

## 5 February 2019, Kirkby Stephen Town Council

### **Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council**

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 18.45pm

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**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.  
Chief Superintendent, Rob O'Connor (Gold Commander Appleby Horse Fair), Sgt., Andy Milburn

3 members of the public were present.

#### **Participation of Public**

A request had been received from Costa Coffee to advertise on the town scaffold at the entrance and exit to the town. The request had been declined on the basis that they were a commercial organisation. The scaffold was used for event posters and information regarding voluntary and community groups.

It was noted that there was no salt bin at Christian Head car park.

Councillor Johnstone recorded her thanks to Liz, Mike and Karen Hall for all their assistance over many years in helping with the administration of the marketplace.

A report has been made of a blocked gully in Mill Gardens

#### **Participation of District Councillor Valerie Kendall.**

Cllr Kendall had raised the issue of evening planning meetings being accessible to working people. Eden District Council's Deputy Chief Exec had said there were no plans to change planning meetings to a more accessible time in the evening.

Cllr Kendall had been following the latest developments arising from the Penrith Masterplan.

Cllr Kendall had attended a session on scrutiny. A Local Government Association speaker report was due. The feedback was that the scrutiny process 'doesn't have enough teeth'.

#### **Participation of County Councillor Phil Dew.**

Proposed amendments to the Eden Traffic Regulation Order for Kirkby Stephen were agreed by Eden Local Committee at its January meeting. Permits for HGVs are going to be reviewed. A meeting to discuss the extreme winter weather experienced in 2018 was held in Penrith in January but no conclusions had been drawn! EDC had awarded £75,000 from the Signature Fund for the All Weather Pitch. Cllr Dew had asked CCC Leader Stuart Young for a commitment (which he had given) that there are no plans to close Christian Head Care Home. Children and Young People's Mental Health Awareness Week was happening and a project funded by Eden Local Committee has begun in schools throughout Eden. Regarding Appleby Horse Fair, MASC had met in November and had decided to allow elected member representation. Cllr Dew was elected to represent CCC's Eden Local Committee last week. The next meeting of MASC would be held in February. Cllr Dew met with Cumbria Constabulary and Highways in January to discuss safety issues regarding encampments on the A685.

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*Chairman's Initials*

### **Participation of Police**

Reports from PCSO Janet Allinson were available.

Chief Superintendent, Rob O'Connor (Gold Commander Appleby Horse Fair & Sgt., Andy Milburn spoke in connection with the policing of the 2019 Appleby Horsefair in so far as it may affect Kikby Stephen. Firstly, Rob O'Connor had replaced Mark Pannone as Gold Commander, he was aware of what had been said at the meeting held at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School on the 26 June 2018 at which Mark Panonne spoke and he anticipated that there would be significant changes in policing at the time of the 2019 fair in response to locally raised concerns. Policing in Phase 1 (The build up to the fair) would be noticeably different.

1. There would be up to 30 police in the town between 7:00am and 2:00am in shifts of approximately 10. (4Sgts:7PC & PCSO's)
2. There would be more support in terms of Police presence for licencees at closing time.
3. Police would be stationed in the Town Square and close to town centre pubs.
4. CCTV would be stationed in the town with local relays being established.
5. It was proposed to alter the 101 police call line to include an immediate Appleby Fair option.
6. Police were concerned to ensure that there was continuity of staffing with named officers being permanently assigned to horse fair roles throughout the different phases of the fair.
7. A Public Space Protection Order (no public drinking) would be enforced with signage hopefully in place soon. However, Eden District Council were rebranding and this was delaying the installation of the signage. Concern was expressed that the signage could be perceived as being specifically targeted at gypsy/travellers when in fact it applied to the whole population if installation was late.
8. A commitment was given to tackle officer inaction.
9. Officers would be wearing cameras.
10. Steps would be taken to try to control horse trading activity.
11. Licencees had not accepted the principle of using plastic glasses and had not responded to the offer of subsidy to hire additional door staff.
12. It was felt that the problems experienced last year on the A685 would not be solved in one year.
13. Mobile Custody Units would not be needed because increased numbers meant that Police could cover for colleagues absences.
14. Community PCSO surgeries would be reinstated.

Cllr Johnstone thanked Chief Superintendent, Rob O'Connor for attending and said that the proposed measures sounded like a very positive step.

**18/130 Apologies & DPI's.**

Cllr Marsh (Vehicle Breakdown), No DPI's.

**18/131 Minutes**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 15 January 2019 were approved as a true record.

**18/132 Planning**

18/0973 Site address: FORMER GOODS SHED PENNINE VIEW PARK, STATION ROAD KIRKBY STEPHEN, CA17 4SZ

Description: Discharge of condition 3 (level 2 survey) attached to approval 17/0923.  
(Supported)

**18/133 Conservation Area Appraisal**

Cllr Thornton offered to participate in the conservation area appraisal process and it was agreed that the clerk would forward her details to EDC Conservation Officer Paula Smith.

**18/134 Devolution of Services, Eden District Council**

A meeting was to be held tomorrow with Jane Langston and Neil Buck of Eden District Council to discuss progress after delays in progressing the process by Eden. A report would be given to a future meeting. It was unanimously RESOLVED to accept devolved assets only on the basis of tapered funding with a 100% in the first year as originally proposed.

**18/135 Portfolios**

Town Council Administration. JJ.

All-Weather Pitch update. There had been an announcement in the Cumberland and Westmorland Herald of an award of £75k from the Eden District Council's Signature Fund to the All-Weather Pitch. It was anticipated that an offer letter would arrive after the call-in period had expired. The Grant was subject to a condition that Kirkby Stephen Grammar School make a financial contribution to the project and it was anticipated that a conversation with the school would be necessary in the immediate future.

Community Planning. AB.

Work was progressing on the Community Plan. Cllr Lumley was still consulting but it was anticipated that a refreshed plan could be published soon. A Kirkby Stephen shop keeper had proposed a flag scheme for retailers to promote townscape vitality. The costs were anticipated to be £16 per flag plus the cost of installing. It was agreed that this was something to which the town council could make a contribution through the Town Forum fund if there was sufficient interest

Highways. JS.

Blocked gullies in Brougham Lane had been reported to Highways

Open Spaces. DT/JJ.

An application had been made to the Pocket Parks scheme sponsored by the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government for works at Stenkrith associated with the sculpture, 'The Passage' and with the provision of disabled access. Funds would have to be expended by the 31<sup>st</sup> March if the bid was successful.

Tourism & Events. MW.

Market Place Bookings were approved as follows: 20 & 21 April, Easter Rally 2 Days, 18 May Community Event, 28 July Westmorland Dales Day.

**18/136 Payments**

The following payments were approved:

06/02/2018, Eden Farm Supplies, 000001, V157, £15.00

06/02/2018, Cumbria CVS, BACS, V158, £10.50

06/02/2018, Coach Drivers Club, BACS, V159, £192.00

06/02/2018, C Barnes – stamps, BACS, V160, £29.00

06/02/2018, System IT, 000002, V161, £153.12

06/02/2018, Halls Newsagents, 000003, V162, £15.49

01/02/2019, System IT, DD, V163, £36.00

14/02/2019, Plusnet, DD, EST, £64.20

01/02/2019, CF Corporate, DD, V165, £175.86

25/01/2019, Salaries, BACS, V151-V154, £3,425.46

25/01/2019, W Hamilton /Moneysoft, BACS, V155, £81.60  
30/01/2019, Nest, BACS, V156, £74.59

137/18 **Bank Reconciliation**

The bank reconciliation was approved as follows:

**Bank Reconciliation Kirkby Stephen Town Council at 31/01/19**

Balance B/fwd	£51,263.86		
Receipts in	£175.60	Payments out	£626.97
		Balance C/fwd	£50,812.49
Totals	<b><u>£51,439.46</u></b>		<b><u>£51,439.46</u></b>

Diffce £0.00

**Bank Balance C/fwd**

Market	£8,780.45	
HICA	£33,042.99	
Current	£4,442.49	
Cumberland	<u>£4,981.67</u>	
		£51,247.60

Add o/s rec'ts £0.00

Less o/s chqs -£435.11

£50,812.49

138/18 **Clerk's Report**

The Cumberland Account was now in operation with signatories/members logged on and able to view balances. It was anticipated that the HSBC Accounts would be closed with effect from the 31<sup>st</sup> March in line with a previous resolution.

The Peter Brittleton Bursary would be publicised in the next newsletter with awards going on the agenda for the March meeting. Details of the application process were available online on the council's website at [www.kirkby-stephen.com](http://www.kirkby-stephen.com) and had been publicised on the council's facebook page. Full details would go out in the community newsletter at the end of next week. The Clerk would be attending a briefing on the forthcoming local elections on the 13 February and would report back.

Councillors were circulated a proposed statement regarding changes in staffing at the library and the council's occupation of the Local Links. A few small changes were agreed and the statement was approved to go back to County. The Clerk expressed concern that negotiations with Town Council staff as to their roles in respect of supporting the Library Service were being conducted directly with the staff concerned by County and not through the Town Council. The council's licence to occupy the building had been agreed in principle but remained unsigned. It was hoped that these matters could be quickly resolved.

139/18 **Date of Next Meeting.**

5th March 2019, please could councillors submit items for the agenda by 27 February 2019.

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Chairman's Initials



**Appendix 1**

**Report to Town Council meeting 5 February 2019 – County Councillor, Phil Dew.**

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**Highways**

The proposed amendments to the Eden Traffic Regulation Order for Kirkby Stephen were approved by Eden Local Committee on 28 January, 2019. The restrictions that will be introduced in South Road are not ideal but the best that can be achieved. It has not been possible to provide parking bays or similar at the southern end of South Road because of the narrowness of both the carriageway and pavement.

There are no further parking restrictions planned for Market Street. The proposal for a recessed parking bay in the vicinity of McColl's will be implemented in 2019/20.

The permits for HGVs are going to be reviewed over the next few months [2019/20]. 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 in 2019.

A meeting to discuss the 'lessons learned' from the extreme winter weather experienced in 2018 was held in Penrith on 25 January, 2019, but no recommendations have been agreed or published which is very disappointing. In effect a whole year has been lost. So no decisions have been made about providing warning signs for snow bound minor roads, or bulk supplies of grit for outlying villages, or liability cover for farmers clearing drifts. The so called 'winter maintenance review' is officially ongoing.

A report entitled 'Working Together' was presented to Eden Local Committee on 28 January, 2018, which outlined CCC's proposals for authorised persons and volunteers carrying out minor works on the highway such as hedge trimming and litter picking. The report is very risk averse and lacking in detail and should be marked 'could do better'.

The problem of Eden's potholes featured in the CWH recently. In essence the Government was blamed for not providing enough money - which is a common and recurring theme. A significant contributing factor is the unfair distribution of resources in Cumbria – which I have spoken out against - combined with the fact that over £45,000 of Eden's highways revenue budget is used to pay for traffic management measures associated with Appleby Horse Fair which CCC's cabinet has refused to fund centrally.

**Miscellaneous**

EDC's executive agreed to give a grant of £75,000 to KS Town Council from its Signature Fund on 22 January, 2019, towards the cost of replacing the all-weather pitch and lighting at KSGS. This marks the culmination of a long process of petitioning on behalf of the KS Community Sports Association by elected members.

Concern has been expressed once again about the future of Christian Head Care Home following a recent article in the CWH which reported on comments made by Pat Bell the newly appointed cabinet member for health and social care. Councillor Bell stated that a care home has to be full to make it worthwhile. I sought an assurance from the leader of the council, Stewart Young, at a meeting of CCC on 10 January, 2019, that there are no plans to close Christian Head. Stewart Young assured me that the future of Christian Head is sound and secure.

We are currently in Children and Young People's Mental Health Awareness Week [4-10 February, 2019], and the campaign – called Share a Smile - that has been sponsored by Eden Local Committee to the tune of £10,000 has begun in schools throughout Eden. On 5 February, 2019, I attended a training day with sixth form students from KSGS and Appleby GS which was run by Lynsey Eland of Carlisle Eden Mind. Further sessions will be held for UCC and QEGS students. Together the students will become Youth Mental Health Champions and their task will be to help children and young people in Eden's primary and secondary schools to become more emotionally resilient.

I have had local commercial taxi and bus companies enquire about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities [SEND] home to school transport and the intentions of CCC. The council has run a pilot scheme in Ulverston, Barrow and Kendal to ascertain the potential savings from running an in-house transport service and I understand that to date this has been very successful. There is no plan to introduce the scheme in every area but the end result will depend on the competitiveness of tenders. Decisions will be based wholly on cost and best value.

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Peter McCall, addressed Eden Local Committee on 28 January, 2019. He spoke about the 10.29% increase in the precept which would provide an additional £4 million pounds in revenue. This would be used to recruit an additional twenty officers, cover the police pay award and meet the increased costs arising from inflation.

### **Appleby Horse Fair**

The Multi Agency Strategic Coordinating Group met on 26 November, 2018, and agreed to allow elected member representation. I was elected to represent CCC's Eden Local Committee at a meeting held on 28 January, 2019. I understand that the next meeting of the MASCG will be held on 25 February, 2019, but as of yet I have not received an invitation to attend. It has to be said that communication is not one of the MASCG's strong points!

I met with representatives of Cumbria Constabulary and CCC Highways in KS on 17 January, 2019, to discuss ways of restricting encampments on the A685 for the safety of both residents and members of the gypsy/traveller community. We also discussed the policing arrangements in KS for Phase 1 of the 2019 fair. We then had a further, more formal, meeting in Penrith on 23 January, 2019, as the MASCG Highways Working Group. Any actions will be limited by the funds available and the number of officers that Cumbria

Constabulary is prepared to commit to Phase 1. I am encouraged by the appointment of Temp Chief Superintendent Rob O'Connor as Gold Command.

Plans for the gypsy/traveller cultural evening in April are taking shape – slowly.