

10 May 2022, Kirkby Stephen Town Council

Ordinary Meeting

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

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Starting after Kirkby Stephen Electors' Meeting of the Town Council at Upper Eden Rugby Club.

Attending. Cllrs. P Richardson (Chairman), A Birtles (Vice Chairman), S Lancaster (EDC), M Walker, D Thornton, J Murray (W&FCC), C Lynch, P Dew (CCC/EDC/KSTC), C Barnes (Clerk).

22/017 **Welcome & Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Wren (Work Commitments)

22/018 **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.** Cllr Birtles, Agenda Item 9, Small Grant Application, Westmorland Dales Day.

22/019 **District & County Councillors Participation.**

Cllr Lancaster, Eden District Council. Cllr Lancaster had participated in only one meeting of the authority at which the remuneration of the Deputy Chief Executive had been approved. Cllr Lancaster gave her congratulations to Cllrs Dew and Murray on their election to the Shadow Authority (Westmorland and Furness County Council). She felt that having not been elected to the new County Council freed up her time and would allow her to concentrate on Kirkby Stephen and the Yorkshire Dales.

Cllr Dew, Cumbria County Council / Westmorland and Furness County Council / Eden District Council. Cllr Dew spoke to report (appendix 1) touching on:

App. 1

Eden:

The pressing deadline of the 'Inspiring Eden' programme 20 May for Eden Valley projects.

His personal support of the Voreda House project despite local conservative party criticism.

Footway Lighting still being unresolved as to the relief of cost for Local Councils who had accepted these devolved assets for the 2022 23 year.

Support of the proposed Pub Watch initiative for Kirkby Stephen.

Cumbria County Council:

Confirmation of a programme of improvement and upgrades to the Mill Spar Path.

Continuing Vacancy for the school crossing patrol.

Appleby Horse fair. Timing of the fair and suspension of the CAG which he supported.

Councillors agreed that the CAG should only be convened if needed. Residents were encouraged to contact Police directly.

Local Government Reorganisation:

Cllrs Dew and Murray had attended an induction on the 9th. Noting that the inaugural meeting of Westmorland and Furness County Council would take place on the 17th

May, and that existing councillors would remain in post until vesting day in May 2023.

The existing authorities would be sovereign until then. In the meantime, the new unitary authority would adopt an implementation plan common to the existing two tier authorities upon which they would work together.

Cllr Dew Congratulated the Chairman on the positive impact of the Easter Rally in Kirkby Stephen.

22/020 **Police Participation**

Correspondence had been received from the Police regarding a request for financial support for a Pub Watch Scheme involving licenced premises in Kirkby Stephen. Cllrs

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Chairman's Initials

research had identified that insurance was required for legal reasons, that the group would be independently constituted and that the same scheme operating in Appleby and Penrith had Local Council support. It was agreed that the scheme would make an important contribution to tackling anti-social behaviour and would be beneficial to the whole community. The Clerk would respond to the Police with details of the small grants scheme.

- 22/021 **Planning.** 22/0311 | Kirkby Stephen Local Links THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, VICARAGE LANE, KIRKBY STEPHEN, CA17 4QX. Description: Crab Apple (1) Crown reduce to create a maximum of 1.5 m clearance of adjacent property. The application was supported.
- 22/022 **Planning.** 22/0292 | Site address:28 MARKET STREET, KIRKBY STEPHEN, CA17 4QW. Description: Discharge of condition 3 (signage details), attached to Listed Building Consent 22/0075. The application was supported.
- 22/023 **Planning.** 22/0267 | Site address: 18 CROGLAM PARK, KIRKBY STEPHEN, CA17 4SF. Description: Proposed Garden store. The application was supported. The size of the structure was noted and the applicant was asked to consider the possibility of including Solar panels.
- 22/024 **Planning.** 22/0264 | Site address: 9 GASGARTH MEWS, NORTH ROAD, KIRKBY STEPHEN, CA17 4RY. Description: Erection of side extension garage. The application was supported. The applicant was asked to consider the possibility of including a vehicle charging point.
- 22/025 **Small Grants.**
Cllr Birtles did not participate in this discussion having previously declared an interest. Westmorland Dales Day £500 was requested to the support of this event by the Upper Eden Community Interest Company. Link emailed to Councillors 3/5/2022. Councillors were unanimous in the support of the proposal and it was AGREED to make a grant of £500 as requested.
- 22/026 **Finance.** It was agreed to make forward approval in principle of regular/budgeted payments, Salaries, PAYE & NIC. April Bank Rec and Transactions to be presented to June Meeting.
- 22/027 **Portfolios. Town Council Administration.**
1. Council Plan/Area Planning. It was AGREED that the Clerk would circulate a questionnaire regarding council priorities and a note of the previously agreed priorities being delivered through the Area Planning initiative of the County Council. Formal approval to be on the Agenda for the June meeting.
 2. YDNPA Member vacancy, Cllrs AGREED to support the candidacy of Cllr Lancaster the Clerk would liaise with Cllr Lancaster as to documentation of the council's support.
 3. It was AGREED to enter a five-year insurance agreement with Zurich for councils' insurance. In spite of the increase in the value of the councils insured assets the premium in the 22/23 would be £2,431.93 by comparison with the previous year's premium of £3,074.
 4. Approval for payment of EDC expenses regarding footway lighting 2021 2022 of £3,291.27 was AGREED.
- 22/026 **Portfolios. Property.**

1. It was AGREED to authorise £550 legal expenses on registration of first title to Hills Bottom. The signed Deed of Gift (21 February 1996) having been located after enquiries.

22/027 **Portfolios. Open Spaces.**

1. **Market update.** An update on the market was given verbally. A meeting had been held with Eden District Council as to Economic Development and Tourism support for the market and a local business grouping. The clerk would liaise with Cllr Lancaster and Officer of Eden District Council to support progress.
2. A verbal report was given regarding a fact-finding visit to **Queens Gardens Sedbergh** by the Jubilee Park Working Group - 5 May 2022. The park was Local Council owned and supported by an enthusiastic but small (7) friends group.
3. **Play Areas.** Councillors discussed the Town's Play Areas and debated the principle of the creation of a new play area proposed by Cllr Lancaster. It was AGREED that the issue required a review looking at the strengths and weaknesses of existing and proposed sites/provision and taking account of the impact of Local Government reorganisation. Issues of decommissioning and vandalism/security were raised as concerns. At the current time the Town's Play Areas were provided and maintained by Eden District Council and had not been devolved to the Town Council. The proposal to create a new play area was not supported by all councillors.
4. Feedback re Mowing from a Resident – **'Where have all the flowers gone'**? A resident had written to the council in support of the NO MOW MAY initiative and asking whether the council's management of grassed areas could be reviewed as to providing areas for wild flower growth and greater ecological/habitat benefit. Unfortunately, their intended participation in the Electors' meeting had been prevented because of a COVID infection. Councillors AGREED that the grass mowing schedule could be reviewed. The input of the contractors would be sought as to maintenance issues and potential sites and the residents input requested when they were better.

22/028 **Community Planning.**

1. Cllr Birtles noted that the transfer of the Upper Eden Visitor Centre to the Town Council had been welcomed by the Upper Eden Community Interest Company.
2. The prospect of a continuing programme of rolling funding for the operation of the Visitor Centre from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority was raised.

22/029 **Community.**

1. Kirkby Stephen Youth Centre update. Cllr Dew gave a brief update on the project as Chairman of the Evergreen Community Trust. The Trust had been formally constituted and registered as a Charity (1198647). The trustees were now in a position to open a bank account. Fundraising progress had been positive with a balance of £42,000 received so far and held in dedicated reserve by the Town Council to the benefit of a youth service provider and the Evergreen Community Trust <https://www.kirkby-stephen.com/app/uploads/20220404-KSYC-Evergreen-Line-67-Budget-Monitor.pdf>. Preparations were in hand for the Trustees to meet representatives of the Francis and Frieda Scott Trusts as to their support for both the refurbishment programme and the operator and to submit an expression of interest to the Inspiring Eden initiative. Cllr Dew was optimistic and felt that the overall position looked promising.

2. Nominations for Scout Leader were being sought, the Chairman requested that any suggestions or nominations should be made through him.
3. Correspondence had been emailed to councillors requesting funding for attendance at the 2023 World Scout Jamboree by a local scout. (Councillors had AGREED that this initiative would be ideal for the Brittleton Bursary. The bursary had recently made small grants to individuals to travel in connection with sporting opportunities of £150. It was proposed that a contribution of this amount in two successive years should be included in the bursary report for approval in due course.)

22/030 **Highways.**

1. Transport Audit update. Cllr Walker gave a report on the initial session. The session had been chaired by Zoom with participants present in the room and this had not been successful. A grant had been received from the Bus Services Operators Grant to finance the Audit and Workshop Process. The very obvious idea of a combined Bus and Railway Timetable had been proposed by participants and it had been agreed that this would be 'a quick win' making locally based public transport easier to navigate and plan. Another session was planned on Thursday with a follow up on the 23rd June.

22/031 **Tourism & Events.**

1. Jubilee Celebrations update. Cllr Lancaster reported that arrangements for a Parade (2 June) were in hand and marshals were being sought. Please would any volunteers contact her. There would be activity planned in Stoneshot/Marketplace and a picnic & dog show for residents planned for the Church lawn!
2. Shared Experience would be holding a series of workshops themed on Jesse Burtons 'The Restless Girls' with funds from the Queen's Jubilee fund. The output would be displayed on Jubilee Park Railings between 30 June and 30 September. The first workshop would be held on the 13th June.
3. The Clerk was authorised to offer £200 to the Primary School to support the provision of Jubilee presentation gifts (badges).
4. Xmas Lights Expenditure - £1,000 (+ £800 contribution from an external source) was authorised.
5. Easter Rally report. The event had been very successful and exhibitors had booked ahead for next year's event including a 400 strong car club. Feedback from Brough PC had been very positive with programme sales being strong.
6. East Station 'Kirkby Stephen in the 1940's' May 2023. It was agreed that the Town Council would provide a letter of support for the events planned in 2024 and 2023.
7. Eden District Council were discussing the potential for 'changing rooms' and were looking for a site in Kirkby Stephen.

<ends 21:30>

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Chairman

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Date

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Chairman's Initials

Appendix 1

Report of Cllr Dew. 10 May 2022

Eden District Council

The £750,000 Inspiring Eden programme, headed by Greg Macdonald, is looking to fund projects in Kirkby Stephen over the coming financial year and is seeking expressions of interest.

The Voreda House refurbishment is going ahead as planned and should be completed this year. The Town Hall is being developed as an arts hub and a number of Test Bed events will take place to help gauge demand and formulate a business plan.

As far as I'm aware no decision has been taken about the suspension of footway lighting charges for 2022/23.

National Pubwatch Scheme

The Licensing Enforcement Officer, Steve Wilde, has been promoting the Pubwatch scheme across Eden because it reduces alcohol related crime - including anti-social behaviour. Seven local licensed premises have recently formed the KS Pubwatch Group. The Group has been advised to take out insurance in the event of a legal challenge against a ban - at a cost of £316.20. Given the community benefit I think the Group is worthy of financial support.

Cumbria County Council

Eden Local Committee

The budget for 2022/23 has been approved and grants are available from a variety of funds including Community Grant, 0-19 and Area Planning.

An Environment Fund of £200,000 has been allocated to Eden in 2022/23 to spend on footpaths. The Kirkby Stephen Mill-Spar Garage Path [Edensyde] is on the shortlist. The final decision will be taken by ELC on 27 May, 2022.

Kirkby Stephen is currently without a school crossing patrol because the individual employed in that role left abruptly, without notice, on 23 February, 2022. The post is funded by ELC and commissioned by Orian Solutions Ltd. A replacement has not yet been found despite extensive local advertising.

Our Community Development Officer, Kellie Bradburn-Sims, chairs the Kirkby Stephen Area Planning Group which last met on Monday, 4 April, 2022. A list of priorities needs to be drawn up by the Town Council for the forthcoming year [2022/23]. There has been some talk of an additional children's play park. I think that it's important – as a priority - to maintain the current play parks to an acceptable standard. A skate park or similar could be built adjacent to the Evergreen Building. In my opinion the site by the cricket club is too isolated.

Highways

Discussions continue with National Highways re diversion routes during the dualling of the A66.

The parking bays adjacent to McColls were completed in March, as planned, to assist the flow of traffic in the vicinity of the traffic lights. A request has been made to highlight the kerb in this area.

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Following an Eden TRO Review, proposals for Hartley Road Junction, Victoria Square and the Crescent will proceed to the Statutory Consultation stage in June, 2022.

A jet-patcher is at work in Upper Eden filling potholes. Resurfacing of the A685 south of Station Road is due to take place later this month [19 May] and will require a temporary road closure.

Local Government Reorganisation

Elections for the Westmorland and Furness Council took place on Thursday, 5 May, 2022. Sixteen councillors will represent Eden [out of a total of sixty five] including John Murray and Phil Dew for Kirkby Stephen and Tebay. An induction day took place on Monday, 9 May, 2022, at County Hall in Kendal. The first meeting of the new Shadow Authority will be held on Tuesday, 17 May, 2022, which will consider an Implementation Plan. Existing councillors will continue in post and carry out the work of EDC and CCC until vesting day on 1 April, 2023.

Appleby Horse Fair

The MASCG met on Monday, 25 April, 2022, and discussed issues relating to the 2022 Fair and how to mitigate the impact of early arrivals on Platinum Jubilee celebrations. A working group has been set up to identify additional temporary stopping places. Community Advisory Group [CAG] meetings are being considered.

Upper Eden Medical Practice

The practice is experiencing a shortage of GPs which has been made worse by the sudden and unexpected departure of Dr Tooze and Dr Galea – with immediate effect – on Friday, 1 April, 2022. Brough Surgery may have to close and the results of a community consultation are currently being considered by N Cumbria CCG. Various mitigations have been put in place.

Evergreen Community Trust

The charity has now been registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation [CIO]. I chair the board of trustees and we are in the business of transferring ownership of the Evergreen Building, setting up a bank account and beginning the refurbishment work. To date grants of £42,000 have been raised and further applications are pending.

Transport Audit

A £5,000 Bus Service Operators Grant was approved by CCC in March, 2022, in order to carry out a Transport Audit in Kirkby Stephen which is currently ongoing.

Ukrainian Refugees

CCC is coordinating the Homes for Ukraine scheme and will administer the funding, provide oversight and coordinate the third sector and other public sector partners. As of 4 May, 2022, there were 38 sponsors and 19 arrivals in Eden. An Eden Refugee Support Group has been established to deal with any issues that arise.