

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

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

Also in attendance: Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hazel Hodgson, two members of the public and Town Clerk Kevin Price.

25/115 Public participation: None.

25/116 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 20th August 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

25/117 Requests for Dispensations: None.

25/118 Declarations of Interest:

Councillors Marczynski and Ree declared an interest should any matters be discussed regarding the CIC and the Lunesdale Hall, or, singly, Councillor Ree in regard to the Lunesdale Hall.

25/119 Kirkby Lonsdale Recovery/Community Partnership:

It was reported that the Partnership, which is part of Cumbria Life, had won the Cumbria Life Award. At the next meeting, there will be a full report.

25/120 Ruskin's View/The Brow:

Incidents / Adverse Events

1. Theft from Borehole Rig

Rogers Geotechnical Services have reported the theft of a fire extinguisher from their borehole rig. The rig was securely locked on The Brow footpath over the weekend; however, it is noted that members of the public sometimes climb over the fence to access the path. The Council extends its apologies to Rogers Geotechnical Services for the inconvenience. No further action required.

2. Donation Box Security

It has been identified that the donation box located adjacent to The Brow viewing area had remained unlocked for several years, during which time no one took responsibility for collecting the cash donations made to Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council in support of The Brow. As a result, donations appear to have been lost over a number of years—

estimated at approximately £500 per year. The donation box has now been secured, and since doing so, collections have averaged at least £10 per week. All future proceeds will be allocated towards the re-opening of the footpath.

Environmental Concerns – River Lune

Reports of suspected pollution in the River Lune, initially raised with the Environment Agency (EA) in May 2025, remain unanswered. White foam continues to be observed floating on the river surface, particularly accumulating around Devil's Bridge. This remains a concern for the Technical Team, especially as swimmers continue to use the

river, with no signage in place warning of potentially unsafe water conditions.

Action: KLTC to follow up with the Environment Agency and consult the Lune Rivers Trust for advice and potential next steps. - ongoing

Invasive Species – Japanese Knotweed & Himalayan Balsam

This item is significant if Stage 3 works are to proceed in the near future. It serves as an early warning, prompting KLTC to act by advising landowners of their responsibility to manage Japanese Knotweed. Dense growth of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam has been identified at Lilywood, on the northern edge of The Brow, adjacent to the River Lune. Although this area falls within the Underley Estate, the Technical Team

commissioned Inspectas Land Remediation to carry out a comprehensive survey of the site at no cost. A detailed five-year management report with recommendations is available for information on the KLTC website. If Stage 3 works (riverbank erosion protection) proceed, significant reduction of Knotweed will be required to enable access for heavy machinery. An estimated 80% reduction of the invasive species would cost approximately £24,000 over five years. This work has not yet been commissioned.

Action: No action to be taken at this stage – consideration by KLTC ongoing.

Geotechnical Borehole Monitoring – progress Update

Six boreholes have now been installed along The Brow footpath, and data is being recorded weekly to monitor any movement below ground level. During installation, one of the inclinometer casings (BH.4) was unfortunately damaged. The joint between the casing sections became dislodged, allowing concrete to enter the casing. As a result, BH.4 will be re-drilled and a new casing installed. All monitoring data is being recorded and collated by Rogers Geotechnical Services and forwarded to Keith Nicholls

for analysis. No invoices have been received from Rogers to date, so final project costs are not yet confirmed.

W&FC Highways Engineering – progress update

A Structural Report considering the condition of the stone retaining wall supporting the edge of footpath to the North, St Marys stone boundary wall and condition of the full extent of The Brow footpath has been received by KLTC Technical Team in confidence and FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

A DRAFT Memorandum of Understanding (also in confidence) has also been received by the Technical Team for consideration. This MoU will be shared with KLTC Chairman for review and comment by return to W&FC.

The following actions by KLTC and W&FC are being progressed:-

1. W&FC legal team to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) setting out responsibilities:

a. KLTC: commitment to ongoing monitoring
b. W&FC: commitment to footpath condition surveys, with a view to improving and maintaining the surface.

2. W&FC to survey the stone retaining wall to the north, where footpath cracking is evident. Complete.

3. W&FC to survey the St Mary's stone boundary/retaining wall, which runs the full length of the path. Complete

4. W&FC arboriculturist to inspect the mature sycamore tree on the slope, which shows signs of deterioration. Complete

5. KLTC to obtain costs for pollarding. Complete - £1600 + VAT

6. KLTC to install fencing along the section of footpath to reduce the width for pedestrian access adjacent to the retaining wall. In progress

The aim remains have the MoU in place and the footpath re-opened before 9th November 2025, ahead of any further closure enforcement orders from the Secretary of State.

Stage 1a – Tree Management and Vegetation Clearance

No new developments to report this month.

Stage 1b – Surface Monitoring of The Brow

Malcolm Hughes Ltd continues to carry out surface level monitoring at three-month intervals. Data collected to date shows no significant movement along the footpath.

Stage 3 – Riverbank Erosion

No new developments to report this month.

Commercial Summary

The Friends of Ruskin's View (FRV) have been fully briefed on borehole installation costs and ongoing monitoring requirements. Project funds are held by FRV and will be made available to KLTC to cover all payments related to monitoring works.

Media Attention – Grievances and Complaints

The Technical Team have received numerous enquiries from the Westmorland Gazette, BBC Radio Cumbria and local MP Lizzi Collinge. All queries have been addressed promptly, professionally and transparently. Written correspondence, radio interviews and a site visit to The Brow (Lizzi Collinge 23rd September 2025) require considerable time and effort, temporarily diverting resources from ongoing technical work. Despite this, the Technical Team remain transparent and cooperative with external stakeholders — including the Westmorland Gazette, BBC Radio Cumbria, and MP Lizzi Collinge — all of whom have expressed satisfaction after interviews, site visits and correspondence.

25/121 Lighting of The Ram/A65:

Councillor Marczynski has obtained three quotations for uplighting to be provided for The Ram and these will be an agenda item for the next meeting. The Clerk will let Councillor Marczynski know what funding remains in the budget for this work.

25/122 Launch of the Cumbria County History Trust Book:

Councillor Cassell reported on his attendance at the launch of the Cumbria County History Trust Book, on 23rd September. A copy of the book had been presented to him and this had been deposited in Kirkby Lonsdale Library.

25/123 Planning sub-group: There were no new planning applications.

25/124 Terms of Agreement between the CIC and the Town Council:

This document is not yet complete and it was agreed to defer until the next meeting.

25/125 Reports:

Councillor Hodgson mentioned a number of matters, including:

- a. Boundary Review – the consultation is now open.
- b. The possibility of having an elected Mayor is now closer and a vote will shortly be taken.
- c. Potholes in the car park should soon be attended to -m the Clerk had received two complaints about this.

25/126 Financial business:

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

Davis & Bowring	£375.00	Allotment rent
Craig Bradhaw	£3,474.00	Maintenance Contract
Lunesdale Hall	£27.50	Hire of hall
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T Flitcroft	£100.00	Payroll administration
K M Price	£275.04	Quarterly expenses to 30 th September Including ZOOM licence, stationery, etc.

Grants:

Community Cupboard	£6,000.00	Second payment (of three)
CIC	£6,000.00	Final payment for 2025-28

The Brow:

Geotech Nicholls Limited	£1,410.00
Malcolm Hughes	£1,194.00

- b. The Clerk had circulated a financial update to all Councillors and this was noted.
- c. The Clerk is attending an Interim Audit of the Council's accounts on 13th October and the report will be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- d. An application for funding for the annual Bonfire Night (for fireworks) had been received too late for inclusion on the agenda, so it will be considered at the next meeting, which is actually on the day of the event (5th November).
- e. Queen's Square fountain: cones have been put out and there is now no parking there. Steve Gibson has been asked to empty the trough. The Masonic Lodge is keen to keep running water in it.

25/127 Correspondence: None.

25/128 Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 5th November 2025 at 7pm at the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed:

Dated: