MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM, LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE
ON WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7pm.

Present: Councillors Mike Marczynski (Deputy Chairman, in the Chair), Graeme Gladwinfield, Jen Kell, Nigel Martin, Tom McPhail, Malcolm Perrin and Robin Ree. Apologies were accepted from Councillors Paul Cassell and Bruce Dennett.

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

26/120 Public participation:

a. A question was asked about the CIC but it was accepted that there could not be any discussion about this as it was an agenda item for Part 2 of this meeting.
b. It was reported that a residence in Biggins is being run as an Airbnb.

26/121 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 12th August 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

26/122 Requests for Dispensations: None.

26/123 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Marczynski declared an interest should anything be discussed in relation to the CIC.

26/124 Kirkby Lonsdale Town Team:

Councillor Gladwinfield said that the sub-group heading up the Town Team is due to meet next week; some feedback had been received, which the group will review.

26/125 Ruskin's View/The Brow:

The Brow footpath remains open to the public. Ongoing survey monitoring, both above and below ground, continues to show no significant movement. Concerns that the extreme summer temperatures might cause severe drying of the ground and an expansion of cracks in the tarmac have not materialised.

Survey monitoring continues at three-monthly intervals and no incidents or adverse effects have been recorded during the past three months.

Dr Keith Nichols, Geotechnical Adviser is due to provide his second report at the end of September 2026 based on the latest monitoring data. His report will assess the current condition of the footpath and make any recommendations for action by the Town Council and Westmorland & Furness Council.

General condition: The Brow is currently looking somewhat untidy, with overgrown vegetation on the embankment and litter and weeds along the footpath. The timber bench inset into the stone wall also requires repair and repainting.

Action: Malcolm and Graeme to repair and repaint the bench at the earliest opportunity. The vegetation, litter and weeds should also be addressed.

26/126 Play Park:

Councillor Ree said that the hedges had been trimmed today and repairs to the equipment are underway. All components of the ZIP wire have arrived and some have been fitted. The big slide should be repaired within weeks. It is anticipated that the CIL money can be used to pay for these repairs.

26/127 Planning sub-group:

The following applications were considered:

2026/0717/FPA at Pells Yeat Barn, Hophouse Lane. Construction of a 20m x 30m all-weather horse riding arena (ménage) for private domestic use, located within an equestrian field adjacent to the existing stable block. No objections.

2026/1629/LBC Listed Building Consent 8 Horse Market. Part retrospective Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations including re-wiring. Plaster repairs and replacement. Installation of wood burning stove. Installation of replacement cellar floor. Replacement of two rear elevation windows and 2026/1628/HOU 8 Horse Market. Retrospective replacement of two rear elevation windows. No objections.

26/128 Reports from Westmorland & Furness Councillors: None

26/129 Finance:

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

   Craig Bradshaw £2,610.00 Maintenance contract
   (including removal of broken branch at Mill Ayre, loads away and hire of high level platform)

   P J S Pease £375.00 Allotment rent (half yearly)

b. The Cash and Budget statements had been circulated and were noted.

c. Councillor McPhail had done some work on the proposed Financial Regulations. Further work will be carried by Councillors McPhail and Martin, with a view to bringing them to the next meeting for approval.

d. The draft Asset Register, having been circulated was approved and this will be uploaded to the website.

e. An application for funding from the Cricket Club was considered. It was resolved to set aside the £1,000 requested in the Precept for 2027-28, as all grants for 2026-27 had already been allocated.

26/130 Town Council Work Plan:

A revision/update of the Plan considered at the last meeting was agreed. Councillors to contact the Chairman if there are any concerns, amendments or additions.

26/131 Community Table Tennis:

Discussion took place on the possibility of the Council helping to establish a Community Table Tennis Club. It was generally felt that this would be a good idea, but the Lunesdale Sports Hall was proposed as a better venue than the Lunesdale Hall, especially with regard to the storage of tables etc. Councillor Gladwinfield agreed to carry out some research before the next meeting.

26/132 Business rates:

The possibility of there being some concession in business rates in the town. It is generally thought to be most unlikely that this would be agreed, as Westmorland & Furness Council is currently short of cash, but Councillors Gladwinfield and Perrin will make enquiries, to try and engage with Westmorland & Furness Council.

26/133 Footpath project:

Councillor McPhail opened a discussion on the need for better footpaths around the town, which could help promote tourism, and suggesting opening discussions with Underley Estate about public access to their footbridge - this would be transformational, he felt.

It was agreed that Councillor McPhail will approach Henry Armitage of Underley Estates, assisted by Councillor Ree.

26/134 Parking and the Town Square:

The possibility of pedestrianising the square, getting rid of the car park and make it more of a social space, not just on Thursday mornings for the market, was discussed. This is something that has been raise several times in recent years. Westmorland & Furness Council owns the car parking space and the annual revenue is considerable. The Town Council has been informed previously that around £50,000 would be the likely loss in income.

Councillors Gladwinfield and McPhail will give this further thought and try to liaise with the Chamber of Trade.

26/135 Correspondence: None

26/136 Civic Society benches:

Following the closure of the Kirkby Lonsdale Civic Society, the Society is offering the Town Council all of their owned benches plus a dowry towards future maintenance of the benches, and for other items previously maintained by the Society, eg the enamelled plaque on The Brow, such that KLTC will have funds to support the offer into the future.

The amount involved is thought to be in excess of £2,000 and the Town Council is pleased to accept this offer, including the future maintenance of the enamelled plaque on The Brow.

26/137 Dates of the next meeting:

Wednesday 14th October 2026 at 7pm in the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall

26/138 Possible future agenda items:

a. There are going to be more houses built in the near future. The Council should be thinking now about what outcome is wanted and how to leverage it.

b. How the Council contribute to the long term prosperity of the town, to ensure the businesses thrive, people can buy houses here and get jobs, without undermining the unique character of the town.

26/139 Resolution:

A Resolution was passed to exclude the public and press, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed:

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

PART 2:

26/140 All councillors were updated as to the current position regarding the CIC, and additionally on issues regarding the costs of provision of toilet facilities by the CIC, and on-going repairs, and the provision of tourist information at 29 Main St.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed:

Dated: