

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL
SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE
Selflessness – Integrity – Objectivity – Accountability – Openness – Honesty - Leadership

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Keswick Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Keswick on Thursday 16th May 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Chair
 Councillor Louise Dunn

Councillors

Steve Harwood
 Denstone Kemp
 Jean Murray
 Lorraine Taylor

Claire Houghton
 Sally Lansbury
 Rob Nelson

Chris Houghton
 Benita Laphorn
 Adam Paxon

Also present was Vivien Little (Town Clerk), Catherine Parker (Responsible Financial Officer), 1 member of the press, and 8 members of the public.

1. Election of Chair (Town Mayor)

There being only one nomination it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Louise Dunn be elected as the Chair (Town Mayor) for the ensuing year. Councillor Dunn made the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. Election of Deputy Chair (Deputy Mayor)

There being only one nomination it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Rob Nelson be elected as Deputy Chair (Deputy Mayor) for the ensuing year. Councillor Nelson made a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th April 2024 (pages 54-58).

5. Requests for Dispensations

The Clerk reported that no requests for dispensations had been received.

6. Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

7. Police Report

RECEIVED the report of the Allerdale Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team. Inspector Aiston was in attendance, and answered questions from Councillors on a number of issues, including crime rates (which were considered low for Keswick), engagement within the town, what can be done regarding protestors, and traffic flow management through Borrowdale.

8. Matters to be received from the Public

A member of the public wished to speak regarding agenda item 20. He had put an request into Cumberland Council for more information regarding any plans for updating the Howrah's path, and had apparently received the information that it was in 'good condition'. It was acknowledged that it would take a lot of money to fix.

AID

9. Matters to be raised by Councillors

Councillor Paxon stood up to apologise for his attendance, which had been poor because of long work hours, and announced that after careful consideration he intended to resign his position from the Council to ensure that someone who could commit the time represented the people of Keswick.

Councillors expressed their sadness at Councillor Paxon's decision to resign, and proposed a vote of thanks to him, for his service to the town, and especially the parks.

Councillors Laphorn reported that KCHT successfully lobbied via our local MP Trudy Harrison for a change to be made to the Homes England capital funding guide for shared ownership - with an exemption applied so that new developments within national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty that had local occupancy restrictions applied as part of planning would still be eligible for grant funding.

10. Request for financial support in relation to Keswick to Ullswater bus service.

RECEIVED the report of the Clerk. Gary Lovatt, Chair of Keswick Tourism Association, was in attendance to speak regarding the request which had been made for a pledge for support.

RESOLVED that the Town Council agree to put forward a pledge for funding to a maximum of £100, with any monies required to be taken from contingency (Action – Clerk).

11. Applications for Development

i) **RESOLVED** that the following observations be submitted to the Lake District National Park Authority (Action - RFO):

Plan Ref.	Description, Location, Comments Recommendation
7/2024/2041	Alterations and conversion of existing garage to form additional habitable space 9, Ratcliffe Place, Keswick, CA12 4DZ <i>Object - we would support the basis of the alterations proposed but we object to the harsh contrast of black timber cladding against the existing white render finish to walls at the rear in this conservation area. Whilst modern designs may be acceptable in certain situations we do not consider it to be appropriate in this particular case which appears to be at odds with the recently adopted Lake District Design Code</i> OBJECT (Observations submitted under delegated powers 30/04/24)
7/2024/2077	Change of use to short term holiday let - Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use or Development The Studio, land to rear of 35 Station Road, Keswick, CA12 4NB <i>No comments required</i>
7/2024/2085	Replacement of illuminated fascia sign with new individual raised illuminated letters Co-Operative Insurance Society Ltd, James Court, Main Street, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5EF <i>No comments made</i> SUPPORT
7/2024/2092	Extensions & alterations 8, Brandlehow Crescent, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4JE <i>No comments made</i> SUPPORT

ii) **RECEIVED** an update on National Park planning decisions.

12. Mayors Report

RECEIVED details of the Mayor's engagements and meeting attendance for the period 12 April – 15 May 2024.

13. Annual Review of Standing Orders

RESOLVED that the amendments to the Standing Orders be agreed as presented.

14. Standing Committee and Working Group Members

i) Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that the Staffing Committee comprises Councillor Dunn (Mayor, Ex-Officio), Councillor Murray (Trust Chair, Ex-Officio), Councillor Chris Houghton (Trust Vice-Chair, Ex-Officio), Councillors Claire Houghton and Taylor.

ii) Events Committee

RESOLVED that the Events Committee comprises Councillor Dunn ((Mayor, Ex-Officio), Councillors Harwood, Claire Houghton, Lansbury and Nelson.

iii) Planning Group

RESOLVED that Councillors be appointed to the Planning Group were Councillors Harwood, Chris Houghton and Taylor.

iv) Visitor Management Working Group

RESOLVED that Councillors be appointed to the Visitor Management Working Group were Councillors Claire Houghton and Lansbury.

v) Housing Working Group

RESOLVED that Councillors be appointed to the Housing Group were Councillors Harwood, Laphorn and Taylor.

vi) Further **RESOLVED** that members of the public be sought for Working Groups in order to gain external expertise.

15. Outside Bodies & Liaison Meetings

RESOLVED that the following Councillors be appointed as representatives on outside bodies and to attend liaison meetings

The Battersby Charity	Councillor Harwood
Keswick in Bloom	Councillor Laphorn
Keswick Community Emergency Recovery Partnership	Councillor Lansbury
Keswick Tourism Association	Councillor Chris Houghton
Keswick Youth Centre	Councillor Taylor
Keswick Fair Trade Committee	Councillor Claire Houghton
Keswick Flood Action Group	Councillor Dunn Councillor Chris Houghton
Keswick Convention Town Liaison Group	Councillor Nelson
Liaison Meetings (CALC, Lake District Partnership)	Councillor Taylor

Parish Forum etc)

Threlkeld Housing Association

Councillor Kemp

Sustainable Keswick

Councillor Lansbury
Councillor Taylor

16. Chairman's Allowance

RESOLVED that the Chairman's allowance in pursuance of Section 15 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 be set as £2,000 as per the budget provision made with the normal payment arrangements to apply (Action – RFO)

17. Schedule of Meetings 2024/25

RESOLVED that the date and times of ordinary meetings of the Council for the ensuing year be fixed as follows:

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2024

20th JUNE	TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7PM
11th JULY	CHARITABLE TRUST MEETING 7PM
18th JULY	TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7PM
15th AUGUST	TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7PM
12th SEPTEMBER	CHARITABLE TRUST MEETING 7PM
19th SEPTEMBER	TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7PM
17th OCTOBER	TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7PM
14th NOVEMBER	CHARITABLE TRUST MEETING 7PM
21st NOVEMBER	TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7PM
12th DECEMBER	TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7PM

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2025

9th JANUARY	CHARITABLE TRUST MEETING 7PM
16th JANUARY	TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7PM
20th FEBRUARY	TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7PM
13th MARCH	CHARITABLE TRUST MEETING 7PM
20th MARCH	TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7PM
17th APRIL	ANNUAL PARISH 6.00PM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7PM
15th MAY	ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 7PM

22nd MAY

ANNUAL TRUST MEETING 7PM

18. Schedule of Charges

Consideration was given to the report of the Responsible Financial Officer.
RESOLVED that all charges remain as they are for 2024/25.

19. Town Council Insurance Renewal/Review

Consideration was given to the report from the Responsible Financial Officer.
RESOLVED that;

- i) The report of the Responsible Financial Officer be received; and
- ii) The RFO to request that Debt Recovery and Contract Disputes cover be added to the cover for 2024/25
(Action – RFO).

20. Clerk's Report

RECEIVED the report from the Clerk.

RESOLVED that Councillor Harwood use his contact at Cumberland Council to try and get in touch with the Road Engineers and try and find out what technical solution could be sought; and

The Clerk and Mayor write to the Lake District Foundation, Fix the Fells, Cumberland, Friends of the Lake District and Above Derwent Parish Council in order to try and find a flood resilient solution for the long term.
(Action – Clerk and Councillor Dunn).

21. Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts for May 2024 as approved by the Inspection Committee be authorised for payment for

- i) The Town Council, vouchers 13- 42, amounting to £73, 806.37 (seventy three thousand eight hundred and six pounds and thirty seven pence)
- ii) The Trusts, vouchers HP10 – FP22, amounting to £59, 399.24 (fifty nine thousand, three hundred and ninety nine pounds and twenty four pence) (Action – RFO).

22. Reports from Ward Representatives

RECEIVED reports from the following representatives:

- i) Cumberland Council – Councillor Campbell-Savours informed Councillors about the work of the Keswick Transport Study, and how the various workstreams were not necessarily progressing, especially in relation to the Back Streets track. He requested that if anyone felt strongly about the lack of progress to send any comment to Councillor Campbell-Savours.
(Action – Clerk to send Councillors a copy of the non-technical summary and report to the Keswick Transport Study).
- ii) Lake District National Park Authority North Distinctive Area Parishes Representative - **RECEIVED** the report of the LDNPA North Distinctive Area Parishes Representative.

23. Correspondence

RECEIVED for information a letter from the Lake District National Park Authority.

RESOLVED that Councillor Dunn draft a letter to the Chair of the Lake District National Park Authority, inviting them to a meeting to discuss matters on the letter (Action – Councillor Dunn and Clerk).

24. Policies for adoption

RESOLVED that the Health and Safety Statement be approved (Action – Clerk).

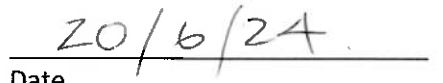
25. Meeting attendance for 2024/25

RECEIVED the report of the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Dun', written above a horizontal line.

Chair

The date '20/6/24' handwritten in black ink above a horizontal line.

Date