had been asked to consider reimbursing the Town Council towards the electric bill, however this is on hold until all bills from the previous energy company are finalised.

The Club received notification from Wigton Bowling Club that they had installed an aircom aerial from Netmore and Egremont Club asked if they could install the same on the pavilion. This would mean leasing out the leasing out roof space which could potentially earn the Club £350 per year against the cost of £20 a year to run.

	<p>DW suggested it might require planning permission, this was RESOLVED &amp; in the meantime, DW will investigate the company &amp; report back.</p> <p><u>Allotments</u>  GC said he and GS had carried out an allotment inspection at East Road. The large Tree (reported by a tenant as needing removed), only needs cut back, RESOLVED a qualified contractor is asked for a quote and the tenant is advised to move her crops away from the shade of the tree.  With regards overgrown plots &amp; garage fronts, a list was given &amp; letters have been sent out requesting that work is carried out to make improvements.</p> <p><u>Cemetery</u>  EW and GC met at the cemetery house. GC checked the walls with a damp meter and found nothing significant to deter a tenant from moving in. Remedial work has been carried out &amp; Perspex has been installed to the banister spindles &amp; the new tenant will be moving in on 5<sup>th</sup> August. It was further RESOLVED that as the house has been empty for some time, if the tenant needs to heat the house for a couple of months, the Town Council will cover the cost.</p> <p><u>Egremont Castle</u>  GP reported that the Lengthsman had been approached by some members of the Friends of Egremont Castle Group as he had removed some saplings, however they were to be removed anyway. The group will now report any issues to Keith Nichol who will liaise with the Town Council. The Red Wyverns medieval event is to take place on 17<sup>th</sup> August.</p> <p><u>Public Realm/Borderlands</u>  SP had a meeting and consultants are going to report back about future developments.</p>	<p>GP DW</p> <p>NC</p>
059.24.25	<p><b>CONSIDER &amp; REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE</b>  The agreement for street furniture has been signed however it has been agreed that the new planters will not be adopted until the marestail is eradicated.  Churches Fire identified that all heat detectors are out of date. It was RESOLVED that they are replaced at a cost of £494.89 + vat.  DW mentioned Aldi and getting an update from the Planning Department as Councillors are being asked by the public. SP had an email from Nick Hayhurst to say that there were outstanding issues raised by consultees that need to be tied up and they are waiting to hear from the applicant, therefore the application is not yet ready to go to planning. CW said it would do no harm to do a follow up email to planning.</p>	GP
060.24.25	<p><b>TO CONSIDER &amp; RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT</b>  RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk's report.</p>	
061.24.25	<p><b>TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS</b>  RESOLVED to ratify the payments at 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 amounting to £10,804.05.</p>	
062.24.25	<p><b>TO RECEIVE &amp; APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024</b>  RESOLVED to accept, consider &amp; approve the financial statement at 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 amounting to £22,116.78.</p>	



063.24.25	<p><b>TO CONSIDER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL COUNCILLORS</b>  EW left the meeting at this point as she is the trainer. CALC is offering Effective Councillor training at £120 per person or £150 for each module (two in total) for a group of people, therefore £300. All Councillors agreed it would be useful for our two new Councillors but also good for all Councillors &amp; office staff as a reminder and for updates. Any spare places could be offered to other councils &amp; costs could be shared. RESOLVED that the training is booked on a date suitable for all (or the maximum).</p>	NC
064.24.25	<p><b>TO CONSIDER FUNDING FROM THE CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY PANEL – SP</b>  SP encouraged the Town Council to apply for funding from this panel, GP reported that she would submit the cost of the Market Hall roof replacement for consideration. EW said that the process of applying for funding makes it much more difficult to obtain funding than it used to be, SP agreed that funds should be more accessible and he will raise the matter at the next Community Panel meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> August.</p>	GP SP
065.24.25	<p><b>TO CONSIDER THE SOLAR PV PROPOSAL – DW</b>  DW has been looking into the opportunity to invest in solar panels for the Market Hall. There are various options with an initial outlay &amp; the prospect of recouping energy costs as well as bringing down the carbon footprint. Councillors questioned how the panels and the roof would be maintained. EW said it was a matter of affordability and feasibility and a small group of Councillors should look at the options. It was therefore RESOLVED that PM would look at grants available and along with CW, DW and GS, would discuss in more details &amp; report back.</p>	PM.GS CW DW
066.24.25	<p><b>COUNCILLORS’ MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION</b>  GC said that the building of Nigel Kay homes has started in Moor Row</p>	
067.24.25	<p><b>ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA</b>  No items were brought up at the meeting</p> <p>The Chairperson then moved to matters to be discussed in private</p> <p>The meeting was brought to a close at 7.45pm</p>	

