

**Minutes of the Meeting of Kirkby Stephen Town Council held in the Local Links Centre  
on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 at 6.45pm**

**Present: Cllr. J Johnstone Chair (JJ), Cllrs Mr. A Birtles (AB), Mr. D Marsh (DM), Mr. P Richardson (PR), Mrs. J Sowerby (JS), Mrs. D Thornton (DT) and Mr. M Walker (MW).**

Also in attendance: Clerk

Public Participation:

It was reported that two potential passengers of the S5 service had not realised that the bus service was limited to Thursdays having not noticed the information on the timetable. It was suggested that the text is made larger on the timetable to make it easier to read. MW agreed to alert the Western Dales Bus of this.

787	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs Lumley and Gilmour due to illness. Apologies were noted from V Kendall and P Dew.	Action
788	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of Kirkby Stephen Town Council held on 9 <sup>th</sup> January (pages 17186-17190) be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.  Noted – MW has sought a price for fencing and a gate for the play area at the Primary School. Noted – advice received from Pied Piper Northern Ltd and a tree work contractor regarding rabbits in the car park. To be considered at the February meeting.	JJ
789	<b>Declarations of Interests</b> Cllr Birtles declared an interest in Grants and Donations due to his involvement with the Upper Eden CIC. Dispensation to discuss and decide upon the budget and precept had been granted for the remaining term of the Council to 2019.	
790	<b>Budget 2018/19</b> Statement and papers, prepared by the Clerk circulated with the agenda. <b>RESOLVED</b> that contingency funds are built into the budget where staff costs are involved to cover any unplanned absences.  a) <u>Street Cleaning</u> The Council agreed with the budget as presented. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to set the precept as £5,700.  b) <u>Open Spaces</u> Additional funds were added to the grass cutting contract in the event of taking over the play areas, which would require cutting. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to set the precept as £7,500.  c) <u>Grants and Donations inc. S137</u> There was an underspend in Grants & Donations, this was due to funds of £2,000 having been set aside to support a replacement 563 bus service, however, this had not materialised, therefore, the fund was unspent. The money was brought forward to 2018/19.  A request for support from the Burial Board towards maintaining the railings was removed from the budget. It was noted that a request has been made to Eden District Council to provide financial support to the cemetery and the outcome of this request is not yet known. It was reported to the Council that there are funds at the Burial Board to meet the cost of the railings work, however, it will deplete its reserves. It was agreed that if a grant is needed the Council will consider making an award from the Market funds.  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to give a grant of £1,000 to support the work of the Upper Eden Visitor Centre.  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to make available the sum of £1000 to provide grants to support youth work in the town.  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to make available the sum of £400 Brittleton Bursary, a further £200 has been pledged from a local resident to boost the fund to £600.  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to make a grant to the Jubilee Park Charity of £400. This is to assist the charity to meet the costs of insurance for the summer house.	Clerk

	<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to include an amount of £300 to support the Classic Vehicle Rally which is under new management.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to set the precept as £3,900.</p> <p>d) <u>Administration</u> Clerk reported that the cost of insuring the 49 approved footway lights against damage is £444. It was agreed to add this to the budget.</p> <p>A cost of £2,200 for GDPR services was removed from the budget, it was agreed that the Council will seek advice from CALC to ensure it meets its obligations.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to set the precept as £18,600.</p> <p>e) <u>Council &amp; Community Centre</u> The Council agreed with the budget as presented.</p> <p>Due to uncertainty on the ability to maintain current grants and to attract additional grant funding to support the work of the Centre it was agreed to hold a contingency fund in the budget of £3,000.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to set the precept as £19,500.</p> <p>f) <u>Members Allowances</u> – It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Council would not claim allowances.</p> <p>g) <u>Cloisters</u> The Council agreed with the budget as presented. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to set the precept as £1,000.</p> <p>h) <u>Miscellaneous</u> The Council had a long discussion regarding the cost increases that will follow the devolving of services to the Town Council i.e. public toilets, play areas and footway lighting. These services currently cost Eden District Council £24,502 per year to run.</p> <p>Following devolution, Eden District Council will give the Town Council a grant covering 100% of these costs for the year 2018/19, a 75% grant for 2019/20, 50% for 2020/21, 25% grant for 2021/22 and no grant beyond 2022. In addition, there are uncertainties regarding when Parish Councils will be capped for precept increases. Consideration was given to increasing the precept by 10% to begin future proofing the Council against the cost of taking over devolved services but this was decided against in light of expected precept rises from Cumbria Constabulary and Cumbria County Council. It was agreed to include an amount of £5,000 for devolved services, the inclusion of this amount increased the overall precept total by a little over 5%.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to set the budget as £6,300.</p> <p>i) <u>Market</u> Due to the income received from the market there is no precept required for this budget heading.</p>	
791	<p><b>Precept 2018/19</b> The budget requirement for 2018/19 amounted to £62,500. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant of £1,594 from Eden District Council was applied to this amount which reduced the precept requirement to £60,906. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to set the precept at £60,906.</p> <p>It was calculated that the precept on a band D property would be £95.65 which is an increase of 5.32% on the previous year.</p>	Clerk

The Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Chair: .....

Date: 06/02/2018