

7 May 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
Starting at 18.45pm

Attending: Cllrs J Johnstone (Chairman), Paul Richardson (Vice Chairman) A. Birtles, M Walker, G Wren, C Lynch.

This meeting took place after the Annual Meeting held on the same date and its sole purpose was to close the previous councils business.

18/180 **Apologies.**

Cllrs S. Lancaster, D. Thornton.

18/181 **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.**

(None)

18/182 **Minutes.**

The minutes of the meetings held on the 2 April 2019 were approved as a true record.

18/183 **Accounts**

The Accounts were received, approved and approved for publication on the website to include a full list of all transactions & bank reconciliation for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

18/184 **Internal Auditor**

The reports (Letter and AGAR) from the internal auditor were received and contents noted.

18/185 **AGAR** The Annual Governance Statement was read out and on the basis of all councillors' agreement to each point completed and signed in the meeting.

18/186 **AGAR** The Annual Accounting Statement was presented. Newly appointed councillors queried the drop-in asset values and an explanation regarding the valuation policy was given. On the basis of all councillors' agreement completed and signed in the meeting.

18/187 **Public Rights**

The Clerk was authorised to publish the 'NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION OF UNAUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 26 and 27. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234) starting on Monday 17 June 2019 and ending on Friday 26 July 2019.

18/188 **Chairman's Report** The Chairman spoke to a report given as Appendix 1. On the past year's activities.

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Chairman's Initials

**Appendix 1,
Chairman's Report 2018-2019**

The Town Council continues to meet monthly. In January David Gilmore resigned due to health problems, which reduced the Council to eight members.

Looking back over the year a great deal of council business has focused on the Appleby Fair issues. In 2018 the local community had many concerns regarding the numbers visiting the town in the run up to the fair. People arrived early and this led to increased pressure not only on the locals, but also the police. The annual horse sale was cancelled which led to the animals being sold on the main street causing a chaotic scene, with travellers spilling out of public houses and drinking in restricted areas, anti-social behaviour and littering were an added problem.

A public meeting followed the fair, a hundred plus people attended to inform MASCG of their many concerns.

The Council has tried and failed on a number of occasions, through correspondence to the Chairman of MASCG to have input into the new strategy going forward, this has proved disappointing and frustrating. On the positive side we pushed for a local representative of the settled community to join the group and I am pleased to report that County Councillor, Phil Dew, has been appointed.

Chief Superintendent, Rob O'Connor, who is the appointed Gold Commander for this year's fair, spoke to the Council and assured us a greater police presence would be seen in Kirkby Stephen. A dedicated 101 line is being set up as is CCTV to monitor the town. The town's licensees have met with Police and Eden District Councils Licensing Officer and are being asked to cooperate with the control of not drinking in restricted areas and using plastic glasses.

The parking arrangements of caravans along the A685 remains a concern to locals. The Gypsy community are willing to play their part in seeing the fair run smoothly. It was noted that from a meeting, with Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale Councils, that they had many similar problems.

The Eden Local Plan has now been adopted and at a training session led by officers the Council was told that the plan now supersedes the Neighbourhood Plan. Planning applications are consulted on when required. Paula Smith, Conservation Officer for EDC, spoke to the Council about producing an appraisal and management plan for the conservation area, a working group has now been formed.

The Flood Prevention Group was disbanded as it was felt that this came within the remit of the Community Local Plan, the Council agreed to provide sand bags and sand when needed.

The Council formally applied to join the Upper Eden Community Interest Company and Eileen Simpson was approved by the CIC to become a director.

Councillors have held two meetings with officers from EDC regarding devolution of services, these have resulted in the Council taking responsibility for footway lighting and we are still looking into the terms for the transfer of the public toilets, Stoneshott car park and the two play areas, along with the CIC we are exploring the transfer of the Visitor Centre building.

The Town Council agreed to be the nominated body for the Kirkby Stephen Community Sports Association bid for funding form EDC Signature Fund. We were delighted that £75,000 has been offered, subject to some additional funding from the Grammar School. These grants along with others will see a new all-weather pitch installed this summer. Congratulations must go to association members, Andrea Dixon and Claire Smithson, who have worked diligently to secure the funding. Recognition must also go to Alex Birtles for overseeing all the legal requirements, thanks also to officers at Eden who have been a great support.

Highway matters are efficiently dealt with by County Councillor Phil Dew. Reports of inconsiderate parking on pavements and around the Market Square are ongoing.

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Chairman

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Date

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Chairman's Initials

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