

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT
THE LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE, ON WENESDAY, 11 OCTOBER,
2017 at 7pm.**

Present: Councillors Geoffrey Buswell (Chairman), Marie Batty, Dougie Boyd, Mike Burchnall, Nick Cotton, Mike Marczynski, Allan Muirhead and David Storey

Apologies for absence: Councillor Mel Mackie, Clerk Kevin Price and District Councillor Kevin Lancaster.

Also in attendance: Four members of the public and two representatives of the Lunesdale Show Committee.

17/166 Clerk for the meeting

In the absence of the Clerk (who could not attend due to bad weather and road closures) it was agreed that Mike Burchnall take the minutes.

17/167 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September, 2017 were agreed and it was further agreed that they be signed at the next meeting.

17/168 Public Participation

A resident of the Town pointed out that after a complaint about the condition of a post box in Fairbank and the cleaning of that box by the resident, it had now been repainted. The Chairman informed the meeting that this was part of a national programme by the Post Office and that other post boxes in the Town had been painted.

17/169 Requests for Dispensations

None

17/170 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Buswell declared an interest in any matters relating to the allotments and Councillor Muirhead declared an interest in any matters relating to the CIC .

17/171 Lunesdale Show

David Barton (Chair) and Bert Metcalf (former Chairman and President) of the Lunesdale Show Committee (and of the Lunesdale Agricultural Society) addressed the meeting following the cancellation of the Lunesdale Show. They made the following points:

- The Show this year would have been the 178th and it was with great regret that the Committee had agreed to cancel it. The Show had now been

suspended indefinitely. The cancellation of this years show had cost the Committee £14,000.

- The Kirkby Lonsdale Rugby Club had not asked them to cancel it, but after the events of 2005 (when the show had taken place in bad weather and rugby had not been possible afterwards from November to March) the Committee had no other option other than to cancel it this year.
- The cancellation of this year's show and then the decision to have no further shows arose from two key points. The Rugby Club was no longer a suitable location for the event and a new site of 40 acres was required, with one of the requirements being that no livestock could be on the land for 28 days prior to the event. The second key requirement was to have 15/20 people who could give up to 4/5 days of unpaid time to help set up and run the show.
- For 3/4 years the Committee had been debating the future of the show and its cancellation/suspension was probably inevitable given the reduction in numbers of people willing to give practical support to its running.
- The Committee had also felt a lack of support from the Town, institutions in the Town and shopkeepers.
- Whilst the show had been suspended indefinitely the Lunesdale Agricultural Society who had run it would remain in existence for sometime, pending decisions to 'wind up' the Society.

Various Councillors asked questions of the two representatives:

Councillor Buswell asked if it could be run on a less frequent basis. Yes, it could be but only if the key issues of siting and manpower could be resolved.

Councillors Muirhead and Storey raised possible alternative sites. The former point to point site in Whittington had been offered to the Committee but a rental figure had been requested (whereas the Rugby Club site had been provided free by the Underley Estate) and there were issues of having to keep the site free of livestock. Similar problems would arise with the fields adjacent to the cricket/football pitches adjacent to the Lune.

Councillors raised the possibilities of the Society merging with other Societies or Young Farmers Groups, but these opportunities had been explored; and whether sponsorship could help – the Show was already sponsored to a degree but this did not resolve the key issues of a site and manpower.

In relation to an alternative site the Society's representatives felt that either part of Underley Park or the Strawberry Fields site would be a possibility if the Estate were willing to agree to this. However the running of the Show was still an unresolved and crucial issue.

The Town Council debated a number of options and resolved that:

The Clerk to write in the name of the Town Council to Philip Pease, Underley Estates and ask whether the Estate would be willing to offer the Lunesdale Show

Committee an alternative site for the Lunesdale Show if it could be demonstrated that there were sufficient volunteers available to run the Show and if the Society were willing and able to stage the Show again.

17/172 Police Report

This had been circulated to Councillors and was read out for the benefit of the public present.

17/173 Contracts and Grants Sub Group

Agreed that the Chairman and Councillor Muirhead talk to Hortons Landscaping about a price to remove the large shrubs and trees on Kendal Road either side of the entrance to Abbotsgate, with the current planting being replaced by low level shrubs etc. If the price is reasonable the work to be commissioned.

Agreed that the Clerk write to the owner of the building plot on the A65 adjacent to Queen Elizabeth Court asking that as building works proceed the footpath is kept clear and in good condition, so as not to hinder pedestrians. The letter to be copied to Cumbria County Council (CCC) Highways Division with a request that they monitor the condition of the footpath.

17/174 Church Brow Sub Group

Councillor Batty reported that the July 2016 Study had been reviewed and from information provided by the former Chairman, only informal contact had been made with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). As remedial works would be in the order of £300,000, applications to the HLF had to be made by particular dates, the next window being up to 28 February, 2018, for a decision by June, 2018. In formulating a bid she and Councillor Cotton considered it vital to involve the Yorkshire Dales Authority (YDA), CCC and South Lakeland District Council (SLDC), together with local groups, churches and schools. This view was endorsed by the Chairman who said that Church Brow and Ruskin's View was key to the attraction of Kirkby Lonsdale.

Agreed that Councillor Cotton lead on this, supported by Councillor Batty, and that an HLF bid be prepared for submission by 28 February 2018. Councillor Batty to circulate a copy of the July 2016 Study electronically to all Councillors for information.

17/175 Planning Sub Group

Two application were considered by the Council:

S/09/1B/LB Underley Hall – Remove mineral felt dining room roof and replace with poly roof 185 system and to install lead side capping to pediments 2 and 3.
Approval recommended

S/09/7 Nursery Hill Buildings, Kearstwick – Conversion of barn into two en-suite letting bedrooms with associated parking and amenity space on site, together with a meeting room, estate office, kitchen and laundry.
Approval recommended.

The Council noted decisions on nine applications previously considered by the Council.

17/176 Updates

None given.

17/177 Improved bus services

Agreed to support the Lune Bus Action Group, receive minutes and agendas of their meetings and attend any meetings that looked of relevance. The Clerk to advise the Group accordingly.

17/178 Recycling bins

Agreed that there had been total lack of communication with the community over the issue of locking the lids of the cardboard collection bins. Agreed that Councillor Cotton would raise with SLDC and also raise the issue of whether the bins could be moved to a less prominent location as they currently impacted adversely on the Play Park, possibly the car park to the rear of Booths.

17/179 County and District Councillor's reports

Councillor Cotton reported that he had asked SLDC for a price for replacing the 6 remaining sodium lantern lights in the Town. He also agreed to pursue the repair of the lantern on Fountain House.

The wooden bin store that had been placed in front of a property in Mitchelgate is to be removed.

Blocked drains had been cleared during the days heavy rain.

17/180 The Brow/Ruskin's View

The Chairman thanked the YDA for the cutting down of saplings and painting the railings at Ruskin's View. However, in view of the importance of this site to the Town he proposed that the Council take this area into its planned maintenance programme, reducing the saplings etc as necessary and carrying out repairs/replacement of the railings.

Agreed that this area be put in the planned maintenance programme, a proposal for the areas improvement be developed and Councillor Cotton agreed to check with the YDA that they were happy with this proposal.

17/181 Auction Mart Yard

It was explained that the delay in taking this matter forward was because the former Chairman had the letters submitted by local residents supporting the route as a right of way. Without these letters, which provided the evidence, no approach could be made to CCC to have the route formally recognised and the obstruction removed. If the letters could not be obtained then the process would have to start again.

Agreed that if the former Chairman's promise to return the documents by 13 October had not been honoured the Clerk be instructed to instigate legal action for their return. The matter to be further considered at the next meeting.

17/182 Finance

- (a) It was agreed to pay any outstanding amounts.
- (b) The cash and budget statements were noted.
- (c) It was agreed that the £100 donated by a local resident be used to renovate and repair the bench to be relocated adjacent to the Community Shop.
- (d) It was agreed, at the request of Councillor Muirhead, that the Council join ACT at an annual cost of £75. Councillor Muirhead to complete the application.

17/183 SLDC Economic Study

Councillors Burchnall and Cotton reported on the very positive meeting that had been held with SLDC and CCC officers, together with Councillor Graham Vincent, the Economy and Assets Portfolio Holder.

Support had been given to funding a Lunsdale Hall Feasibility Study, developing a Community Led Plan, resisting linear development of the Town and in recognising the value of the different groups which contributed to the success and development of Kirkby Lonsdale. Particular mention was made of the contribution made by the Community Interest Company (CIC). It was agreed that there was a need for better communication and co-ordination of the various groups in the Town and a need to focus more clearly on a range of agreed objectives.

Agreed that the Note of Meeting when received from SLDC be circulated to all Councillors.

17/184 Correspondence

The Chairman reported one letter he had received and responded to re a proposed outdoor sleepover in the Town.

17/185 Forthcoming events

The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the Lunsdale Hall Committee was on 24 October.

17/186 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 8 November, 2017 at the Bective Room, Lunsdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10.

Signed

Dated