

07 May 2019, Kirkby Stephen Town Council

Ordinary Meeting

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

Tel. 017683 74854 | clerk@kirkby-stephen.com | www.kirkbystephen.com

Starting at 6.45 pm at Local Links immediately after the Electors' Meeting

Attending: Cllrs J Johnstone, Paul Richardson, A. Birtles, M Walker, G Wren, C Lynch, S Lancaster (EDC/KSTC). Cllr P Dew (CCC/EDC) and 2 members of the Public.

Participation of District Councillors S Lancaster/P Dew.

Cllr Lancaster had just returned from a reception for newly elected councillors at Eden District Council and was congratulated on her election. She felt it was 'early days' to make a report. Noting that the first meeting of the new council was due to be held on the following Thursday, the Conservative Group had lost control of the council and the leadership and political appointments were unresolved. There had been a creditable 39% turnout in Kirkby Stephen.

Participation of County Councillor P Dew. Highways

App.1

Cllr Dew spoke to a report given as Appendix 1. Topics touched on included roads; Road Markings (South Road/Market Street); Preparations for the 2019 Appleby Horse fair. Traffic: Proactive targeting of HGV offenders by Police; A66 Consultation on the 3rd meeting inexplicably relocated without explanation. **Appleby Horse Fair.** Cote Moor residents oppose any relaxation of the order restricting encampments on the common land supported by MASCG at its meeting on the 29th April; A positive meeting finding common ground with Billy Welsh (Shera Rom) at his home in Darlington; MASCG meeting 29 April, 2019. Proposals for improvements to the Draft Strategy were given; Licensing arrangements in Kirkby Stephen were considered; Gypsy/traveller Cultural Evening on Monday, 29 April, 2019 was attended by over one hundred people was well received. PD intended to attend the CAG meetings being held in KS during Phase 1 of the Fair. **Elections.** Thursday, 2 May, 2019, was Election Day and Sandy Lancaster and I were duly elected to represent KS on Eden District Council. We will both work hard to make a difference and bring about positive change and improvements.

- 19/019 The Chairman **welcomed** new councillors to the meeting
- 19/020 **Vacancy.** It was agreed to advertise the Vacancy for a period of 14 days. Darren Marsh a former member of the council had wished to serve another term but had omitted to sign the nomination form which was therefore declared invalid by the returning officer. It was proposed that if there was no other interest after fourteen days the co-option would be offered to Darren Marsh. Cllr Lancaster mentioned an individual she knew was interested in serving on the council.
- 19/021 19/0263, Site address: ROCKCLIFFE, 44 SOUTH ROAD, KIRKBY STEPHEN, CA17 4SN
Description: Demolition of existing extension and erection of replacement two storey extension. **SUPPORTED**

19/022 **Easter Rally** it was agreed to write congratulating Encounter Eden on the success of the Easter Rally which was regarded as a significant success. Although elements of the occasion had been 11th hour, they had nevertheless come off and congratulations were due. It was anticipated that there would be an evaluation meeting in due course.

19/023 **Market Square** It was agreed to install of a 13-amp socket in the southern bollard to allow power use by users of the Market Square. The northern bollard is fitted with a socket, the power at the southern bollard feeds a remote socket at the base of the pole. This could be modified to include an accessible socket in the bollard and a plug should power ever be needed at the base of the pole. Clerk to action.

19/024 **CAG (Community Assessment Group)** the meetings would be held at the Police Station between 10:00 and 11:00 am Town Council Representation was agreed as follows:

28/5/2019 Cllr J Johnstone
29/5/2019 Cllr M Walker
30/5/2019 Cllr S Lancaster
31/5/2019 Cllr G Wren
1/6/2019 Cllr P Richardson
2/6/2019 Cllr P Richardson
3/6/2019 Cllr M Walker
4/6/2019 Cllr C Lynch
5/6/2019 C Barn
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19/025 **Portfolios.**

It was agreed to review and appoint to these at a future meeting when new councillors had had an opportunity to settle in. Some reorganisation may be required.

- **Town Council Administration.**
- **Community Planning.** (AB) Data Analysis continues with a talk through scheduled with EDC officers on Monday afternoon. All Weather Pitch Contractor had been identified and the group were ready to proceed at the end of June.
- **Community.**
- **Highways.** (PR) Had attended the relocated Highways meeting regarding the dualling of the A66. It was anticipated that work would start in 5 years time and a ministerial launch was expected on the 16th May. It was proposed that the new would have no right turns.
- **Open Spaces.** (JJ) It was anticipated that tree inspections would be needed throughout the town and starting with the contractors recommendations for Jubilee Park which could hopefully be decided on next month.
- **Property.**
- **Tourism & Events.** (MW) nominated to continue at KSTC rep on Walkers are Welcome.

19/026 **Devolution of Services (Eden District Council)**

The council considered an update regarding the covenants proposed by Eden District Council on assets proposed for devolution at Stoneshott Toilets/car park. The Clerk expressed concern that the although the intention behind the covenants was clear and responsible. The indefinite terms attached to them could prove problematic. It

was agreed that Cllr Birtles would take soundings regarding whether Eden DC were prepared to fix a term for the covenants to apply e.g. 5 or 10 years.

19/027 **Finance**

The April Bank Reconciliation (April) was approved with a closing balance of £131,328.21

A Schedule of payments were approved as listed at 7 May 2019
(<https://www.kirkby-stephen.com/app/uploads/20190507-Bank-Rec-Payments-for-Approval.pdf>)

The Clerk was authorised to settle the Stenkirith rent payment taking account of the arrears owed from the previous year and to pay the Council's Insurance Premium after negotiation with the Councils Insurers both to be reported to a future meeting.

19/028 **It was resolved to defer the discussion of the Brittleton Bursary.**

<ends 10:00pm>

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Chairman

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Date

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Chairman's Initials

Appendix 1
Report of County Councillor Phil Dew

Highways

We await the new road markings on South Road and the parking bays on Market Street south of the bus stop.

Highways officers are busy preparing for the 2019 Fair.

Cumbria Constabulary is being much more proactive in relation to the illegal use of the A685 by HGVs exceeding the 18T weight restriction. PC Thoele the Eden Problem Solving Officer has identified several haulage companies that are repeat offenders and has subsequently met with senior management figures. The NW Traffic Commissioner has also been informed. Members of the public should report suspect law breakers online at 101@cumbria.police.uk and mark the email FAO Eden Problem Solving Team.

On Friday, 3 May, 2019, I attended the meeting being held at the HE offices in Penrith to discuss the dualling of the A66 – only to discover that it had either been cancelled or moved to other premises. I never did discover which.

Appleby Horse Fair

I attended a meeting on Wednesday, 17 April, 2019, with 14 residents of Cote Moor, police officers and Emma Brass the environmental health officer responsible for temporary encampments. Residents vehemently opposed any relaxation of the order restricting encampments on the common land.

I visited Billy Welch at his home in Darlington on Thursday 25 April, 2019, and spent five hours in his company. It was a fascinating experience and I discovered that we have much in common. We are determined to work together to make the 2019 Fair a success.

The MASCG met in Penrith on Monday, 29 April, 2019. We discussed the Draft Strategy and I made several suggestions for improvement. It was decided not to amend the order restricting encampments on Cote Moor. Licensing arrangements in Kirkby Stephen were considered along with various other highways/policing matters including the A685. I have written to Chief Superintendent Rob O'Connor expressing several outstanding concerns.

The gypsy/traveller Cultural Evening was held in the Kings Arms Function Room on Monday, 29 April, 2019. The meeting was attended by over one hundred people and Billy Welch and Bill Lloyd were well received. Rob O'Connor and other senior officers were present and we pledged to work together for the good of all. There was a very balanced report in the CWH on Saturday, 4 May, 2019.

I hope to attend the CAG [Community Action/Assessment Group] meetings being held in KS during Phase 1 of the Fair and also the pre-Fair meeting in Appleby on Wednesday, 8 May, 2019.

David Collins, a Sunday Times journalist, is planning to write an article on the 2018 Fair. I asked him to desist given the proximity of the 2019 Fair.

Elections

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Chairman's Initials

Thursday, 2 May, 2019, was Election Day and Sandy Lancaster and I were duly elected to represent KS on Eden District Council. Voters were generally fed up with politics but I pointed out that this is democracy – however painful and frustrating it may sometimes be. Better this than a totalitarian state like Russia or China. We will both work hard to make a difference and bring about positive change and improvements.