

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM, LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE  
ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026 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 and received from Town Clerk Kevin Price.

Also in attendance: Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hazel Hodgson (from 7.25pm) and six members of the public.

**26/26 Public participation:**

- a. The Technical Team were thanked for obtaining the re-opening of the Ruskin's View footpath.
- b. Traffic congestion at Devil's Bridge; the Town Council has no sway over the repair work that is being done. Any queries should be addressed to Westmorland & Furness Council.
- c. Illuminate Festival was a success – well received and good feedback.

**Agenda item 8 – brought forward:**

- d. Presentation of the Westmorland & Furness Local Plan by Mike Burchnell:

He commenced by reading all emails between himself and this Council. Due to his manner, Councillors asked him to stop and to sit down. He refused and then then walked out of the meeting.

*(The Public Participation continued with five members of the public)*

- e. The planning application for Kittygill has been refused. This will now go to Appeal and the applicants will object again.
- f. Kirkby Lonsdale has had more than its fair share of developments recently. This Council has tended to object to substantial building proposals south of the A65. The Council does consider schools, GP services, loss of green land and other services, when considering applications.
- g. In respect of the Westmorland & Furness Local Plan, this Council is specifically not keen on the showfield option, due to access and traffic having to come through the town.
- h. There will be a consultation, open to the public, in due course to discuss site options.
- i. It was confirmed that Town Team information is regularly fed back to the Council

**26/27 Requests for Dispensations:** None.

**26/28 Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor Marczynski declared an interest, should anything regarding the CIC be discussed and Councillor Ree, should anything regarding the Lunesdale Hall be discussed.

**26/29 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were approved to be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.

Councillor Hampson requested a small amendment regarding the issue of the deficit.

**26/30 Town Team:**

Councillor Ward had circulated some information by email, plus an attachment to Mike Burchnall's email. There will be a drop-in session at the Lunesdale Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**26/31 Ruskin's View/The Brow:**

The footpath had been fully opened on 13<sup>th</sup> February and the gates have been bolted back.

The Technical Team were thanked for the article in AKL.

Fencing, and a notice at the bottom of Radical Steps, is needed, to prevent the public from turning left at the bottom of the steps.

Ongoing work will include monitoring and producing reports until 2027 at least, as part of the Memorandum of Understanding; liaising with Westmorland & Furness Council will continue.

The email from the Friends of Ruskin's View will be responded to after the Clerk has returned from holiday. Councillor Hampson stated that he considered the payments to fundraisers should be funded by the Friends. The Friends are no longer fundraising and Councillor Hampson raised objections to the Friends' minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> March:

- a. Item 4 states that the Friends and this Council agreed that the Friends would fund The Brow costs from December 2023. This was not the case - this Council expected funding from the Friends from the start of the project.
- b. Item 8 states that the Friends would fund a full refurbishment of Radical Steps. Councillor Martin pointed out that donors, including this Council, gave money towards the cost of re-opening the Ruskin's View footpath, so their money cannot be used on other projects, unless consent is given by the donors.

- c. Anne Burgess disagreed with Council Martin on both points. All Councillors present agreed that there was no purpose to a meeting with the Friends. The Friends should simply pass their funds to this Council, to cover the earlier costs.
- d. Councillor Hodgson pointed out that Authorities are keen on Town Teams, as parties from all bodies are represented.
- e. Thanks were given to Councillor Hodgson for supporting the Ruskin's View project behind the scenes.

**26/32 Westmorland & Furness Local Plan and Allocations** – this had already been dealt with under 'Public Participation'.

**26/33 Proposals for future car parking:**

Councillors are being asked if they would support these proposals, with management by Underley.

There are issues; the access road would remove or reduce existing parking (56 cars). Other issues were raised in Allan Muirhead's email; Underley would give concessions to Football and Cricket Clubs. Access to the A65 is poor.

More parking is needed, but other sites could be considered. On a show of hands, four Councillors objected and two were in support. The opinions of the other three Councillors will be obtained. Councillors Cassell and Martin preferred the car park to be on the other side of Devil's Bridge.

**26/34 Nat West Bank proposed closure:**

Letters have been sent to Nat West, and replies received. The bank will close, except for the ATM which will remain until a new ATM location is found. Nat West will meet with four organisations in the town on 24th March.

**26/35 Planning sub-group:**

*The following application were considered:*

2026/0399/FPA Tillers, 5 Rowan Garth. Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 2024/1569/FPA (First floor extension over existing garage & dormer extension to the second floor (rear facing). Approved.

This Council's proposal to make an application to Westmorland & Furness Council Highways regarding the lighting of The Ram, in accordance with the quotation already received and approved. Approved.

**26/36 Assertion 10 – Digital & Data Compliance':**

There have been no delays and compliance by the deadline is expected.

**26/37 Westmorland & Furness Councillor:**

*Councillor Hodgson reported as follows:*

- a. NatWest has agreed that the Link machine will stay, long term, at a location in the town.
- b. Consultation – Transport to Education. This is open until 21<sup>st</sup> April. There will be changes to the current regulations.
- c. Consultation – Adult Social Care. This is open until 31<sup>st</sup> March. Where do people prefer to live and what services are required?
- d. Police and Crime Commissioner has a grant offer for clubs. Full report to follow from Council Hodgson.

**26/38 Finance – it was resolved the make the following payments:**

**The Brow:**

Rogers Geotechnical Services  
£300.00

**KLTC:**

|  |           |                             |
|--|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Craig Bradshaw                                       | £2,493.00 | Maintenance Contract        |
| (of which £112.50 excluding VAT relates to The Brow) |           |                             |
| Athena Small Business Accountants Ltd                |           |                             |
|  | £100.00   | Processing Pension 2025-26  |
| P J S Pease  | £375.00   | Allotments rent (half year) |
| Lunesdale Hall                                       | £38.50    | Hire of hall                |

**26/39 Date of the next meeting** – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm at the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.

*The meeting closed at 8.50pm.*

*Signed*

*Dated:*