

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM
LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE
ON WEDNESDAY 8th JANUARY 2025 AT 7PM**

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

Also in attendance: Ten members of the public and Town Clerk Kevin Price.

25/1 Allan Muirhead:

The Council and members of the public wish to place on record their congratulations to Allan Muirhead, former Chairman of Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council and current Chairman of Kirkby Lonsdale & Lune Valley Community Interest Company, on his receiving the honour of BEM in the King's New Year's Honours List.

25/2 Public participation:

- a. Traffic on Mitchelgate. Various solutions have been suggested and this is an agenda item later in this meeting.
- b. The Chairman was thanked for his leadership in the difficult days following the tragic fire in the town in December.
- c. The importance of the Lunesdale Hall to the community was emphasised, in view of the application on this agenda for additional funding.
- d. Although the improvements made by Westmorland & Furness Council on Hophouse Lane are appreciated, the road has clearly deteriorated. It was agreed to ask W&F Council to explore longer term solutions.
- e. Funding for The Brow. A grant from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust for £30,000 has been agreed but the Council, via the Technical group, needs to respond with the full details.

25/3 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 11th December 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

25/4 Requests for Dispensations: None.

25/5 Declarations of Interest:

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

25/6 Updates:

Andrew Vickers of Westmorland & Furness Council is arranging a meeting with Councillors Marczynski and Martin to hold a site meeting in order to assess the Council's requirements for litter bin emptying, in view of the greatly increased invoice received.

25/7 Ruskin's View/The Brow:

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

Please note... The planned agenda at the Town Council meeting of 11th December 2024 was suspended because of the recent fire incident in Kirkby Lonsdale on 8th December 2024. No update for progress on The Brow was delivered during that meeting. This report includes activities progressed during November and December 2024.

The Technical Team report that a plan is in place to re-open The Brow footpath by Easter 2025. The plan includes

installing a number of boreholes in the slope and footpath and inserting 'inclinometers' and 'piezometers' in the ground to monitor any tiny movement deep in the slope. This 'manage & monitor' scheme will provide almost 'live' data to act as an early warning of ground movement. Surface monitoring to date shows no significant movement along the footpath.

Incidents / Adverse events to date:

- a. No Health, Safety or Environmental incidents were reported during November and December 2024.
- b. High river levels followed heavy rainfall during this period. 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:

- a. No Contractors on site this month.
- b. Charlesworth Tree Care successfully bid for work 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. For costs see Commercial item in this report. YDNPA have agreed to the work following a site visit and full application for TPO.
- c. Concern remains in the stability of the motte retaining wall. We suggest removing the tree growth that is nearest to the wall. This was in Dentonside Geotechnicals original report forwarded to St Mary's on 13th August 2024. We have concluded that we need to write to the church first, but the motte (formally known as Cockpit Hill) is a listed monument and we may need to contact Historic England.

Stage 1b – Survey Monitoring of The Brow:

- a. Our Geotechnical advisor Simon Ferley (Dentonside Geotechnical Consultants) still perceives risk in two areas where there are visible surface cracks – North by the stone retaining wall and Storm Desmond landslide. He has confidence in the monitoring regime that we have established and the lack of movement recorded.
- b. The monthly monitoring needs to continue until January and then, if no movement is recorded, we go bimonthly for March (to give us an additional reading before Easter) before opening the period to quarterly.

Stage 2. – Geotechnical Investigation over the natural slope:

- a. In the knowledge that the path is stable, we would like to install shape array / inclinometer monitoring at four points: in the path and down the slope at both the retaining wall section and at the Storm Desmond landslip location. We are inviting costs and timescales for this. These devices will give us data on any movement within the slope.
- b. From experience in operating remote monitoring systems there are always two principal issues other than the practicalities of installation: power and security. We need to have an uninterrupted power supply (mains / battery / solar) and have the power and data transfer equipment in an accessible place (we need access to download data and troubleshoot problems) that is secure from theft and vandalism.

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.

Stage 3. - Erosion at river level:

Dentonside Geotechnical agrees in principle of the scheme to build a river wall but would like it to be as far into the river channel as possible. We are in contact with the Environment Agency, discussing their views on this type of scheme. We may need to give more thought to the northern end of the wall to avoid the river flowing behind the wall in storm conditions.

Commercial

Total expenditure for The Brow during 2024 is attached as an appendix.

Planned work for January and February 2025 is arranged and will commence on time. KLTC Technical Team made a formal request to The Friends at the November 2024 council meeting for £90k from their fundraising account (being £60k raised as a Sub-group in KLTC and the £30k pledge from YDMT) to help finance ground investigation, detailed monitoring of the slope, surveying the riverbed for future erosion protection scheme and Consultancy fees. To date, only £10k has been received. Unless significant funds are received from The Friends in February 2025 it is unlikely The Brow footpath can be re-opened this Easter.

25/8 The Community Recovery Partnership:

This group was formed in response to the tragic fire in the town on 8th December and had received great support from residents and visitors alike. Medium and Long-term support is needed, both for residential and business premises, together with continued practical and emotional support. There is a link on the Westmorland & Furness website.

25/9 Emergency Resilience Plan:

Councillor Perrin said the proposed plan was too large as it stands at present. He has discussed this with Peter Gregson and it is proposed to reduce the document to six or eight pages. The Chairman will discuss this with Councillor Perrin before the next meeting.

25/10 The Ram:

Councillor Marczynski said that responses regarding the uplifting of the roundabout and the inspection requirements, are still awaited. No reply has been received as yet from Westmorland & Furness Council, but it was agreed to give Andy Kay the go-ahead to proceed with the sculpture.

25/11 Traffic on Mitchelgate:

Various measures are being considered by Westmorland & Furness Council for this and other streets, under the 'Kirkby Lonsdale Recovery' work.

25/12 Planning sub-group:

The following applications were considered and approval recommended:

SL/2023/0723/APP Lodge Farm High Biggins Kirkby Lonsdale. Erection of rural workers dwelling (Resubmission of SL/2022/0476). An Appeal has started in respect of this application.

2024/2176/FPA 21 Croft Close. Installation of air source heat pump to rear elevation.

2024/2120/FPA 38 Main Street. Reinstatement of gable doorway to facilitate Prior Notification application 2024/1519/PACOU.

25/13 Parking at Booths Supermarket:

The correspondence noted at the last meeting was considered and it was resolved that the Council supports the Chamber of Trade, who are pressing to get the parking restriction, (that applies at no other Booths store), removed.

25/14 Reports: None.

25/15 Finance:

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

Marianne Cassell	£67.89	Reimbursement – Emergency supplies
Bedroq	£400.37	Monthly charge for CCTV (December)
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Malcolm Hughes	£1,194.00	The Brow
K M Price	£273.62	Quarterly expenses to 31 st December, Including use of home office and travel

- b. The monthly cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. It was resolved to contribute a total of £20,000 to the Lunesdale Hall, including the grant already promised (£5,000) for the cupola.
- d. An application for funding towards the Cumbria County History Project was considered and it was resolved to contribute £1,000..
- e. An application for £18,000 for the Community Cupboard funding in 2025-26 was approved.
- f. Queen's Square Fountain and Conifer Tree. – it was resolved to offer a maximum of £1500 to St Mary's Church towards the cost of removal of the conifer tree at the immediate rear of the Queen's Square Fountain, now that planning permission has been granted.
- g. Friends of Ruskin's View – an update was received from Mike Burchnall, who assured the Council that The Friends of Ruskn's View will provide the funding, to £100,000 for work to be carried out on The Brow this year.
- h. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved that this Council makes a Precept upon Westmorland & Furness Council in the sum of £125,000 for the financial year 2025-26.

25/16 Correspondence:

- a. An invitation from MP Lizzi Collinge, to all Councillors, to attend a meeting on 17th January 2024 was noted. Details had been sent to all Town Councillors.
- b. The Maintenance Contract is due for renewal on 1st April 2025 and the Clerk will send out details to anyone requesting them. Tenders must be in by 28th February and the Town Council will award the contract at the meeting on Wednesday 5th March.

25/17 Agenda items for the next meeting (in addition to regular ones):

- a. VE Day 8th May 2025 – to consider ways of marking this occasion.

25/18 Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 7pm at the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.

(It was reported that no 'standing bookings' of the Lunesdale Hall had been made for 2025. The February meeting is on the 'usual' date, the March meeting had already been booked for the first Wednesday in March. The Clerk has booked dates at random, when the Hall is available, for the remainder of the year and these dates will be considered at the next meeting).

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed:

Dated: