

## KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

## SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

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

Minutes of the meeting of Keswick Town Council held on Thursday 11 December 2025 at the Quaker Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick at 7.00 pm.

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**Present:****Chair**

Councillor Louise Dunn

**Councillors**

Steve Harwood  
Benita Laphorn  
Richard Scott

Chris Houghton  
Jean Murray  
Lorraine Taylor

Claire Houghton  
Claire Peat

Also present were Vivien Little (Town Clerk), Catherine Parker (Responsible Financial Officer), one member of the press, and four members of the public.

**134. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Evans. Her apologies were noted and accepted by Councillors.

**135. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 20th November 2025 (pages 32-36).

**136. Requests for Dispensations**

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

**137. Declarations of Interests**

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

**138. Matters to be received from the Public**

The Head of Service for Information Centres at the LDNPA was in attendance to give an update the situation with the Keswick Tourist Information Centre, currently scheduled to shut at the end of January 2026. They have viewed a number of venues, which have not been considered suitable for the immediate need.

They had engaged with the incoming Moot Hall tenant about the possibility of hosting a scaled back service, which was still being explored. Other alternatives were still being sought. There was a LDNPA cross department project team working on this, however the fact was that the Tourist Information Centre only service a small fraction of the visitors to Keswick.

The Chair of Keswick Tourism Association also gave an update to Councillors. At their AGM early that month, the KTA had voted to change their articles of association to include a Chamber of Trade alongside the Tourism Association, with the name provisionally Keswick Tourism and Trade Association. The Chair of KTA was seeking Town Council support for the move.

The Chair of KTA also queried whether a Tourist Information Centre could be taken on, as a short term function, by the KTA in order to allow time for a longer term solution to be sought. The Head of Service confirmed that nothing was off the table.

**139. Matters to be raised by Councillors**

Councillor Murray informed Councillors that having tried Councillor surgeries, without success, they would not be proceeding with any more sessions.

Councillor Peat informed Councillors that the Keswick Community Emergency Response Partnership Trustees had agreed to loan Keswick Town Council their radios for use at events such as the Christmas Light Switch on.

Councillor Dunn informed Councillors that she had concerns about the crowd management at the Christmas Light Switch on. While it was a successful event, it may have become a victim of its own success with regard to the amount of people attending, and would need careful looking at moving forward. The Events Committee would do so, and report back at the next Town Council meeting.

**140. Applications for Development**

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

Plan Ref.	Description, Location, Comments
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7/2025/2206	Proposed external alteration work to existing dwelling to include construction of a domestic garage and garden store building, and the construction of flood resistant barrier wall following approval of 7/2021/2297 - Variation of condition 2 (plans) of planning permission 7/2022/2292 to revise design of dwelling Driftwood Cottage, Crosthwaite Road, Keswick, CA12 5PG <i>These are minor changes to the existing dwelling to improve kitchen/living room arrangements</i> <b>SUPPORT</b>
7/2025/2215	To carry out engineering operations to resurface and slightly enlarge the existing driveway, including areas of gravel and grass Castlehead Medical Centre, Ambleside Road, Keswick, CA12 4DB <i>No comments made</i> <b>SUPPORT</b>
7/2025/2216	Demolition of garage and erection of single storey extension to the side and rear. 28, Manor Park, Keswick, CA12 4AA <i>This semi-detached dwelling is within the Conservation Area and seeks to improve the ground floor living accommodation with a single storey extension predominantly at the rear and partly to the side in place of the existing garage. Whilst a pitched roof solution would normally be preferred we understand the reasons for a flat roof extension mitigated with the sedum green roof. Overall we support the overall proposal subject to any concerns raised by the adjoining dwelling at No 30 noted.</i> <b>SUPPORT</b>

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

**141. Mayor's Report**

**RECEIVED** details of the Mayor's engagements and meeting attendance for the period 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

**142. Reports from Ward Representatives**

**RECEIVED** reports from the following representatives:

- i) Cumberland Council – no update given.
- ii) LDNPA North Distinctive Area Parishes Representative. The North Distinctive Area Parishes representative was in attendance to answer questions on the potential Visitor Levy, updates on the Public Space Protection Orders in the Lake District, the Partnership Plan and how the future elected Mayor of Cumbria could factor into all of the above.



**143. Payment of Accounts**

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

- i) For the Town Council, vouchers 211 – 230 amounting to £27,953.01 (twenty seven thousand nine hundred and fifty here pounds and one pence)
- ii) For the Trusts, vouchers HP135 – FP150 amounting to £5,465.81 (five thousand four hundred and sixty five pounds and eighty one pence)

**144. Grants 2026/27**

**RESOLVED** that the grants to local organisations for the 2026/27 budget be approved (*Action – RFO*).

**145. Clerk's Report**

**RECEIVED** the report from the Clerk.

**146. Consultation Response**

- i. **RESOLVED** that a response to the Lake District National Park Authority consultation on its proposed Management Plan be drafted by Councillor Laphorn and brought to the January Town Council meeting for consideration (*Action – Councillor Laphorn*);
- ii. **RESOLVED** that the following response be submitted to the Lake District National Park Authority consultation on a Public Bridleway Creation – Burns Road to Threlkeld Station  
We support this proposed extension of the K2T Trail in principle subject to taking account of the concerns raised in the responses submitted by Threlkeld Parish Council and St. John's and Castlerigg Parish Council (*Action – Clerk*).
- iii. **RESOLVED** that Councillor Dunn prepare an initial response to the Visitor Levy consultation, being run by Central Government, with the Visitor Management Working Group taking a view on it prior to it being brought back to Council in January for consideration (*Action – Councillor Dunn*).

**147. Police Report**

No report received.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

  
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Chair

  
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Date