

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM  
LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE  
ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7PM**

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

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

**25/19 Public participation:**

- a. It was reported that there has not been any Town Council report in AKL for some time now. Councillor Cassell agreed to address this.
- b. The condition of the Lunesdale Hall was a cause for concern by the speaker. Councillor Ree responded and said that a Greening Survey had been conducted as recently as last year and the committee is formulating a plan for the ongoing maintenance and repairs required.

**25/20 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**25/21 Requests for Dispensations:** None.

**25/22 Declarations of Interest:**

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

**25/23 Updates:**

The meeting with Andrew Vickers of Westmorland & Furness Council to discuss the issue with the litter bins has not yet been arranged. The Clerk will send a reminder.

**25/24 Ruskin's View/The Brow:**

There is to be a meeting of Stakeholders on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Councillor Perrin is in touch with Mike Burchnall regarding the transfer of funds from The Friends of Ruskin's View to the Town Council, to enable work on re-opening The Brow to continue.

An email from Nick Cotton had been circulated to Councillors and it was agreed to speak to Councillor Hodgson regarding the status of the riverside footpath.

*Councillor Perrin reported as follows:*

This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during January 2025 in an effort to re-open The Brow footpath using a cost-effective approach that is low risk and safe for Public access.

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 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 January 2025.
- 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:

No Contractors on site this month. Charlesworth Tree Care will be on site next month 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.

YDNPA have agreed to the work following a site visit and full application for TPO. Concern remains in the stability of the motte retaining wall. We suggest removing the tree growth that is nearest to the wall. ACTION: MP to discuss in detail with St Mary's Church (Merlin Hibbs).

Zircon conducted an 'Invasive Plant Species' survey and identified Japanese Knotweed at river level in the Ladies Well/ Lily Wood area. Recommendations include physical invasive plant remediation, excavation, onsite relocation, and herbicide treatment. This is not planned work at present and will be considered at a future date when Phase 3 works begin to stabilise the eroding edge of riverbank.

Stage 1b – Survey Monitoring of The Brow:

Atlantic Geomatics performed a Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) Survey along the entire footpath. They identified several underground drains and plotted them on a digital AutoCAD drawing for future borehole work reference and evidence held in the Health & Safety File.

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.

Stage 2. – Geotechnical Investigation over the natural slope:

Three geotechnical companies visited site this month and assessed the site for boreholes along the footpath and sloped embankment. They determined the slope is too steep for mechanical rigs but can install 8No 100mm dia casings with suitable monitoring instruments. The boreholes will consist of...

- 3No. Shape Array monitors – to measure movement in the ground;
- 3No. Piezometers – to measure pore water ground pressure;
- 2No. Geotechnical boreholes – to extract soil information and general classification.

We continue to work alongside Dentonside Consultants to fine tune the Specification and Bill of Quantities for best value costs.

A structural survey and possible repairs are needed for the stone retaining wall supporting the northern edge of the footpath, where cracks are visible in the tarmac. ACTION: NH to contact local Structural engineers for costs.

Stage 3. - Erosion at river level:

Nothing to report this month.

Commercial

A presentation by KLTC Technical Team to all relevant Stakeholders is planned for 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The Team will talk through progress to date and detail a proposed new Monitoring Scheme for installing Shape Array instrumentation deep into the ground to detect any movement of bedrock and overlying soils. Following the presentation there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

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 March 2025 it is unlikely The Brow footpath can be re-opened this Easter.

**25/25 VE Day – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025:**

It was agreed to work together with the CIC on this event, Councillors Marczynski and Ree to negotiate with Allan Muirhead.

### **25/26 Emergency Resilience Plan:**

Councillor Perrin had met with Peter Gregson to consider the way forward and a further meeting is planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> March. A draft plan will be produced for discussion in due course. Grants continue to be made to both individuals and community groups and a draft recovery plan had been produced.

### **25/27 Kirkby Lonsdale Community Recovery Partnership:**

Councillor Cassell reported that the next meeting of the Partnership will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> February, when consideration would be given to holding future meetings on a fortnightly basis, rather than weekly.

### **25/28 The Ram:**

Councillor Marczynski said that work on the Ram has now started and a visual inspection of the site had taken place. The question of lighting the sculpture has now been settled but arrangements have not yet been made for the required safety inspections. An estimate for this has been received for around £350 to £400 annually, but enquiries are ongoing. An electrician is to check the wiring on the roundabout.

### **25/29 Planning sub-group:**

The following applications were now 'out of date' but the Council did not object to them

2025/0043/FPA 5 Abbotsgate. Proposed two storey rear extension and associated works

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

**25/30 Reports:** None.

### **25/31 Finance:**

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

Bedroq	£400.37	Monthly charge for CCTV (February)
Malcolm Hughes		
	£1,194.00	The Brow (February)
Dentonside	£535.00	The Brow
Lunesdale Hall		
	£27.50	Hire of hall
ZIRKCON	£720.00	The Brow
Craig Bradshaw		
	£2,664.00	Maintenance
Design Works	£2,392.67	Website – additional work
(proportion to be paid by the CIC and the Chamber of Trade)		

- b. It was resolved to close the Play Park account and transfer the balance of £2,537.33 to the Town Council account, by the end of this financial year.
- c. It was resolved to close the Ruskin's View account and transfer the balance of £3.21 to the Town Council account, by the end of this financial year.
- d. It was confirmed that Councillors Nigel Martin and Robin Ree should be added to the account as signatories and any other names, apart from the Town Clerk, should be removed, by the end of this financial year.
- e. The monthly cash and budget statements were noted.
- f. An email from Andy Petty regarding a new deal for the CCTV cameras was considered and accepted.

**25/32 Correspondence:**

- a. Councillor Marczynski said that the conifer to the rear of Queen's Square was to be cut down on 18<sup>th</sup> February between the hours of 8am and 4pm, and 'no parking' notices are being displayed on the vehicles of both residents and visitors.
- b. There had been reports that there was no running water at the allotments. The Clerk had been in touch with Henry Armitage, who suggested that this was due to the recent severe weather and the risk of burst pipes. He had subsequently agreed to turn it back on.

**25/33 Future meeting dates:**

*The following dates for meetings during 2025 were confirmed:*

*(all Wednesdays at 7pm)*

2<sup>nd</sup> April  
21<sup>st</sup> May  
2<sup>nd</sup> July  
20<sup>th</sup> August  
3<sup>rd</sup> September  
8<sup>th</sup> October  
5<sup>th</sup> November  
3<sup>rd</sup> December

2026 meetings: The Clerk confirmed that the Lunesdale Hall has been booked for the second Wednesday in each month

**25/34 Date of the next meeting:**

***Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7pm at the Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.***

*The meeting closed at 8.20pm*

*Signed:*

*Dated:*