

15 January 2019, Kirkby Stephen Town Council

Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council

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

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Starting at 18.45pm

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

Cllr. P. Dew, CCC, Cllr. V. Kendall.

3 members of the public were present.

Participation of Public

Paving at South Road near the Spar Shop requires attention (W1980952695).

Stone building off Faraday Road looks in dangerous condition. It was agreed that the council would contact the owner.

Issues were raised over double parking on the marketplace which had been observed recently. To be discussed under Portfolios.

The Grammar School had written to parents restricting admission to a limited catchment. Cllr Dew noted that this had had an adverse reaction but gave a brief explanation of the circumstances behind the policy stating that he felt that the letter had been badly worded but the underlying reasons behind it were sound. He noted that there was a fear that children at feeder schools could be split up where they attended the same feeder but lived out of catchment e.g. Warcop. He was able to give a categorical reassurance that all students who lived within the catchment of the school were guaranteed a place the issue was in part to do with year 10 admissions which the policy was intended to address.

Participation of District Councillor Valerie Kendall.

Valerie Kendall had participated in a task and finish group examining poor participation in local government within the Eden District. She had completed a surgery today in the which had concentrated on planning issues. There was discussion of the poor performance of planning processes specifically arrangements for meetings attendance and it was suggested that evening meetings would be more accessible to working councillors.

Participation of County Councillor Phil Dew.

Faraday Road surfacing has now been completed and it was thought to be a particularly good job. Jo Walker had been appointed as inspector for the policing team in the area and had clarified that reports of HGV infringements would be followed up in respect of banned traffic. The work of the Eden Health and Well-being forum prescribing social contact and dealing with loneliness was praised. The Eden Local Committee and Young People's Working Group had recently received £10,000 from Cumbria County Council to look at ways of supporting young people's good health. £2,000 had been donated to Kirkby Stephen Memory Club which it was agreed was worthwhile. In respect of the Appleby Horse Fair County's representative would be nominated on the 28th of January to the Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group. Cllr Dew's speaking notes are given at Appendix 1.

The arrangement for a gypsy cultural evening was still on the cards and Cllr Dew was seeking a meeting with Chief Constable Michelle Skier which had been resisted. The purpose would be to look at policing strategy in respect the Appleby Horse Fair against the question: "Is it fit for purpose"

Participation of Police

Reports from PCSO Janet Allinson were available.

18/120 Apologies & DPI's.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Gilmour (KSTC), Cllrs Ladhams (EDC).

Cllr Gilmour had written to the council with his resignation following an unsuccessful surgery. It was agreed that the council would write with it good wishes for Cllr. Gilmour's service.

18/121 Budget 2019 2020 & Precept 2019 2020

It was AGREED to raise the precept for a 'Band D' Council Tax Payer by £34.92 over the whole year, an amount equivalent to £0.67 per week. The precept was set at £130.57 overall.

Councillors set a total precept of £82,909. Broken down as follows:

Kirkby Stephen Town Council
KSTC **Projection for 2019 2020 Budget**
Table 1

Updated 15 January 2018

	A	B	C	D	E
	<i>B/fwd</i>	<i>Income (Other)</i>	<i>Precept (inc CTRS)</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Surp/def B+C+D=</i>
1 Street Cleaning	£0	£7,018	£8,500	£15,538	-£20
2 Open Spaces	£0	£4,808	£8,300	£13,032	£77
3 Grants and Donations (137)	£0	£1,691	£1,800	£5,162	-£1,671
4 Administration	£0	£0	£22,200	£22,197	£3
5 Council & Community Centre	£0	£8,410	£34,000	£42,315	£95
6 Members Allowances	£0	£0		£0	£0
7 Cloisters	£0	£0	£1,500	£1,492	£8
8 Miscallaneous	£0	£4,914	£3,100	£5,658	£2,356
9 Market	£0	£0		£0	£0
10 Increase/Decrease of reserve	n/a	£0	£5,000	£0	£5,000
11 TOTALS	£0	£26,840	£84,400	£105,393	£5,847
12 less CTRS			-£1,491		
13 Precept 2019 2020			£82,909		

Councillors received a briefing on the council's financial position including the depletion of its reserves in November and had debated the budget at a further meeting in December when it decided to implement some changes of policy. The council resolved at its December meeting that it would not set deficit budgets other than in exceptional circumstances, that it would establish and hold dedicated reserves including reserves dedicated to the maintenance of assets devolved from Eden District Council where the burden of funding will in the future fall to Kirkby Stephen Town Council. The Council has been forced to meet rising costs generally and has resisted making dramatic increases in recent years. The Council attaches a great deal of importance to the services provides at Local Links. The Council was forced to adopted a lone working policy two years ago to support Council and Community Centre staff on learning of

Cumbria County Council's plans to automate the Library Service and reduce the presence of County Council staff in the building. The council funded this policy from its reserves which have been depleted as a result. The Council considered some of the expenditures it makes where it has a 'power' to provide funding rather than a 'duty' and is prepared to make some difficult decisions going forward. It has been resolved to support the Burial Board for a further year noting that higher tier councils also have powers which they choose not to exercise to fund the costs of the Burial Board. In consideration of the cost of this the council added £2,000 to the amount it has precepted for building up the reserve which formerly stood at a suggested £3,000. The Calor fund was relisted under 'miscellaneous' with a balance of £1,937. Following the withdrawal of funding by Eden District Council in respect of coach parking the decision was taken to cancel the lease of the Carpark at H&H in Faraday Road with effect from August 2020.

18/122 **Planning** 18/0982 Site address: LAND ADJACENT WELLFIELD FARM HOUSE, APPLEBY ROAD, KIRKBY STEPHEN, CA17 4PE. Description: Proposed agricultural building for machinery and implements. SUPPORTED

18/123 **Planning** 18/0939 Site address: BOLLAM COTTAGE, NATEBY ROAD KIRKBY STEPHEN, CA17 4JN. Description: Proposed creation of parking area and erection of shed. SUPPORTED

18/124 **Portfolios**

To consider and decide appropriate actions on the portfolio items:
Town Council Administration. JJ.

- Cllr Johnstone thanked all involved with the successful Christmas Lights display and wished to record particular thanks to Paul Richardson.

Community Planning. AB.

- Cllr Lumley updated on the Community Plan Process which was ongoing.

Community. PR.

- Arrangements for the award of the Brittleton Bursary were discussed. The Clerk would issue a call out in the forthcoming Community Newsletter.

Highways. JS.

- Parking problems were noted at the Market Place/Crescent and South Road. A Plan of action had been agreed with the PCSO and enforcement action would be sought. The matter would feature in the next community newsletter.

Open Spaces. DT/JJ.

- The planters had been removed from the market place following accident damage. It was RESOLVED not to replace them.

Property. DM/DG.

Tourism & Events. MW.

- It was noted that the Easter Rally would be going ahead and council support of £1,000 had been subscribed.

18/125 **Finance**

Payments (December/January) were approved as follows:

19/12/2018, Cumbria Doc Sols Ltd, 104948, V136, £46.16

19/12/2018, Penrith Town Council, 104949, V137, £262.50

19/12/2018, Rachael Little, 104950, V138, £80.00

19/12/2018, Halls Newsagents, 104951, V139, £39.16

19/12/2018, Eden Emporium, 104952, V140, £113.94

19/12/2018, EDC, 104954, V141, £4,065.79

21/12/2018, Lee Modlin - delivery newsletter, BACS, V142, £75.00

21/12/2018, HMRC - PAYE, BACS, V143, £3,375.23
14/01/2019, EDC, 104955, V144, £372.22
14/01/2019, NW Arboricultural Servs Ltd, 104956, V145, £954.00
14/01/2019, Kirkby Stephen Produce Ltd, 104957, V146, £307.20
14/01/2019, Walkers are Welcome Towns Network, 104958, V147, £40.00
01/01/2019, System IT , DD, V148, £36.00
14/01/2019, Plusnet , DD, V149, £64.20
20/01/2019, EDC, DD, V150, £254.00
21/12/2018, Salaries, BACS, V131-V134, £690.44
31/12/2018, Nest, BACS, V135, £88.55

18/126 **Bank Reconciliation Kirkby Stephen Town Council at 31/12/18**

Balance B/fwd	£69,363.25		
Receipts in	£197.63	Payments out	£13,639.01
		Balance C/fwd	£55,921.87
Totals	£69,560.88		£69,560.88

Diffce £0.00

Bank Balance C/fwd

Market	£8,780.45	
HICA	£45,022.99	
Current	£686.22	
Cumberland	<u>£1,874.81</u>	
		£56,364.47
<u>Add o/s rec'ts</u>		£0.00
<u>Less o/s chqs</u>		-£442.60
		<u>£55,921.87</u>

18/127 **Meeting with Kirkby Lonsdale/Sedbergh Councillors re Appleby Fair Visitors**

A meeting had been held at 2:30pm with representatives of the Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh Town Council. For Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale, Sheila Capstick (South Lakeland District Council) and John Capstick (Sedbergh Town Council), Councillor Nick Cotton chairman of the 'Respect' group and a member of Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council and Cumbria County Council, Phil Dew Cumbria County Council and for Kirkby Stephen Town Council Chairman Joan Johnstone and Cllrs Mike Walker, Paul Richardson & Dorothy Thornton.

The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange information about the experience of each town. In both Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh there have been problems with anti-social behaviour arising from the behaviour of a gang of youths it was also revealed that there had been no flooding which had been offered as an explanation for why the Travellers were moved

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Chairman's Initials

on to the site of the a685 at Winton. After discussion it was resolved that the three Town Councils would establish an informal chain of communication to share intelligence. It was agreed jointly to investigate what could be done to improve the provision of CCTV to provide material of sufficient quality to identify perpetrators and provide evidence in any proceedings. It was agreed to write jointly a letter to MP Rory Stewart calling for an independent study with home office banking to provide an independent point of reference this approach was successful it was agreed that the town councils involved would consider subscribing funding to the support of this initiative. It was agreed that the councils would meet again in Easter to review progress

18/128 **Clerk's Report**

The clerk would forward various circulars, please would councillors interested in the conservation area appraisal respond to him directly.

18/129 **5th February 2019**, please could councillors submit items for the agenda by 30 January 2019.

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Chairman

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Date

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Chairman's Initials

Appendix 1

Report to Town Council meeting 4 September, 2018 – County Councillor, Phil Dew.

Highways

The resurfacing of Faraday Road, Westgarth Avenue and Brougham Lane has been completed to a high standard and the 'Give Way' markings at the junction with Fletcher Hill Park are now in place.

The statutory consultation period for proposed amendments to the Eden Traffic Regulation Order in Kirkby Stephen has now ended and the amendments will come to Eden Local Committee for ratification.

The winter resilience programme - including the filling of grit bins - is currently underway. Lessons learned from 2018 will be discussed by councillors at a meeting in Penrith on 25 January, 2019.

The permits for HGVs are going to be reviewed over the next few months. Only hauliers living in the area will be issued with permits all other vehicles over the weight limit will have to be in possession of a valid delivery note. The final decision will be taken by Eden Local Committee later this year.

Joanne Walker, the Eden Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector, has said that reports of HGVs using the A685 illegally will be taken seriously and followed up. Please record the registration number and time/date of offence and either phone 101 or report online using the non-emergency crime reporting facility [Cumbria Police website].

Miscellaneous

Cumbria Wildlife Trust has begun the new car park on the outskirts of Smardale. This should be completed early in 2019.

The Integrated Care Community [ICC] continues to be established in Penrith. I would be interested to receive feedback on the experiences of local residents who have recently had to use the health or care services in Eden and in particular those who have returned home from hospital.

Ashley Liston, the Commissioning Lead GP for the ICC, reported to the Eden Health and Wellbeing Forum [of which I am a member] on 7 January, 2019, that eight Living Well Coaches have now been appointed to deliver Social Prescription in Eden. Their task will be to signpost patients in GP practices to appropriate local third sector/voluntary/community organisations such as walking or gardening clubs. This approach has been tried & tested elsewhere in the country and been shown to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing.

Eden Local Committee recently gave a grant of £2000 to the Kirkby Stephen Memory Club [KSMC] to help support the vital work that it does among people living with dementia in the local community. I presented the cheque to KSMC at its Christmas lunch on 13 December, 2018.

ELC – through its Children and Young People’s Working Group which I chair - is funding a project in local schools to support the emotional resilience of children and young people. This will coincide with Children’s Mental Health Week which runs from 4-10 February, 2019. A programme of events will be delivered in schools by Carlisle Eden Mind.

I am a member of the Corporate Parenting Board [CPB] in Cumbria which is responsible for scrutinising the fostering and adoption services. Through the CPB I have been appointed the Children’s Champion for Eden and I take a keen interest in looked after children in our District. I am encouraging businesses to become Fostering Friendly Employers and I promote fostering as a vital way of helping children in care.

Appleby Horse Fair

The Multi Agency Strategic Coordinating Group [MASC] has agreed to allow elected member representation. Eden Local Committee [ELC] will decide which councillor will represent the County at its meeting on 28 January, 2019.

The MASC has also agreed to begin the process of limiting encampments on the A685. Permanent measures will be put in place as funds allow. I am meeting CCC officers in Kirkby Stephen on 17 January, 2019, to discuss various proposals. The MASC Highways Working Group, of which I am a member, meets again on 23 January, 2019. The issue will be also be discussed by ELC on 28 January, 2019.

The proposed cultural evening - to learn more about gypsy/traveller history and their way of life - is in the early stages of planning. The event should take place in April, 2019.

I am hoping to meet Peter McCall [PCC] and Michelle Skeer [Chief Constable] in the near future to discuss the policing of the fair in greater detail. This is currently being resisted by Cumbria Constabulary. It is vital that proper provision is made in 2019.

Kirkby Stephen Grammar School

I am a member of CCC’s Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee and take a keen interest in education.

KSGS has recently begun a consultation process on proposed changes to its admissions policy [the current policy can be viewed on the school’s website]. In doing this the school is following the procedure laid down by the Department for Education [DfE].

One of the most contentious issues has been the proposal to reduce the Published Admissions Number [PAN] – which is the number of children that a school can admit in each year group - from 89 to 64. This will give the school greater control over admissions to each year group.

The number 64 is significant in that this is the maximum number of students that can be comfortably accommodated in two classes. Any additional children will necessitate a third class which costs the school approximately £56,000 to fund. The break-even number of children for that third class is in the region of fourteen – given that each pupil brings an income of approximately £4000.

The school has an obligation to balance its budget and cannot afford to go into deficit - otherwise DfE advisers might impose controls. The school has to be financially prudent.

Figures for the next six years show that the intake from KSGS's six feeder primary schools – Asby, Warcop, Kirkby Stephen, Orton, Tebay and Brough – will only exceed 64 in 2024/25 when the projected number is 86. This is sufficiently large to allow the school to provide for a third class.

There is no intention to limit the intake from feeder primary schools – and certainly not for those children currently living in the KSGS catchment area.

KSGS can revise its PAN upwards if future house building in Kirkby Stephen necessitates it.

The head teacher, Gary Hartley, is happy to address the Town Council, in person.