

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM
LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE
ON WEDNESDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7PM**

Tim Pitt (Lune Rivers Trust) gave a brief update on the Devil's Bridge Water Quality Monitoring.

Representatives of the CIC gave an update of their recent activities and current position, including finance.

The CIC is now registered for VAT, there are three new films available in 'The Vault' and a new shop manager starts work in January. Rising costs are a constant challenge and negotiations are in hand with Westmorland & Furness Council as to what (if level) the level of funding might be for 2025-26.

Present: Councillors Paul Cassell (Chairman), Mike Marczynski, Nigel Martin, Malcolm Perrin, Robin Ree and Stuart Taylor.

Also in attendance: 14 members of the public and Town Clerk Kevin Price. Roger Taylor (member of the public) had sent apologies for absence.

24/108 Public participation:

- a. Questions were asked regarding The Brow and the possible re-opening in the near future. The Chairman and Councillor Perrin answered any concerns that the public may have.
- b. The new Kirkby Lonsdale website has now gone 'live' and it includes the CIC, the Chamber of Trade and the Town Council (www.kirkbylonsdale.co.uk)

24/109 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 9th October 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman. However, later in the meeting, it was agreed that minute 24/101e was incorrect and that it should be withdrawn; this was due to an error in the draft checking of the minutes). The withdrawal of this minute was agreed.

24/110 Requests for Dispensations: None.

24/111 Declarations of Interest:

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

24/112 Updates:

- a. A meeting had been held between representatives of the Council and the CIC and this had been a useful exchange of information and discussing the financial concerns of the CIC in view of decreasing funding from the Local Authority over the past few years.
- b. At a meeting between the Town Council and the Friends of Ruskin's View, it was agreed that there was no need for an Memorandum of Understanding and this was reiterated at the last Town Council meeting.

24/113 Ruskin's View/The Brow:

This is a summary of activities carried out by Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council Technical Team during October 2024 in an effort to re-open The Brow footpath using a cost-effective approach that is low risk and safe for public access. This summary is presented to the Chairman of Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council for monthly Council meeting on 13th November 2024.

Incidents / Adverse events to date:

- a. No health or safety incidents have occurred this month.
- b. High river levels followed heavy rainfall earlier this month. A visual inspection of the complete footpath was carried out but no damage or movement was noted. The monthly monitoring survey also did not note any movement in the footpath.

Stage 1a. – Tree Management and Vegetation Clearance:

No Contractors on site this month.

Plans are being arranged to clear the complete slope of small saplings and bushes (but not mature trees) in preparation for monitoring the slope in detail for any movement. Costs are being requested from three Contractors and the Technical Team are in touch with YDNPA regarding TPOs.

Stage 1b – Survey Monitoring of The Brow:

Ten 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 3mm which is acceptable within survey tolerances and in particular flexible tarmac paving.

It is agreed with Dentonside Consultants and Malcolm Hughes Surveying Ltd that monthly survey monitoring will continue 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 in October 2024.

Items for consideration include:-

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

Stage 3. - Erosion at river level:

Members of the Technical Team carried out a photographic survey along the riverbank from an inflatable dingy in the river Lune. Photographs will be used to identify vulnerable areas where further monitoring is required. In particular, there are two areas with shear slopes of unstable substrate... loose boulders and gravel.

Existing gabion baskets, stone walls and damaged drainage pipes were noted. Photographs will also help to identify mature trees when applying to YDNPA for approval to remove vegetation from the slope. The slope is protected with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

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 we can review the extent of erosion following severe weather. Costs are around £300.

Commercial:

Malcolm Perrin and two members of the Friends of Ruskin's View (Peter Anstiss and Michael Burchnall) met on site on 6th November 2024, with Mike Appleton from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT). Last year, YDMT pledged £30k to help 'Save Ruskin's View'. Mike Appleton acknowledges the hard work and expense to date in re-opening 'part' of The Brow and very kindly confirmed that the £30k pledge will be honoured immediately to pay for costs incurred during 2024, ie... monitoring, arboriculture survey, vegetation clearance, drainage survey, new gate posts and installation.

Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council and its Technical Team are very grateful for this very generous gift from Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

As an additional contribution, YDMT have offered their Volunteers to assist with any site work along The Brow footpath and the Radical Steps. This could include clearing debris, cleaning footpaths, jet washing stonework and painting handrails. KLTC acknowledge their generosity and will be in touch in the new year when weather is more suitable for outdoor work.

KLTC Technical Team will make a formal request to The Friends for £90k from their fundraising account. This includes the £30k from YDMT for costs incurred during 2024. The additional £60k will be used for 2025, ie... ground investigation, detailed monitoring of the slope, surveying the riverbed for future erosion protection scheme and consultancy fees.

24/114 Emergency/Resilience Plan:

This was deferred until the next meeting, when it is hoped a draft Plan will be ready to be considered.

24/115 The Ram:

There was not a lot to report. A response is awaited to the concerns discussed last month, namely the requirements for there to be no lighting and for regular inspections by engineers.

24/116 Planning – the following applications were considered:

2024/1835/LBC 1 Market Street. Listed Building Consent for the internal alterations to include, reordering of internal space to create three holiday let units and small cottage holiday let & the installation of a solar array to rear roof plane of the house. (Part Retrospective). No objections.

2024/1959/FPA 7 Fairgarth Drive. Two front dormer windows (Resubmission of 2024/0926/FPA). No objections.

2024/1927/FPA 1 Market Street . Change of use from Bed & Breakfast (Use Class C1) with internal alterations to include, reordering of internal space to create three holiday let units and small cottage holiday let (Use Class C3) & the installation of a solar array to rear roof plane of the house. (Part Retrospective). No objections.

24/117 Reports: None.

24/118 Finance:

a. *It was resolved to pay the following accounts:*

Mr J G Thompson

Storage facility (to 31st December 2024) £350.00

Westmorland & Furness Council

Litter bin emptying £16,911.18

Malcolm Hughes £1,194.00 Monitoring survey

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Lunesdale Hall £27.50 Hire of Hall

Fawcett Percolation Services Ltd

£972.00 Drainage investigation

Gibson and Sons £2,034.00 Tree work on The Brow

RBL Remembrance wreath	£50.00	Wreath including donation
Design Works	£5,457.60	50% of new website (CIC to refund 50% = £2,274 exc VAT)
Craig Bradshaw	£2,819.28	Maintenance contract

- b. The monthly cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. Risk Assessment:- it was agreed that alternative Risk Assessment that are available online, by Councillors, should be examined before a decision is made
- d. The nationally agreed Pay Award for 2025-26 was noted and adopted. This equates to around a 3.9% increase in Clerk's salaries. The Clerk at Kirkby Lonsdale is currently employed for 17 hours per week on Salary Point 22. It was pointed out that, due to the change in government, there would be an increase of approximately £700 in Employer's National Insurance contributions.

24/119 Correspondence:

A letter had been received from a resident regarding parking at Booths Supermarket. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

24/120 Agenda items for the next meeting:

- a. Calendar of meetings for 2025
- b. Risk Assessment

Any other items may be sent to the Clerk no later than 14 days prior to the meeting.

24/120 Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 7pm at the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.

(There will be a short meeting of Town Councillors at 6.30pm in order to informally plan for the Precept Meeting in January)

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed:

Dated: