

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM  
LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE  
ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025 AT 7PM**

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

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

**25/35 Public participation:**

- a. It is believed that the CIC is to receive a grant of £25,000 to assist in marketing the town.
- b. VE Day is to be marked on 10<sup>th</sup> May – it is understood that the CIC are making arrangements for a suitable event to be held.

**25/36 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**25/37 Requests for Dispensations:** None.

**25/38 Declarations of Interest:**

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

**25/39 Co-option of new Councillors:**

Braddan Quayle and Rachel Ward were co-opted to the Council and were welcomed by the Chairman. They then both signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms.

**25/40 Updates:** None.

**25/41 Ruskin's View/The Brow:**

This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during February 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 Spring 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. St. Mary's Church reports that an iron gate at the northern entrance to the graveyard was removed from its hinges and left on the ground. As the gate is very heavy, it has currently been re-hung on one hinge;
- b. During recent vegetation clearance on the slope, Charlesworth Tree Care disposed of some 'wood chippings' on the church motte instead of the embankment.

Stage 1a. – Tree Management and Vegetation Clearance:

Charlesworth Tree Care Contractors were on site this month to clear the complete slope of small saplings and bushes (but not mature trees) in preparation for monitoring the slope in detail with a LiDAR drone survey. This data will be used to compare past and future data for any movement in the slope.

Concern remains in the stability of the motte retaining wall. We suggest removing the tree growth that is nearest to the wall. Malcolm Perrin (MP) met with St Mary's Church representatives (Merlin Hibbs & Duncan Thornton) on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025. St Mary's have agreed to cut back sapling and remove roots from behind the stone retaining wall; MP agrees to organise a structural survey of part retaining wall adjacent to the motte when our Structural Engineer is next on site.

Stage 1b – Survey Monitoring of The Brow:

Malcolm Hughes Ltd continue to monitor surface levels along The Brow. Surveys are now at three-month intervals.

Surface monitoring to date shows no significant movement along the footpath. 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:

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 on 12<sup>th</sup> March. 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.

Total spend on the Project so far this year (2025) is £12,495.

### **25/42 Emergency Resilience Plan:**

Councillor Perrin reported that he had met with Janet Bradshaw and Peter Gregson earlier this week. They are working to a template on the plan and have allocated the various tasks necessary to be completed. A Risk Assessment will be carried out and this will be 'owned' by the Town Council. There will be 'safe places' identified.

### **25/43 Kirkby Lonsdale Community Recovery Partnership:**

The road signs, erected on the A65 following the fire in December, have now been removed and diversion signs have now been placed in four locations. The section of road by Boots will be a 'loading bay' and it is expected that there will be three further parking places allocated. The community will be kept informed with what is happening.

It was agreed that 'Community-Led Plan' will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

### **25/44 The Ram:**

Councillor Marczynski reported that the structure is now complete and ready to be installed, pending work on the ground to enable installation and road closure arrangements. It is anticipated that a fee of around £100 will be charged for an annual inspection by Phil Howden of Thomas Consulting.

### **25/45 Planning sub-group:**

There were no planning applications to consider.

### **25/46 Reports:** None.

### **25/47 Finance:**

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

Bergen Tree Services	£3,322.00	Tree removal – Kenlis Fountain in Queen's Square.
Athena Accounting Services	£100.00	Accountancy
Atlantic Geomatics	£1,380.00	The Brow
Dentonside	£350.40	The Brow
Charlesworth Tree Care & Fencing Ltd		

	£3,000.00	The Brow
Craig Bradshaw	£1,800.00	Maintenance contract
Bedroq	£400.37	Monthly charge for CCTV (March)
Lunesdale Hall	£71.50	Hire of hall
Lunesdale Hall	£27.50	Hire of hall

- b. The monthly cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. The Friends of Ruskin's View are holding around £60,000; with the two pledges expected there could be a total of £120,000 available. The Council was assured that costs incurred for The Brow will be reimbursed.
- d. Queen's Square Fountain: Councillor Marczyński is meeting Phil Howden next Monday in order to discuss the report on the condition of the fountain. He will report back to the next meeting. It was noted that the area looks considerably better since the recent removal of the conifer.
- e. There had been three applicants for the Maintenance Contract and interviews had been held prior to this meeting. It was resolved to award the Contract to Craig Bradshaw for 2025-26 with the option of a second year 2026-27.

**25/48 Correspondence:**

A request had been received from Sheila Willan to plant a tree in Jubilee Park in memory of Fred Gibson. Councillor Marczyński agreed to make contact in order to discuss details of the proposal.

**25/49 Date of the next meeting:**

***Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at 7pm at the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.***

*The meeting closed at 8.20pm.*

*Signed:*

*Dated:*