

## 08 May 2018, Kirkby Stephen Town Council

### **Annual Parish Meeting (Electors Meeting)**

Kirkby Stephen Town Council, Local Links, Vicarage Lane, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria, CA17 4QX

Tel. 017683 74854 | clerk@kirkby-stephen.com | [www.kirkbystephen.com](http://www.kirkbystephen.com)

Starting at 18:45

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**Attending:** Cllrs. J. Johnstone, A. Birtles, G. Lumley, D. Marsh P. Richardson, J. Sowerby, D. Thornton. KSTC.

Cllr. P. Dew. CCC. Cllr. T. Ladhams. EDC. Cllr. V. Kendal EDC/YDNP and 4 members of the Public.

18/001 **Minutes**

The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 16 May 2017 as a correct record.

18/002 **Chairman's Report (Kirkby Stephen Town Council)**

App.1

To receive the annual report from the Chairman of the Town Council.

18/003 **Public Participation**

A member of the public raised a concern that there were too many cafes in the town centre and hoped that the council could find ways support more balance serving the needs of short stay visitors e.g. Museum/Leisure Centre etc.

A member of the public asked if the public could be included in the forthcoming training for the emerging local plan (agreed member of the public to contact clerk).

It was felt that a camera to catch unregistered heavy goods vehicles could be sited on the main road. 25 wagons had been observed over a period of 30 minutes when they were supposed to travel to the A66/M6 J40 at Penrith under highways regulations. It was claimed that heavy good vehicles were diverted off the A66 at Brough. Resolved to place this on the next Council agenda for discussion.

<ends 19:05pm>

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**Chairman**

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**Date**

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*Chairman's Initials*

Appendix 1

Chairman's report 2017 2018 year.

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**Town Council Report 2018**

The Council now has a full contingent of 9 councillors as we welcomed David Gilmour in July.

Planning matters continued to dominate meetings throughout the year, with much disquiet from residents and dismay from the Council of the handling of the proposed Eden Local Plan. Flaws were found in the scoring matrix for proposed sites and pointed out by a resident to the officers. The Chief Executive of Eden District Council attended a meeting where councillors aired their concerns regarding the process of writing the Eden Local Plan. A timeline of the consultations, and the Town Council's responses, included drawing up a town plan in 2014 was given. The consultations carried out, prior to the hearings early in 2017, and the inspector's hearing held in May 2017, had created a divisive atmosphere in the town, this led to conflict and dispute over the allocation of some sites. The Council feels that this could have been handled more sensitively.

The impact on infrastructure in the town, created by the proposed number of houses, was highlighted to Mr Hooper.

The perceived impact on infrastructure was addressed at a later meeting by County Councillor, Phil Drew, who led his own investigations into the concerns. He advised that he had met with United Utilities and was told, although there were site specific challenges, the network is fit for purpose and the sewage works has capacity for a further 2000 people. Likewise, he has assured by the Grammar School, Primary School and Health Centre, that they also have capacity to take more numbers.

We still await the signing off the Eden Local Plan. Other planning applications are dealt with at monthly meetings.

A major undertaking facing the Town Council is the devolution of services from Eden District Council these include, Public Toilets, Street Lighting, Play Areas and Stoneshot Car Park. Eden are implementing a sliding scale of funding these services which will end in 4 years' time. Taking on these services is a major task for the Town Council, not only in the rising costs but also the management. We are in ongoing negotiations and will only sign any agreements when we are convinced the terms are right. At this point I must highlight that there will be an increase in precept charges for residents in the future.

The year round two hourly parking restrictions have been implemented. The Council has entered into another yearly lease for the car park. The car park maintenance costs are ongoing as the shrubs needed cutting back and the litter picked. I would ask users not to litter the car park area as this gives a poor impression to visitors. It is good to record that more locals are using the car park. I can foresee problems on auction sale days now that Harrison and Hetherington overflow car park area has received residential planning permission. The Council still offers coach parking on non-auction days, through an agreement with Harrison and Hetherington, paid for by the Town Council with support from Eden District Council.

The bus services out of town remain limited, mainly provided by the Classic Coach Company but we were delighted when the Western Dales Bus started a Thursday service to Kendal, which includes two round trips. The service is reliant on volunteer drivers and we thank 3 local residents who do this.

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*Chairman's Initials*

The Community and Council Centre service goes from strength to strength, with ever increasing user numbers. The relocation of the reception desk has proved popular with staff and residents. We are still waiting to sign a tenancy agreement with the County Council.

The Council supported the Primary School with a donation towards the cost of a new classroom. The funds needed were accumulated and the classroom built in time for the September term. The project proved how the community can pull together. The Town Clock is now fully refurbished and back on the Church Tower, another major fundraising effort.

A group, led by Councillors Walker and Lumley, are forming an emergency plan for the town, in event of flooding etc.

The Council continues to support the work of the Visitor Centre, along with Eden District Council and Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The Easter Vehicle Rally was successfully organised by Encounter Eden and we thank them for stepping in to ensure the event continues.

A successful Westmorland Dales Day was held at the end of July and growing on its success will held again this year with some new features.

The town continues to be enhanced by planting, maintenance of seats and extra litter picking.

Walkers are Welcome entered the town in an urban walking competition. Volunteers worked to spruce up different areas of the town, the town came 7th.

The town lights were extended again this year and successful switch on took place using the Parish Church and Churchyard. This venue proved safer than the Market Square. Despite some criticism, from a very few locals, regarding the lighting display, most people were delighted with the overall effect. The Town Council supports the costs and keeps them within budget.

Councillors continue to attend meetings such as the Appleby Fair and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Parish Meetings.

The Council continues to grant fund community organisations. The Peter Brittleton Bursary is supporting 11 Scouts on a camping trip and one young person, going to Kenya for 3 weeks, to work in a remote village. The following also received: Pad 9, £500 for their continuing good work with young people; Walkers are Welcome £40; The Grammar School £10, for a prize; The Royal British Legion £20, to provide a wreath, and the Commercial Vehicle Rally £300 towards the cost of staging the weekend.

At this point, on behalf of the Council, I want to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who work in so many ways for the benefit of the town.

A generous offer by a renowned local sculptress, Diane Lawrence, to produce a bronze statue for the town named 'The Spirit of Lady Anne Clifford'. This is an ongoing project, this will be a unique piece of work.

This now brings me to my own thanks. To Wendy Hamilton and Zelda Bromfield, for the administration of the Community and Council Centre. To Alan Simpson, our dedicated street cleaner. To Councillor Phil Drew, Trevor Ladhams and Val Kendal, our District Councillors. To my fellow Councillors for their support to me and their commitment to the community. Finally, to Jeanette Cooper who resigned from the post of Town Clerk and left at the end of March.

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*Chairman's Initials*

Jeanette served the Council for over 15 years and her support to me and all the Councillors was immeasurable. Jeanette was always willing to engage with the community and showed her commitment in so many ways, we were sorry to see her leave and wish her well in the future.

The saying is that every cloud has a silver lining', and this proved so when we able to appoint Christian Barnes as Town Clerk. Christian has experience of Clerk's duties and I am sure that he will help to guide this Town Council in all the challenges we face.

May we continue to work for the benefit of the whole community.

Joan Johnstone - Chairman

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*Chairman's Initials*