

**KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL
SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE**

Selflessness – Integrity – Objectivity – Accountability – Openness – Honesty - Leadership

Minutes of the meeting of Keswick Town Council held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Council Offices, 50 Main Street, Keswick on Thursday 20th March 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Chair
Councillor Louise Dunn

Councillors

Steve Harwood	Chris Houghton	Claire Houghton
Denstone Kemp	Benita Laphorn	Jean Murray
Rob Nelson	Claire Peat	Richard Scott
Lorraine Taylor		

Also present were 7 members of the public and one member of the press.

185. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Evans, and Catherine Parker (Responsible Financial Officer).

186. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday 20th February 2025 (pages 34 - 37).

187. Co-option of a Councillor

- i) **RECEIVED** presentations from two co-option applicants giving the reasons they would like to be a Town Councillor and what they feel they can offer to the community.
- ii) A vote took place and it was **RESOLVED** that Richard Scott be co-opted as the candidate to fill the vacancy in the East Ward
- iii) Councillor Scott duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

188. Requests for Dispensations

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

189. Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

190. Police Report

RECEIVED the newsletter of the Allerdale Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team.

191. Matters to be received from the Public

Three members of the public spoke in relation to agenda item 12, Consultation – Keswick Traffic Regulation Order. They raised concerns about the possibility of losing up to 170 parking spaces in the Back Streets, and queried where the displaced cars would go. The members of



the public were concerned that there was no overall plan for parking within the whole town, which was something that needed to be looked at, and that residents and businesses should be prioritised in the Back Streets, with extra spaces for visitors a bonus.

Councillor Lansbury (Cumberland Council) informed all present that she had been receiving a good deal of correspondence on this matter and was trying to ensure that a meeting between all officers involved in parking issues in Keswick were drawn together for a meeting, however it was still too early to say what would be the final decision following the consultation.

192. Matters to be raised by Councillors

Councillor Taylor had been contacted by a hotel owner with regard to the Town Council's support of the idea of a visitor levy, but wished to raise issues for Councillors to consider. Self-catering accommodation often does not pay the business rates which hotels and guest houses do, and felt that it was not a level playing field to start from, as he had a number of extra bills already which self-catering accommodation doesn't have. Something similar needs to be in place for self-catering, however for that to happen, there needs to be a national change rather than regional.

193. 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
T/2025/0030	1 windblown ash tree within dead trunk of tree - kill the tree but not remove it Land near 25 First And Second Floor, Church Street, Keswick, Cumberland, CA12 4DX <i>No comments made</i> SUPPORT
T/2025/0034	Coppice 3 sections of self-seeded saplings of willow and elm Land near Coach House, Greta Hamlet, Keswick, Cumbria <i>No comments made</i> SUPPORT
7/2025/2018	Conversion of an existing garage into a functional living space, along with the replacement of an existing greenhouse with a contemporary garden pod 16 The Cottage, Ambleside Road, Keswick, Cumberland, CA12 4DL <i>No comments made</i> SUPPORT
7/2025/2025	Single storey extension 28, Briar Rigg, Keswick, CA12 4NN <i>No comments made</i> SUPPORT

- ii) **RECEIVED** update on National Park Planning Decisions.

194. Mayor's Report

RECEIVED details of the Mayor's engagements and meeting attendance for the period 14th February 2024 – 13th March 2025.

195. Reports from Ward Representatives

RECEIVED reports from the following representatives:

- i) Cumberland Council Representative – Councillor Lansbury gave a brief update on the revamp to adult social care Cumberland Council were undertaking. She also gave an update on the Cumberland Local Plan, though Councillors were unsure how it would affect Keswick due to its location in the Lake District.

She also updated Councillors on the Lakes to Sea Panel, and how applications would work moving forward. If a request made was for under £1,500, it didn't need to go to the full panel to be approved, but applicants can request more, and it will be decided at one of the regular panel meetings.

- ii) Lake District National Park Authority North Distinctive Area Parishes Representative – Peter Walter was in attendance. He highlighted the huge impact the nuisance reporting scheme had on the appeal decision for 23 Eskin Street, and encouraged the Council to continue gathering evidence.

He also answered questions in relation to the Lake District National Park Partnership's response to the Friends of the Lake District's report 'Who Pays for the Lake District?', and highlighted the fact that a working group has been set up to consider a response. Previously the Partnership would not consider any discussion on the matter, so this was seen as a huge step forward, even though the conclusion may not be a positive response, it was felt that all options were being seriously considered.

196. Consultation – Keswick Traffic Regulation Order Review

RESOLVED that the Clerk write a letter to respond to the TRO based on the following motion 'Keswick Town Council request that Cumberland Council do not proceed with any Traffic Regulation Order for the introduction of double yellow lines or no loading zones (as per proposals 1, 2 and 3) until there is a full scheme in place which takes account of all the parking issues in Keswick.' (Action – Clerk)

197. Annual Review of Revised Financial Regulations

RECEIVED the report of the Responsible Financial Officer.

RESOLVED that the revised Financial Regulations be accepted, as well as the renewal of the terms outlined in the report (Action – RFO).

198. Assets Register

RESOLVED that the Assets Register be approved (Action – RFO).

199. Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the payment of accounts for March 2025 as approved by the Inspection Committee be authorised for payment for (Action RFO):

- i) The Town Council, vouchers 250 – 271, amounting to £32,183.77 (thirty two thousand, one hundred and eighty three pounds and seventy seven pence)



- ii) The Trusts, vouchers HP215 – FP227, amounting to £18,393.10 (eighteen thousand three hundred and ninety three pounds and ten pence)

200. Clerk's Report

RECEIVED the report from the Clerk.

RESOLVED that the Clerk keep Councillors updated on the issues, and consider options regarding the next invoice received for rent from Cumberland Council (Action – Clerk).

201. Correspondence

RESOLVED that the Clerk enquire regarding training sessions with parish councillors on planning policy and process for members of the Planning Group both with CALC and the LDNPA (Action – Clerk).

202. Outside Bodies Report

RESOLVED that a new representative for the Threlkeld Housing Association be sought at the next Annual Meeting of the Council in May (Action – Clerk).

203. Events Minutes

RECEIVED for information the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 6 February 2025.

204. Staffing Committee

RECEIVED for information the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 21 February 2025.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm



Chair



Date