

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM, LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE
ON WEDNESDAY 8th APRIL 2026 AT 7PM**

Present: Councillors Paul Cassell (Chairman), Mike Marczynski, Nigel Martin, Malcolm Perrin and Robin Ree. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nick Hampson.

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

26/40 Public participation:

- a. The Council was urged, in the light of much activity going on in the town not to forget that green issues are still important and the ongoing quality of life should not be eroded by any preoccupation with this activity.
- b. The mess at Mill Ayre, caused by overgrown trees, was brought to the Council's attention. These trees were planted around 35 years ago and now require some attention. The Chairman said the Council would consider this.
- c. Neil Anderson said that some Councillors had attended the open event regarding the proposed Solar Farm. This would be mentioned under 'correspondence'.

26/41 Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 11th March 2026 were agreed and signed, as also were the minutes of the meeting on 11th February 2026.

26/42 Requests for Dispensations: None.

26/43 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.

26/44 Kirkby Lonsdale Town Team: No report.

26/45 Ruskin's View/The Brow:

The Brow footpath was successfully reopened by Westmorland & Furness Council on 13th February 2026. Ongoing monitoring of slope stability, both above and below ground, is being carried out by contractors commissioned and funded by Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council. Residents and visitors are once again able to enjoy Ruskin's View.

Temporary pedestrian fencing along the edge of the stone retaining wall is visually intrusive. It was installed as a low-cost, practical measure to keep pedestrians away from the edge and enable the footpath to reopen ahead of Christmas 2025

The time has now come to replace this with a more suitable, demountable fence that better reflects the character of the area.

Two local contractors, Charlesworth and Hanafins, have submitted quotations for the fencing works; however, these have been deemed too costly by the technical team. A third quotation will be sought before the Town Council makes a final decision.

Recent heavy rainfall has led to flooding within the temporarily fenced area, indicating a possible underlying weakness near the stone retaining wall. Improved drainage is needed to channel surface water from the footpath directly to the river, preventing it from flowing over the slope and causing further erosion. Quotations are therefore required for both the design and installation of a new drainage system.

Westmorland & Furness Council will shortly undertake a survey of the footpath's tarmac surface, in line with the agreed Memorandum of Understanding.

The Friends of Ruskin's View currently hold approximately £67,000, which is expected to cover ongoing monitoring, as well as the planned fencing and drainage works during the coming year.

26/46 Planning sub-group:

There were no new planning applications, except that one had arrived after the public of the agenda. The Clerk will re-send this to the planning group.

26/47 'Assertion 10 – Digital & Data Compliance':

There was no formal report available but the Clerk assumed that the new requirements are being addressed by Designworks. He will check on progress with Councillor Taylor and report back to the next meeting.

26/48 Reports: None.

26/49 Finance:

a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

The Brow:

Malcolm Hughes	£24.00	Land Registry searches
Rogers Geotechnical Services		
	£353.99	

KLTC:

Craig Bradshaw	£2,520.00	Maintenance Contract (including £450.00 ex-VAT for work on The Brow).
Rural Services Partnership		
	£132.30	Annual subscription
K M Price	£266.90	Quarterly expenses to 31 st March, Including use of home office/stationery/travel

- b. The Interim Accounts for 2025-26 had been circulated to Councillors and these were noted.
- c. The Council has requested the transfer of all monies held by The Friends of Ruskin's View to this Council. FRV is requesting a further meeting with KLTC but this Council does not believe that any further meeting is required, viz. the funds were raised for the re-opening of The Brow footpath which has now been achieved. The Clerk will write to all the FRV Trustees individually and request the early transfer of the funds. The Council will consider asking the Charity Commission for help or, failing that, seeking a legal opinion.

26/50 Correspondence:

- a. Neil Anderson, raising concerns regarding the proposed Solar Farm, the Westmorland & Furness Local Plan and Kirkby Lonsdale's bid for 'Town of Culture'. He believed these had not been resolved by the Council. The Chairman explained that these would be included on next month's agenda, if appropriate, but comments on the proposed Solar Farm could not be made unless a planning application were to be received.
- b. Tony Brown, Kearsy, seeking the support of the Council for the pre-Application consultation for the proposed Solar Farm at Hophouse. Two Councillors had responded personally to Mr Brown. It was not suggested, at this stage, that this be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- c. Councillor Marczyński reported on correspondence regarding an overgrown area between Dodgson's Croft and Old Tram Lane, which was believed to belong to Booths. However, a Land Registry search had failed to clarify this and photographs of the area appeared to show that the land in question was neat and tidy.

26/51 Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 7pm at the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale. (This will be the Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Town Council Meeting).

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed:

Dated: