

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM, LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE
ON WEDNESDAY 13th MAY 2026 AT 7.20PM**

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

Also in attendance: Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hazel Hodgson (who arrived later), seven members of the public and Town Clerk Kevin Price.

26/52 Election of Chairman:

Councillor Paul Cassell was elected Chairman for 2026-27. He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

26/53 Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Mike Marczynski was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2026-27.

26/54 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 8th April 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

It was also agreed to insert the following into the minutes file, in order to clarify the situation regarding the 'deficit' between the amounts the Council had paid for The Brow and refunds made by The Friends of Ruskin's View:

'Councillor Hampson had queried, on two occasions, the 'deficit' between what had been paid by the Council for work on The Brow and that which had been refunded by the Friends of Ruskin's View. He also felt that this had triggered a larger increase in the Precept for 2026-27 than necessary.

The Clerk explained that the Council had paid all the invoices relating to Ruskin's View from the start of the project and only recently had begun to receive contributions from The Friends. There is also the VAT issue; the Council included the VAT in the accounts (reclaiming it on a regular basis) whereas The Friends deducted the VAT before making the refund to the Council.

He also pointed out that the Precept for 2026-27 included NIL for The Brow. It was expected that monies refunded by The Friends would pay for this work, at least for the current year. After that, the Council would need to make difficult decisions. The Precept for 2026-27 was therefore unaffected by the 'deficit'.

Councillor Martin had also been in touch with Councillor Hampson, in order to clarify the situation'

26/55 Requests for Dispensations: None.

26/56 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

26/57 Kirkby Lonsdale Town Team:

A full report had been received from Mike Burchnall and circulated to all Councillors. The Chairman summarised the main points of the report. It is expected that a new member of the Team will be appointed in time for next month's report.

26/58 Ruskin's View/The Brow:

Councillor Perrin said there had been no change since the re-opening of The Brow. There had been a little flooding at the top of the banking and Craig Bradshaw had been asked to look at it.

26/59 Planning sub-group:

There were no new applications but the Clerk agreed to forward details of an application at High Biggins, which seems to have been overlooked.

26/60 Reports:

Councillor Hodgson gave her report and mentioned many issues, including the following:

- a. The full Council meet last week.
- b. Councillor Giles Archibald has retired, and his place has been taken by Councillor Adrian Waite.
- c. Green waste bins will be charged at £60 per annum, or they will not be collected after the end of June.
- d. There had been consultations on Adult Social Care, Home to School transport, and care homes. Two care homes are to be consulted upon separately.

26/61 Finance:

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

The Brow:

Geotechnic Nicholls Limited £1,080.00

KLTC:

Craig Bradshaw – maintenance contract (agreed to pay upon receipt of invoice)

The following grant payments – agreed at the January Precept Meeting:

KL CIC £10,000 First payment of 2

Community Cupboard £9,000 First payment of 2

Cumbria Rivers Trust £1,850

Lunesdale Hall £20,000

b. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements for 2025-26

c. A response had been received from the Friends of Ruskin's View, following their recent Trustees meeting.

The Friends have supported, and continue to support, the works carried out by the Council and have funded all the works post December, 2023. A list of 'key dates' was provided, from July 2021 to the present. The funds held by the Trustees are available to fund the Brow works going forward, subject to the receipt of invoices and less VAT.

The Council had emphasised that every penny raised by The Friends should be spent on The Brow, and not on any other projects, as indicated in their response.

26/62 Swinemarket Improvement Proposal:

This proposal, for a full-scale renovation of the Swinemarket had been received from Diana Sharratt M.B.E. The Council was in favour of this and asks that the group indicates in what specific ways support can be given. There will need to be Highways involvement on some of the proposals.

26/63 Correspondence: None.

26/64 Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 10th June 2026 at 7pm at the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed:

Dated: