

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

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

Minutes of the meeting of Keswick Town Council held at the Quaker Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick on Thursday 19th March 2026 at 7.00 p.m.

---

**Present:****Chair**

Councillor Natalie Evans

**Councillors**

Steve Harwood

Claire Houghton

Denstone Kemp

Benita Laphorn

Jean Murray

Claire Peat

Richard Scott

Lorraine Taylor

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

**186. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dunn and Chris Houghton. Their apologies were noted and received.

**187. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (pages 46-51).

**188. Requests for Dispensations**

No requests for dispensation were received.

**189. Declarations of Interests**

Councillor Harwood gave a personal explanation with regard to planning application 7/2026/2026, as he was a Trustee of the Battersby Trust, who owned Moot Hall. He would remain in the room and vote on the item.

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

No matters were raised by the public at this meeting.

**191. Keswick Mountain Festival**

**RECEIVED** an update from Richard Pearson, from Keswick Mountain Festival, on progress towards this year's festival. Councillors were given the opportunity to ask a number of questions.

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

Councillor Taylor had been contacted by a member of the public who was concerned by anti-social behaviour caused by youths on bikes. It would be followed up on by the Clerk and Councillor Taylor (Action – Clerk).

**193. Applications for Development**

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

*ALD*  
16/4/26

Plan Ref.	Description, Location, Comments Recommendation
T/2026/0026	<p>Crown lift two holly trees to 4 metres numbered 1&amp; 2 on map remove downy birch numbered 3 on map remove decayed/split limb from horse chestnut numbered 4 on map Upper Fitz Park, Station Road, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4NF <i>Declared interest</i></p>
7/2025/2193	<p>Change of use of garage to one additional holiday letting bedroom to be used as part of the apart-hotel. Alteration to layout of apart-hotel to reduce the number of bedrooms. Repairs and renovation of main front porch of dwelling Lairbeck House, Vicarage Hill, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5QB <i>Support – Lairbeck House was approved for use as an “Aparthotel” in 2023. The original submission has been superseded with some minor changes. The proposal to convert an existing garage to provide one additional holiday letting bedroom (reduced from two) is supported. We also support the proposed layout of the Aparthotel to reduce the number of bedrooms and the renovation of the main entrance porch</i> <b>SUPPORT</b></p>
7/2026/2020	<p>Proposed two-storey side extension &amp; internal alterations 8, Latrigg Close, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4LB <i>Support – we support the design of the new extension to provide improved living accommodation with enhanced energy conservation measures which is in keeping with the style of the existing dwelling.</i> <b>SUPPORT</b></p>
7/2026/2026	<p>Replacement of an existing internal commercial kitchen extractor hood and replacement of an existing extractor wall fan. The proposed works are like-for-like replacements in the same locations as the existing installations. No new openings will be formed and no historic fabric will be removed or altered beyond the existing penetrations. The external appearance of the building will remain unchanged- Listed Building Consent application Moot Hall, Market Square, Keswick, CA12 5JR <i>Support – the proposed changes will have no visual impact on the external appearance of this historic building in the Town Centre.</i> <b>SUPPORT</b></p>
7/2026/2033	<p>Proposed rear extension to dwelling – CLPUD – Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Use or Development Burnmoor, Eleventrees, Keswick, CA12 4LW <i>No comments required</i></p>

  
 16/4/26

- 7/2026/2042 Partial refurbishment of Senior Citizens Club; installation of solar PV panel to roof and installation of air source heat pump to external elevation  
Drop In Centre, Keswick Senior Citizens, Heads Road, Keswick, CA12 5HA  
*Support – this proposal incorporates solar PV panels on the South East facing roof and a new air source heat pump to improve the energy efficiency of the existing building*  
**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 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

**195. Reports from Ward Representatives**

**RECEIVED** reports from the following representatives:

- i) Cumberland Council Representative – Councillor Lansbury (Cumberland Council) was in attendance, and gave an update on progress of the Cumbrian Combined Mayoral Authority, or CCA. The first meeting had taken place, and would have full functionality from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026, with the Mayor to be elected in May 2027. She also gave an update on the work from the Tactical Visitor Management Group at the LDNPA, which had produced a plan for Borrowdale this season, and consulted with parishes, but not Keswick Town Council. The Clerk was to arrange for the North Area Ranger to attend a future Visitor Management Working Group meeting (Action – Clerk).
- ii) Lake District National Park Authority North Distinctive Area Parishes Representative – **RECEIVED** the report of the Lake District North Distinctive Area Parishes Representative.

**196. Consultations**

- i) **RESOLVED** that the Clerk respond to the Crosthwaite Road Traffic Consultation, supporting the plan (Action – Clerk); and
- ii) **RESOLVED** that individual Councillors pass their comments to the Clerk, who will respond to the consultation (Action – Clerk).

**197. Assets Register**

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

**198. Payment of Accounts**

**RESOLVED** that the payment of accounts for March 2026 (Action – RFO) as approved by the Inspection Committee be authorised for payments for:

- i) The Town Council, vouchers 277 – 296, amounting to £31,954.87 (thirty one thousand nine hundred and fifty four pounds and eighty seven pence)
- ii) The Trusts, vouchers HP191 – FP213, amounting to £15,343.54 (fifteen thousand three hundred and forty three pounds and fifty four pence)

**199. Visitor Management Working Group**

**RECEIVED** the report from Councillor Peat.

*ALD*  
16/4/26

**RESOLVED** that:

- i) The Clerk write to Cumberland Council, requesting that we have a guaranteed enforcement team in the town seven days per week, with the ability to cover the whole town, not just a single sweep of the area. This request is specifically made for within the boundaries of Keswick, and is not made on behalf of the parishes that share the CA12 postcode, and have their own separate issues (Action – Clerk); and
- ii) The Clerk request that Cumberland's event management team inform the parking enforcement team of all events planned in Keswick, so that adequate staffing levels are in the town, and there is awareness of when car parks are partially closed, which can cause knock-on issues around the town (Action – Clerk).

**200. Events Minutes**

**RECEIVED** for information the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 9 February 2026.

**201. Staffing Committee**

**RECEIVED** for information the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 28 October 2025.

**202. Police Report**

**RECEIVED** the newsletter of the Allerdale Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team.

**Prior to the following business the Chair moved the following resolution:**

*'That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted'*

**203. Building Update**

**RECEIVED** the report from the Responsible Financial Officer.

**RESOLVED** that the recommendation in the report be agreed (Action – Clerk and RFO).

**204. Change in Accountant**

**RECEIVED** the report from the Responsible Financial Officer.

**RESOLVED** that the Responsible Financial Officer get a second quotation for the work, and be given delegated authority to make the best decision on behalf of the Council (Action – RFO).

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.



Chair

16/4/26

Date