

04 June 2019, Kirkby Stephen Town Council

Ordinary Meeting

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

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Starting at 6.45 pm at Local Links

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

Public Participation.

A licensee from the town raised a complaint about 'heavy handed' policing of the fair. She felt that it had been discriminatory against Gypsy/Travellers and it had 'killed' her trade. She had not been able to sell all the beer she had ordered and was considering opening her gardens for horses in future years. She felt that Gypsies/Travellers had preferred off sales this year because they were camped further from the town centre and had stayed out of the Town Centre because of the Police presence. Councillors did not agree with her that the policing had been 'over the top'. The Town Centre had been quiet generally and it was felt that this was because there had been an expectation that there would be trouble in the town as there had been last year with many shops closed or not operating fully. It had also been said that older Gypsy/Travellers had appreciated the visible police presence and that the police had made the town more secure for everyone and that over time trade might increase. Feedback received at Local Links had been that the Police were doing an excellent job. The licensee said that she had only been made aware of the Town Council Meeting that afternoon. She was reminded that Town Council Meetings took place on the first Monday of every month and were advertised four days in advance on the official notice board outside the Kings Arms/TIC and in Local Links and on the Town Council's website. Public Participation was offered on the occasion of every Town Council meeting.

Participation of District Councillors S Lancaster/P Dew.

Cllr Lancaster spoke about the reorganisation at Eden DC after the election in which the ruling Conservative group had lost control of the council. A coalition of Independent, Lib Dem, Green and Labour had assumed control of the council and needed to address the depletion of the council's reserves. Cllr. Lancaster had been nominated to the Accounts and Governance Committee and would act as a standing deputy for the Housing Committee. She was also appointed to replace William Pattinson on the Yorkshire Dales Planning Committee. She would be undertaking further training to support herself in this role.

Cllr Dew was disappointed that members of the former administration had not been included in the council appointments and that the approach had been on an 'eye for an eye' basis. He felt it would be interesting to see how the new council would cope with its responsibilities. He anticipated that there may be a new approach to the 'Devolution of Services'

Participation of County Councillor P Dew.

Cllr Dew asked the Chairman for permission to participate in the discussion of Appleby Fair as it arose on the agenda.

Cllr Dew reported on the success of the Eden Local Committee, Children and Young People's Working Group's Mental Health Awareness Week project which had focussed on 'little acts of random kindness'. The 'Golden Ticket' project had been particularly

successful in catching people's imaginations. The next project for the Children and Young People's Group would be focussed on childhood obesity.

The Western Dales Bus Service had a new Bus and there was something of a 'buzz' about the very well used Kendal Service.

Eden Local Committee had been considering the impact of the dualling of the A66. A key issue had emerged in the consultation around whether the road would be designed as a through road and thus be 'disconnected' from the local area or whether it would serve to increase footfall making the local area more accessible and driving up footfall and tourism. He felt that this was an issue for the Town Council in its response to the consultation.

- 19/029 The Chairman **welcomed** new councillors to the meeting there were no apologies.
- 19/030 **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.**
Cllr Birtles declared an interest in the matter of planning at 22 Market Street (Item 4 on the agenda) and signed the register accordingly.
- 19/031 The **Minutes** of the four meetings held on the 7th May 2019 were agreed as a true record.
- 19/032 **Planning Pre-Application Consultation on 22 Market Place.**
(Cllr Birtles left the room for discussion of this item.)
Councillors agreed that the development as proposed would not overlook anyone and was well designed. However, there was no parking included with the scheme and it was feared that up to six residents' vehicles could be looking for parking in the public areas of the town and contribute to town centre congestion. It was noted that the site could be made accessible to vehicles from the direction of Mellbecks/Stoneshot. For new houses there was generally a requirement for parking as follows: 2 cars for 2 bedrooms. 1.5 cars for 1 bedroom. It was agreed that the council would only support the scheme were parking for at least one car per house included.
- 19/033 **Appleby Horsefair (Phase 1).**
The Chairman stated that there was a general feeling that things have gone well this year. That the Police had responded to the council's requests for increased policing and we doing an excellent job. Councillors had been attending CAB meetings at the Police Station daily and these had generally been quiet and uneventful. The meeting attended by Cllr Lynch had received a report from a resident about an incident of unauthorised occupation of land and the owner had received advice. It was noted that the caravan count had been higher than last year but the Town had felt quieter. Cllr Wren commented that there was a risk that in future years the Police would allocate fewer resources and not maintain the progress with the promotion of a greater sense of security that had been made this year. It was noted that there had been an increased presence at Nateby at the tolerated site and complaints about happenings in the Nateby district. It was agreed that the Police had done what they promised to do and that policing had been restrained, caring and responsible. Last year officers had perhaps felt isolated but in greater numbers had felt more able to act. It was also felt that senior officers had been less remote from Police on the ground. The encampments on the A685 had been well policed. Cllr Dew felt that having been critical of the police last year he should this year praise a successful operation and encourage those involved to keep it going.
- 19/034 **All Weather Pitch.**
Cllr Birtles reported that a contractor had been selected and that work was due to commence on the 27 June which was not contingent on funding from the signature fund.

The clerk reported that the Grammar School were on the cusp of exchanging on the land sale that would make up the shortfall in the Signature Fund Application and that he anticipated being able to complete the acceptance forms when this was achieved the Grammar School having committed 'in principle' to making up the shortfall from the proceeds of the land sale. This would unlock a further £75k of funding to be routed to the project through the Town Council. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Doug Huggan at EDC to make sure that he was up to date with the project.

It was agreed that the team leading the project had been very successful and that this success had depended heavily on funders actually visiting the site.

19/035 **Burial Board.**

Cllr Thornton had been absent from the last meeting and her appointment to the Burial Board had not been confirmed. It was therefore confirmed at this meeting. The Town Council wished to nominate a second representative; Cllr Phil Dew had accepted the role 'in principle'. Councillors confirmed his appointment. It was agreed that the burial board needed to review its activities as follows: benchmarking against the costs of other similar facilities and in the event of its being significantly cheaper, increase the costs it charged for internment and other services. If a contribution was necessary from parishes that this be charged in such a fashion that electors in the Upper Eden District made an equal contribution, at the moment Kirkby Stephen residents were being asked to donate the Lion's share. The Clerk had received three years accounts from the board and these showed that the board had been asking for a subsidy of approximately 10% from the parishes. Having income of approx. £18k and outgoings of approx. £20k. Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the road in the burial ground, signage to the burial ground and staffing arrangements regarding grounds maintenance/grave digging. Eden District Council had advised speaking to local undertakers as part of the benchmarking exercise.

19/036 **Devolution, Stoneshot Toilets/Carpark.**

Cllr Birtles advised that he had responded to the initial documents regarding the transfer and all points had been accepted other than on the crucial issue of the indefinite term of the covenant regarding the use of the site as a toilet/parking. The Clerk had asked that the covenant be amended to introduce a term of five years and pointed out that the cost to the council of accepting the transfer on this basis, assuming that the costs of maintenance were to continue at £18k a year, would be in the region of £90k which would have to be passed directly to council tax payers. It was known that the Devolution programme would be reviewed at a meeting of Eden District Council on the 15th June and that the new council was less enthusiastic about the devolution of assets. It was agreed to pause the process until the outcome of the Eden District Council Review was known.

Visitor Centre Cllr Birtles briefed on the situation regarding the visitor centre and the conversations held with Oliver Schimmel. Rent was being charged on the centre placing the centre under increasing and significant financial pressure which would need to be resolved in the next financial year, with asset transfer to the CIC/Town Council a possibility that was being researched.

19/037 **Finance.**

The May Bank Reconciliation (May) was approved with a closing balance of £119,674.06

A Schedule of payments were approved as listed at 4 June 2019
(<https://www.kirkby-stephen.com/app/uploads/20190604-Bank-Rec-Payments-for-Approval.pdf>)

The Clerk was authorised to set up other regular payments e.g. Salary/NIC/PAYE etc.

19/038 **Portfolios.**

1. Town Council Administration. JJ/PR/AB were confirmed as Portfolio Holders.
2. Community Planning. AB was confirmed as Portfolio Holder. The Community Plan consultation findings were in Draft.
3. Community. PR/SL were confirmed as Portfolio Holders. PR had been researching the costs of Electric Car Charging equipment with a view to this being installed in the Town Centre. Prices ranged from £19,000 to £500 depending on the speed of the charge. PR had attended a Forces Liaison meeting at Warcop which had included topics such as the 8 Toothed Bark Beetle, The Horse Chestnut Bleeding Canker, A decision to suspend firing on Remembrance Sunday and a tolerable lunch!
4. Highways. MW was confirmed as highways Portfolio Holder. Ahead of the A66 consultation which would be an item on the July agenda he circulated his comments Appendix 1. and councillors collected the Highways Consultation Pack. MW would collate councillors' responses which should be sent to him by email in the next fortnight.
5. Open Spaces. JJ/DT were confirmed as portfolio holders. Noted that the War Memorial would be planted up on the 10th at 10:00am. A member of the public who had enquired about helping with the maintenance of the memorial had been invited to assist.
6. Property. No Portfolio Holder was confirmed. The condition of a collapsed bench on Redmayne Road was reported. It was agreed to remove and replace it.
7. Tourism & Events. SL/MW were confirmed as Portfolio Holders. It was noted that the Tour of Britain would be passing through Kirkby Stephen on the 10th September. The Town Council had not been contacted about the route planning or the planning of the event. There was considerable potential for Schools involvement however the timing of the Summer recess could very well interfere. CL Volunteered to co-ordinate the Town Council's input and help organise local participation in the event

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19/039 **Clerk's Report**

1. The Town Council would shortly be carrying out a pension re-enrolment check in line with the requirements of the Pensions Regulator with a report back to council in due course.
2. Footway Lighting devolved from EDC would be refurbished during the next three months after which it would be rebranded.
3. Councillors were asked to confirm their address and contact details to the Clerk for internal use, Councillors agreed that this information could be shared amongst themselves but would not be available to the wider public.
4. The Poetry Path was an ongoing concern. It was proposed to try to establish and partner with a group based on the land owners.
5. The Clerk had lost previously received correspondence regarding an application for support from the Scouts for two events. The matter was now urgent and the Council approved an immediate donation of £250 to the support of the project.
6. Approval was given for an event on the 26th June co-organised by the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Dogs Trust at Frank's Bridge focussed on Responsible Dog Ownership.

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Chairman's Initials

7. Eden District Council's Scrutiny Work Plan was being devised with a deadline for our input of the 8th July. The Clerk would circulate councillors with details and responses would be collated by the clerk submitted and reported at the next meeting.
8. The expressions of Interest for the Vacancy would be closed on the 12 June.
9. The Clerk would circulate the Benchmarking report just published by People, Places, Insight.

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Chairman

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Date

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Chairman's Initials

Appendix 1.

A66 Consultation - Cllr M Walker.

“A66 Consultation – comments from MJW

Kemplay Bank Roundabout: An underpass would have lower visual impact BUT would need to take into account the possibility of flooding, as shown at Eamont Bridge and Frenchfield in the recent past.

Penrith to Temple Sowerby: No comments

Kirkby Thore: I would support the northern route to avoid Gypsum lorries travelling through the village.

This will have an impact on the existing filling station, the only such facility between Penrith and Scotch Corner. Local residents must not be forced into using high price service areas. The development of electric vehicles may require an increase in such facilities rather than closure.

Crackenthorpe: With increasing interest in reopening closed railway lines, it may be short-sighted to use the dismantled railway line as a route. Historians may have similar concerns about use of the Roman Road!

Appleby to Brough: The westbound only junctions will be a problem, especially at Sandford, encouraging east-bound traffic onto a very minor road. This needs rethinking.

Flitholme and Great Musgrave junctions should include underpasses to the old A66 with the option of travelling east with access to the dual carriageway towards Brough.

Bowes Bypass: No comments

Cross Lanes to Rokeby: No comments

Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor: As regular visitors to Ravensworth Nurseries and Mains Gill Farm, we hope that access to these businesses is not too tortuous. Will the old A66 have a link to the new dual carriageway west bound at Stephen Bank?

General Comments: The HGV ban on the A685 is often ignored by drivers. Kirkby Stephen residents hope that a better road to the M6 will minimise transgressors taking a short cut. Please ensure that there is sufficient capacity to join M6 from the A66 for westbound traffic travelling south at J40.”