

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM  
LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE  
ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024 AT 7PM**

**Present:** Councillors Paul Cassell (Chairman), Nigel Martin, Malcolm Perrin, Robin Ree and Stuart Taylor. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Mike Marczyński.

Also in attendance: Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hazel Hodgson, five members of the public and Town Clerk Kevin Price.

**24/97 Public participation:**

- a. Two residents expressed thanks to the Technical Team for their hard work over recent months, leading to a partial re-opening of The Brow.
- b. The Council was asked for a report on the recent meeting with The Friends of Ruskin's View. The Chairman said that all of the Council's concerns had been listed and addressed but the proposed Memorandum of Understanding had not been seen and was not believed to be necessary. The Council still has some concerns about the ongoing relationship between The Friends and the Council. A resident suggested that The Friends should update the Council on their activities, at least once every six months.

**24/98 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**24/99 Requests for Dispensations:** None.

**24/100 Declarations of Interest:**

There were no Declarations of Interest made in respect of any matters on the agenda.

**24/101 Updates:**

- a. A proposal to withdraw minute 24/82d in the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 as discussed at the start of the 28<sup>th</sup> August meeting and was agreed.
- b. The meeting between the CIC and Town Council representatives (minute 24/85c refers) has yet to take place, as soon as a date can be agreed.
- c. Emergency Resilience Plan (minute 24/85b refers). Councillor Perrin had produced a draft plan and this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

- d. Disabled access in the town (minute 24/85b refers). Westmorland & Furness Council are looking into the town's lack of disabled access and Councillor Hodgson said this should be awaited.
- e. Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and The Friends of Ruskin's View (minute 24/94d refers). This had been formulated without the Council's knowledge or input and there appears to have been three different versions of it. Once a definitive document is produced, the Council will consider signing it.
- f. Publicity (minute 24/95 b refers) – Councillor Ree said there was simply not enough space on the Council's notice boards for all the documents that could be displayed. As the new website is due to go 'live' shortly, it is hoped that contact details for all the various groups mentioned will be displayed there..

### **24/102 Ruskin's View/The Brow:**

This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during September 2024 in an effort to re-open The Brow footpath using a cost-effective approach that is low risk and safe for Public access.

Part of The Brow footpath was successfully opened to the Public on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024. known as Ruskins View; the footpath from the top of Radical Steps along to the first seated viewing area is now open for all to enjoy the fine view.

New steel fence posts have been installed just past the viewpoint and the existing steel gates relocated to the new posts. All temporary Heras fencing is now removed from site. Both sets of gates remain locked because the footpath is closed to unauthorised persons until further notice.

### **Incidents / Adverse events to date:**

1. Last month it was reported that a serious injury occurred in July 2024 when a man attempted to bypass the locked gates and climbed / jumped over the spiked iron railings impaling both legs on the spikes. It is believed the man was visiting Kirkby Lonsdale and camping at the Rugby Club when the injury occurred. KLTC is not in contact with the man, nor is he in contact with the Town Council, but it is hoped he has a speedy recovery. However, The Brow footpath is CLOSED to unauthorised persons and KLTC takes no responsibility for any accident or injury to anyone attempting to bypass the locked gates.
2. Before the main gates were relocated at Ruskins View, two temporary Heras fence panels were in place to prevent unauthorised access along the closed footpath. The fencing was vandalised, lifted and damaged beyond repair and cannot be returned to the hire company.
3. Also, signage and a lock and chain have been broken and removed from the new gates. Estimated costs to replace / renew all damaged items is in the region of £500 – to be taken from funds raised to save Ruskins View.

### **Stage 1a. – Tree Management and Vegetation Clearance:**

Local tree surgeon Fred Gibson has successfully completed work on cutting back dead ash trees and vigorous ivy growth strangling trees.

### **Stage 1b – Survey Monitoring of The Brow:**

Nine months of survey monitoring is now complete with all results recorded. The data shows no movement on the footpath or stone boundary wall near the Norman Motte. Cracks in the footpath show nominal movement of up to 1mm which is acceptable within survey tolerances and in particular flexible tarmac paving.

It is agreed with Dentonside Consultants that monthly survey monitoring will continue for a further six months, up to and including December 2024. Costs will remain at the same rate as before.

### **Stage 2. – Geotechnical Investigation over the natural slope:**

Ground Investigation along the footpath is planned over the next few months. Dentonside will assist by writing the scope of work and three prices will be obtained from selected Contractors. Scoping will commence OCT24.

Items for consideration include:

- Define the scope of works for detailed Ground Investigation;
- Soil sampling, depth of strata and classification of soils;
- Costs for GI and analysis;
- Options and Appraisal for repair work

### **Stage 3. - Erosion at river level:**

Monitoring is required along the bottom of the slope at river level. The loose boulder / stone / gravel embankment is vulnerable to stormy weather when rainfall is high and the river flowing fast causing serious erosion problems. A number of small trees and heavy vegetation needs to be cleared this winter. Local surveys and scoping the works will be carried out free of charge by the Technical Team.

A 'river gauge board' is to be installed at the foot of the Radical Steps to monitor the depth of the River Lune during storms so the extent of erosion can be reviewed following severe weather. Costs are around £300.

The Technical Team are in talks with local quarry Contractors TK Robinson who recently completed a riverbank strengthening project at Underley bridge. A new concept design is being developed to install a 4m high wall of rock, backed with concrete along the foot of The Brow to eliminate river erosion. Feasibility and costs are being discussed and the Environment Agency kept informed.

## 24/103 Planning sub-group:

### a. The following applications were considered:

2024/1477/FPA St Mary's Church, Church Street. Re-render the church tower complete with lime-based render, excluding the first stage/ground floor of the tower (west elevation with Norman west doorway) and excluding crenellated parapet (added 1866). Approval recommended.

2024/1710/FPA 5 Horse Market. Single and double storey extensions together with internal and external alterations. Approval recommended.

### b. The following decisions, notified to the Council, were noted:

2024/1329/FPA Crossdale, High Biggins. Conversion of a traditional detached domestic storage building to form a dwelling. Refused.

## 24/104 Reports:

Councillor Hodsgon had assisted the Council various discussions at this meeting, especially with regard to disabled access in the town. She said that Westmorland & Furness Council is also working with St Mary's School on various issues.

## 24/105 Finance:

### a. The following payments were approved:

Craig Bradshaw	£2,779.92	Maintenance contract - August
Craig Bradshaw	£1,800.00	Maintenance contract - September
Malcolm Hughes	£1,194.00	Monitoring survey
Lunesdale Hall	£27.50	Hire of hall
Lakes Line Rail User Group	£13.00	Annual subscription
Julie Wright	£300.00	Interim Internal Audit
T Flitcroft	£90.00	Payroll administration – annual payment
KL & LV CIC	£6000.00	Second half of grant (already paid)
KL & LV CIC	£3000.00	Grant for Christmas events (paid)
Refund of grant	£1000.00	Grant made for The Brow but not used (already paid)
Community Cupboard	£6000.00	Second half of grant
P J S Pease Business Account	£375.00	Allotment rent (half year)
K M Price	£239.79	Quarterly expenses to 30th September, including use of home office and travel.

### b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

## 24/106 Correspondence: None.

**24/107 Date of the next meeting:**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7pm at the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall,  
Kirkby Lonsdale.**

*The meeting closed at 8.10pm.*

*Signed:*

*Dated:*