

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM
LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE
ON WEDNESDAY 2nd APRIL 2025 AT 7PM**

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

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

Jonathan Wright addressed the Council on the Vintage Motorcycle Run planned for 17th May 2025. There will be 20 to 40 riders, of various ages, in the town between 12 noon and 2pm approximately. There is a shortage of available parking for the bikes and any offers/suggestions will be welcome. In the meantime, Councillor Marczynski will make enquiries. It was resolved that the Council supports this event in principle.

25/50 Public participation: None.

25/51 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 5th March 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

25/52 Co-option of a new Town Councillor:

An interview had been held prior to this meeting and it was resolved to co-opt Nick Hampson as a Town Councillor. He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Chairman welcomed him to the Council.

25/53 Requests for Dispensations: None.

25/54 Declarations of Interest:

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

25/55 Updates: None.

25/56 Ruskin's View/The Brow:

This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during March 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:

No Health & Safety issues were reported this month. However, an Environmental issue is observed with the River Lune showing signs of pollution. White froth is consistently seen flowing downstream most mornings at around 7:30am., and a surface 'scum' is collecting at Devil's Bridge. The river level is currently very low, and the flow is slow, which may be contributing to the issue. This matter requires investigation by the Town Council to ensure that the river remains safe for bathing in the coming months. Malcolm Perrin will circulate photographic evidence to the Town Council to support this concern.

Stage 1a. – Tree Management and Vegetation Clearance:

No further tree management or vegetation clearance this month. St Mary's report that saplings growing on the Motte next to the stone boundary wall have now been removed, as recommended by Dentonside Geotechnical Consultants.

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:

Tender documents including a detailed Scope of Work and Bill of Quantities were issued on 28th March 2025 to five geotechnical contractors for the drilling of eight boreholes to an estimated depth of 20 metres. The work includes the installation of three shape arrays/inclinometers and three piezometers. The remaining two boreholes will be used to obtain soil samples for classification and to inform future design work. The tender return deadline is 14th April 2025.

Two quotations have been received for a structural survey and report concerning remedial repairs to the stone retaining wall supporting the northern edge of the footpath, where cracks are visible in the tarmac surface.

- a. One quotation provides a budget cost of approximately £600 + VAT.
- b. The second quotation is significantly higher at £3,500 + VAT.
- c. In light of the wide disparity between these estimates, a third quotation is now being sought to provide a balanced comparison and assist in the decision-making process.
- d.

Stage 3. - Erosion at river level:

Nothing to report this month.

Commercial

The Technical Team delivered a presentation to all relevant stakeholders on 12th March 2025. During the session, the team provided an update on progress to date and outlined a proposed new Monitoring Scheme involving the installation of Shape Array instrumentation at depth, designed to detect any movement in the bedrock and overlying soils. The presentation was well received and stakeholders were given the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion.

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

Councillor Martin drew the Council's attention to the possible shortfall in having the necessary finance to proceed to the opening of The Brow. Estimates of the likely cost are awaited and will be an agenda item for the next meeting. Alternative sources of funding mentioned were Westmorland & Furness Council and the Public Works Loan Board.

25/57 Kirkby Lonsdale Community Recovery Partnership:

Councillor Cassell said that regular meetings of the group are continuing. It is planned to re-open the town centre road on 4th April, subject to a 7.5 tons limit.

25/58 Parish Lighting:

A letter from Westmorland & Furness Council was considered and it was resolved to agree to the transfer of the parish lighting, ownership and responsibility, as offered.

25/59 The Ram:

Councillor Marczynski reported that arrangements are now well in hand for the installation of The Ram. It was resolved that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town Council and Westmorland & Furness Council.

A road closure is required and Christ Potts will make application for this.

25/60 Request from Sheila Willan to plant a tree in Jubilee Park in memory of Fred Gibson:

It was resolved to agree to the planting of a Ruby Falls small ornamental tree in Jubilee Park, in memory of Fred Gibson, around 1.5 to 2 metres high. The location has been agreed and Craig Bradshaw will be asked to plant it.

25/61 Planning sub-group:

All the current planning applications had been responded to under delegated powers, except one, for which comments will be submitted to the Clerk by the planning group within seven days.

25/62 Kirkby Lonsdale Relief in Need Charity:

It was resolved to accept the appointment of Mr Lee Topping as a Nominative Trustee of the Charity.

25/63 Community-Led Plan:

A Town Team Proposal was read by the Chairman and the general consensus is that the Council will lead on the Community-Led Plan. This will be put to the meeting of the Community Recovery Partnership at their meeting next Monday.

25/64 Reports: None.

25/65 Finance:

a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

Craig Bradshaw	£1,800.00	Maintenance contract
Nick Hampson	£42.24	Reimbursement – construction books – The Brow
Malcolm Hughes	£1,194.00	The Brow
KL Chamber of Trade	£120.00	Subscription
H J Harrison-Beck	£220.00	Work at Queen's Square
Bedroq Limited	£400.37	CCTV
K M Price	£247.19	Quarterly expenses to 31 st March, Including use of home office and travel.

b. The Interim Accounts for 2024-25 were noted, having been circulated only to Councillors. These will be formally presented and adopted at the next meeting.

c. Queen's Square Fountain. Councillor Marczynski had met with Phil Howden of Thomas Consulting and it was suggested that the structure is gently cleaned. A report from Bruce Dennett (Quantity Surveyor) is awaited. The rocks in front of the fountain have now been re-fixed using larger bolts.

25/66 Correspondence:

A further letter from John Peel, regarding The Brow, had been circulated to Councillors and this was noted.

25/67 Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 7pm at the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale (This will be the Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting)

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed:

Dated: