

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE HERDWORK, UNDERLEY BUSINESS CENTRE,
KEARSTWICK, KIRKBY LONSDALE
ON WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY 2026 AT 7PM**

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

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

26/1 Public participation:

Brief presentations were made by the following, in support of their applications for funding:

- a. Mike Burchnall spoke of the formation of the Kirkby Lonsdale Town Team
- b. Janet Bradshaw – Community Cupboard.
- c. Jac Beeson – CIC
- d. ? Illuminate Festival of Ideas –

Several comments were made regarding the Council's finances. Some of the grant applications, it was alleged, were either incomplete, or not set out on the correct application form,

26/2 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

26/3 Requests for Dispensation: None.

26/4 Declarations of Interest:

Councillors Cassell, Marczyński and Ree all made declarations of interest, in relation to grant applications, where they were members of a sub-group of the Council.

26/5 Kirkby Lonsdale Town Team:

Councillor Quayle gave a brief update on the establishment and activity of the Kirkby Lonsdale Town Team.

26/6 Ruskin's View/The Brow:

Statement regarding The Brow footpath

The KLTC Technical Team is extremely disappointed that The Brow footpath was not opened during the weekend prior to Christmas 2025.

The Technical Team worked diligently to ensure that all requirements requested by W&FC were met, including...

- a. A Memorandum of Understanding agreed, signed, and returned to W&FC by 19th December 2025;
- b. Temporary barriers installed prior to 19th December 2025;
- c. Pollarding of the mature sycamore tree completed in November 2025;
- d. A final Geotechnical Interpretive Report, including a Risk Assessment, agreed for submission to W&FC in early January 2026;
- e. Repairs of potholes in the footpath surface carried out on 19th December 2025.

All of the above measures were in place to allow for a quiet reopening of the footpath before Christmas. However, W&FC did not take this opportunity, resulting in a missed gesture of goodwill to residents and visitors to Kirkby Lonsdale.

Responsibility for the ongoing delay now rests with W&FC. No further progress is anticipated until their Asset Team meeting scheduled for 10th February 2026.

26/7 Planning sub-group:

The following application considered and approval was recommended.

2025/2024/LBC and 2026/0006/FPA 11 Market Street. Listed Building Consent for installation of solar panels to the south-facing main roof installation of air source heat pump on the side elevation.

26/8 'Assertion 10 – Digital & Data Compliance':

The Clerk is continuing to work with Design Works, the provider of the Council's website. An update will be given at the next meeting.

26/9 Freedom of the Town:

After some discussion, it was resolved not to proceed, at this time, with such an award,

26/10 Reports: None.

26/11 Finance:

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

The Brow:

Rogers Geotechnical Services	£3336.00
Malcolm Hughes	£756.00
Geotech Nicholls Limited	£1737.00

KLTC:

Craig Bradshaw	£2,394.00	Maintenance Contract (£345 of this, ex-VAT, relates to Ruskin's View)
Lunesdale Hall	£27.50	Hire of hall
Kirkby Lonsdale Community Cupboard	£6,000.00	Third/final payment of grant for 2024-25
K M Price	£233.25	Quarterly expenses t 30 th September, Including use of home office and travel

b. The interim accounts for 2025-26 (to 31st December 2025) were noted.

c. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved that this Council makes a Precept upon Westmorland & Furness Council for the financial year 2025-26 in the sum of £150,000.

d. *The following grants were approved in the Budget for 2025-26, to be paid in the year commencing 1st April 2026.*

Kirkby Lonsdale Town Team: £2,000, with further details to be supplied as to how the money will be spent.

Kirkby Lonsdale Community Cupboard: £18,000

Lune Rivers Trust: £1,800

Kirkby Lonsdale & Lune Valley Community Interest Company: £20,000

Lunesdale Hall: £20,000

An application for funding towards the annual Bonfire night (for fireworks) had been referred to the Council's Internal Auditor, whose advice was that the application did not meet the grants criteria.

An application for funding towards 'Illuminate Festival of Ideas 2026' had been referred to our Internal Auditor, whose advice was that the application did not meet the grants criteria.

26/12 Correspondence: None.

26/13 Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7pm at the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed:

Dated: