

16 May 2023, Kirkby Stephen Town Council

Ordinary Meeting of Kirkby Stephen Town Council

Kirkby Stephen Town Council, Local Links, Vicarage Lane, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria, CA17 4QX
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Starting immediately after the Annual Meeting

Attending. Cllrs. P Richardson (Chairman), A Birtles (Vice Chairman), S Lancaster, M Hall, Adrian Waite, P Dew (W&F), G Wren & C Barnes (Clerk).

1 member of the public attending

23/026 **Public Participation.**

A member of the public welcomed the fact that the council was elected for the first time in a long time.

23/027 **Westmorland and Furness Councillors Participation.**
Cllr Dew.

1. W&F Council had held its AGM on the 20th April and the first meeting of the locality board had been held on the 9th May. Cllr Murray had been elected chairman of the locality board with the unanimous support of all members. The board was working on the establishment of its priorities around themes such as place shaping.
2. Highways issues were as follows: Residents had raised concern about the condition of paving and road surfaces in the first phase of the Whitehouse Farm Development which were being pursued through W&F Council as Highways & Planning authority. Croglam Lane & the signage install were ongoing. The one-way circulation around the market place was not consistently observed or well signed. The Countryside access team has installed a gate at the Edensyde Steps.
3. The Kirkby Stephen Youth Centre/Evergreen project was proceeding well, floors and the installation of equipment was being undertaken this week with arrangements for the handover to Kirkby Stephen Youth Centre well in hand with Heads of Terms agreed and a lease being drafted.
4. Cllr Dew had attended the Settle and Carlisle Railway Partnership meeting where a change of governance from Limited Company to Community Interest Company had been agreed.
5. Cllr Dew had attended the YDNP induction meeting earlier in the day. Issues facing the authority included a decrease in funding and housing allocation. He would be serving on the planning committee.
6. The dualling of the A66 was an ongoing with mitigation of its impacts on the Town Centre during construction an ongoing concern.

23/028 **Participation of the Police**

Thanks were recorded for the contribution to the town of PCSO Janet Allinson. Correspondence from Sgt. McKirdy had been received and circulated to councillors and would be discussed later in the agenda.

23/029 Apologies & Welcomes.

The Chairman welcomed a member of the public to the meeting and all Councillors. Apologies received from Cllr Thornton (Holiday) and Murray (W&F) (Holiday).

23/030 Declarations & Dispensations.

Councillors were reminded of the need to observe the need to make declarations when appropriate.

23/031 Exclusion of Press & Public.

It was resolved that Press and Public would not be excluded from any part of the meeting the grounds that publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

23/032 Planning (W&F).

23/0257 Site address: CO-OP SUPERMARKET REDMAYNE ROAD KIRKBY STEPHEN. CA17 4RL. Description: Prior Notification for the installation of an InPost parcel locker. The application had been determined prior to the meeting.

23/033 Jubilee Park Layby (Temporary Closure)

Councillors authorised the temporary closure of the layby to vehicular traffic (during Phase 1 of the Horsefair) & alternative use as the starting location for 'the Yomp' on the 4 June 2023.

Councillors authorised the purchase of concrete Jersey barriers at a cost of £2,367 + vat a saving on the £3.5k allocated in the January budget. The use of Jubilee Park as a venue for events of this type was welcomed, pedestrians and participants would be protected from traffic during the event. Pedestrian access to the park and layby would be maintained at all times. The barriers would be installed and stored by TA Law/Pennine Park on the council's behalf.

23/034 Appleby Horsefair.

Cllr Dew spoke to this item: The Horse fair would start in Appleby on the 8th June. A pre-fair meeting would be held in Appleby on the 24th May. Consultants engaged to report on the organisation/ticketing of the fair had not made any substantial progress. The new Chairman of MASCG (Director of Thriving Communities, Westmorland and Furness Council) considered the initial brief to be too broad and would be reviewing it. Patrols would start on the 25th May and the posting of the road verges was ongoing with a temporary speed limit in force during the fair and to protect the workforce while posts were being installed. Councillors were advised to examine the encampment protocol published on <https://www.applebyfair.org/> to which Police would work during the fair.

Police Gold Commander was Chief Inspector Matt Kennerley and Sgt Amanda McKirdy was in charge of the policing team in the Upper Eden/Kirkby Stephen Area.

Police would not be arranging for the boarding of railings in Kirkby Stephen and Cllrs Lancaster & Dew offered to liaise with Police, Costa Coffee, Kirkby Club and Barclays to limit tethering opportunities/risks in the Town Centre.

Cllr Dew noted that Cllrs Murray and Simpkins would be joining him on MASCG.

Cllr Hall anticipated that there may be issues with the displacement of fairgoers from stopping places that were no longer available and raised a question as to whether there could be any form of compensation for businesses arising from loss of trade during phase 1 of the fair. Concerns were raised again about safety of encampments

on the A685 and it was noted that this was an area where the Police and Highways Authority had direct responsibility. Cllr Wren expressed a view that the council had been reassured by the appointment of a consultant to examine the options for the organisation of the fair and was disappointed that progress had not been made. Cllr Dew commented that the provision of and procurement of stopping places should be a priority for Westmorland & Furness Council.

Sgt. McKirdy had written to confirm as follows:

1. Police will be working with Westmorland and Furness Officers, formerly employed by Eden District Council ensuring continuity.
2. Police will not be attending parish meetings.
3. Police patrols will start on 25th May and run until 13th June covering the length of the encampments from Kirkby Lonsdale through to Alston and everywhere in between. This will see a combination of mobile, static and foot patrols covering the busiest areas. The staffing will be centrally coordinated and comprise of an early and backshift providing coverage between 07:00-01:00 daily. Staff will be deployed where they are needed. The supervision of this staffing is made up of experienced officers to ensure consistency and local knowledge.
4. Any incidents requiring Police attendance need to be made via 101 or 999. As usual, there will be a dedicated option on 101 from 25th May.
5. The MASCG website will be updated with tolerated stopping sites, and Police will continue to receive and respond to information from counterparts over the County borders as regards migration. There will also be some useful information there regarding legislation, to assist managing the expectations of all affected.
6. Instead of the CAG meetings, which were sparsely attended, MASCG will be trialling an online form where reports can be made for the relevant agencies. Further details of this will be shared when finalised.

The need for members of the public to make Police reports directly to Police using the Phone 101 for non-emergency calls. 999 for emergency calls was stressed as being necessary.

23/035 Grass Cutting & Maintenance.

Two candidates had responded to the advertisement for a Grass Cutting operative and had been interviewed by Cllrs Lancaster and Richardson with the Clerk and Street Cleaner. One candidate was an experienced grounds maintenance contractor recently relocated to the area. The panel had proposed that the job be shared between the candidates and that the role be expanded to include schedules 2 & 3 of the current maintenance schedule. With the contractor supplying equipment (e.g. ride on mowers and scissor cutting mowers) and working on a self-employed basis with the other post filling in with hand mowing strimming and support to the street cleaner. This had been agreed in outline by the candidates and the Clerk was currently negotiating prices. The costs were expected to be approximately £1,500 over budget. The Clerk was authorised to complete the negotiation and appoint on this basis reporting back in due course.

23/036 **Small Grants.**

Small Grants were decided as follows:

1. Westmorland Dales Day, £500. Upper Eden Community Interest Company.
2. KS Pubwatch, £79.05. The original application had been reduced from the application (£316.20) following advice from the Licensing Officer at Westmorland and Furness Council as follows: 'the four Pub-watch Group Chairmen met this morning and have agreed to unite the groups into one called EDEN PUBWATCH GROUP and operate under one constitution and therefore the Insurance will be split into four equal payments of £79-05p each... Once the constitution is confirmed by all the four groups, I will send you a copy.' Councillors were willing to support this year to encourage the establishment of the group on the basis that this did not become an annual commitment for the Town Council.
3. It was decided not to provide a grant to the 'Yomp' but to support the project as requested by paying for the banners promoting the Yomp at the Start of the Course/Jubilee Park Entrance to the value proposed in the application.

23/037 **Finance.**

The schedules of receipts and payments and bank reconciliation for the month of April 2023 were received and APPROVED together with forward approval 'in principle' of regular/budgeted payments, Salaries, PAYE & NIC.

It was clarified that transaction no 36 24/4/2023 £2,500 referred to rental income due in the 2022/23 year in respect of the upper Eden Visitor Information Centre. The closing balance of £215,204.29 was noted.

<ends 21.50>

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Chairman

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Date