MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BECTIVE ROOM, LUNESDALE HALL, KIRKBY LONSDALE
ON WEDNESDAY 12th AUGUST 2026 AT 7pm.

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

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

26/105 Public participation:

a. Proposed application for planning permission for the Solar Farm on Hop House Lane. This arrived too late to be an agenda item and the Council cannot comment until an application is received, which is thought to be imminent. The speaker said he felt this was an inappropriate site for such a development and that there are inaccuracies in the report; he is seeking the support of the Council, in due course.
b. The Council was thanked for clearing the undergrowth surrounding 'The Ram'.
c. It was pointed out that there had been no official acknowledgement made of the large amount of funding that had been awarded for the restoration of St Mary's Church. However, the Chairman said that he had emailed the Church, on behalf of the Council, congratulating them.

26/106 Minutes:

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

26/107 Requests for Dispensations: None.

26/108 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of interest in respect of the any matters on the agenda.

26/109 Kirkby Lonsdale Town Team:

Councillor Gladwinfield gave a verbal report. The Town Team thanks both the Town Council and Westmorland & Furness Council for their support. There had been much feedback from members of the public following sessions held on 23rd June, and some confusion over the status of the Town Team had been clarified. There is a vision statement and a list of strategic objectives available and a bid for the 'Town of Culture' had been submitted by Marie Batty.

26/110 Ruskin's View/The Brow:

Councillor Perrin reported, by email, that The Brow is stable and continues to be monitored at ground level and below ground level. The temporary fencing remains secure and there are no problems with drainage in this fine weather. Design is ongoing for future improvements along the footpath and at the foot of Radical Steps where a new barrier fence is required to prevent people walking along the river bank beneath the slope.

26/111 Play Park:

The Play Park equipment is inspected on a monthly basis by Westmorland & Furness Council. A number of problems had been highlighted in recent months and, as a result, some items had been taken out of use, pending repair/replacement. It is estimated that repairs could cost around £17,000 but alternative quotations will be sought, together with grant applications made as appropriate. The Council currently has around £25,000 available and it was resolved that the existing items will be replaced and, when that is complete, the Council will draw up a proposal taking into account the feedback from the recent consultation and then ask for further feedback.

26/112 Planning sub-group:

a. There were no new applications at present.

b. *The following applications were noted, in response to which the planning group made recommendations to the Council:*

   2026/1267/NMA. Lane House Business Park. A minor amendment to a building on Lane House Business Park, A65, very minor and of no issue. The new tenant has asked for minor amendments to the existing building to better suit their needs.

   2026/1063/HOU 7 Ruskin Drive. Addition of small front extension, rear extension, dormer mods and addition of PV panels, all to generally make better use of the existing space in this bungalow, and rearrange the layout. No issues.

   2026/0999/LBC. Toll House Cottage Kendal Rd/Biggins Lane. Removal of defective and aged sand/cement render and replace with lime mortar, plus replace 1 rotten wooden window with like for like wooden window. No issues.

26/113 Westmorland & Furness Councillor:

No report, but an emailed update from Councillor Hodgson had been circulated to all Councillors.

26/114 Finance:

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

Craig Bradshaw	£1,980.00	Maintenance contract
ZOOM	£167.88	Annual fee

(This licence has been renewed for the coming year, after which the Council will consider if this is now necessary.

b. The Cash and Budget Statements were noted:

c. The draft Financial Regulations had been circulated. Councillor McPhail agreed to review these and propose a simplified version for acceptance by the Council at the next meeting.

d. Work on the Asset Register continues and real progress is being made. It is expected that this will be ready for adoption by the Council at either the September or October meeting.

26/115 Inspection of 'The Ram'

The Council thanks Phil Howden, of Thomas Consulting, for carrying out the first annual inspection of The Ram since its installation in June 2025. The Report is filed in the Council's records and is favourable.

It was noted that no response has been received yet from Westmorland & Furness Council following the Council's request for the lighting of The Ram.

26/116 'Assertion 10 Digital & Data Compliance':

The Clerk said that the new website is compliant with all the new requirements, although it now appears that it is not yet a legal requirement (although considered good practice) for all Councillors to have a gov.uk address, providing the Clerk does.

Councillor McPhail will update the website and upload recent documents to it.

26/117 Town Council Work Plan:

The proposed Town Council Work Plan had been circulated to all Councillors by the Chairman and it was resolved to adopt it. Councillors are asked to study this and to send any observations to the Chairman before the next meeting.

26/118 Correspondence:

a. Correspondence was received regarding the need for a 20mph speed limit at Low Biggins and this had been circulated to all Councillors. The Clerk had confirmed with Westmorland & Furness Council that the Council's application for a 20mph speed limit is on file, together with a number of other requests and these all await future funding and decisions

b. Proposed Solar Farm at Hop House Lane – this had been discussed under ‘public participation’ earlier in the meeting.

26/119 Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 7pm in the Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed:

Dated: