

**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 Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick on Thursday 16th April 2026 at 7.08 pm.

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**Present:**

**Chair**

Councillor Louise Dunn

**Councillors**

Natalie Evans	Steve Harwood	Claire Houghton
Chris Houghton	Denstone Kemp	Benita Laphorn
Claire Peat	Richard Scott	Lorraine Taylor

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

**205. Apologies**

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

**206. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (pages 52-55).

**207. Requests for Dispensations**

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

**208. Declarations of Interests**

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

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

No matters were raised by members of the public.

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

Councillor Evans raised that SusKes would be doing a special screening of the film 'National Emergency Briefing', and invited Councillors to attend. Councillor Taylor said that she would attend. They were also hoping to show it during Great Big Green Week in June.

Councillor Taylor had been contacted by an individual who had a guest house, who was concerned about the numbers of visitors who were actually staying in Keswick. This was not something that the Council could deal with, however the individual wished it be highlighted at a Town Council meeting.

**211. 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 Recommendation
T/2026/0046	<p>T1 - Fell 1 x Red Cedar - outgrown garden- Tree Work in Conservation Area 3, Manor Park, Keswick, CA12 4AB <i>Support – this is within the Conservation Area and we support the tree management recommendations of Julian Grave of Derwent Charcoal &amp; Tree Services</i> <b>SUPPORT</b></p>
T/2026/0048	<p>T1 – Cypress – reduce by 4 to 5 mtr to previous reduction height. T2 – Cedar – reduce by 1 to 2 mtr to previous reduction height 6, Manor Park, Keswick, CA12 4AA <i>Support – this is within the Conservation Area and we support the tree management recommendations of Julian Grave of Derwent Charcoal &amp; Tree Services</i> <b>SUPPORT</b></p>
T/2026/0060	<p>Tree 1: mature monkey puzzle at front of property. Tree 2: mature/ dying fruit tree. Tree 3: Dead larch tree. Specification of works, Tree 1: remove dead wood/branches and low over hanging branches, Tree 2: fell due to tree dying/ unsafe, Tree 3: fell due to tree dying/ unsafe Highfield Hotel, The Heads, Keswick, CA12 5ER <i>Support - this is within the Conservation Area and we support the tree management recommendations of Joseph Sunderland of Hosket Hill Tree Services</i> <b>SUPPORT</b></p>
7/2026/2029	<p>Installation of non-illuminated painted timber signage within existing archways, replacing existing signage. No fixings to historic stonework. Moot Hall, Market Square, Keswick, CA12 5JR <i>Support – we support this Listed Building Consent application for new signage to replace the existing in the arch over the front and rear entrance doors at the Moot Hall for the new tenants “Twisted Willow”</i> <b>SUPPORT</b></p>
7/2026/2030	<p>Replacement of existing signage with two non-illuminated fascia signs displaying the business name “Twisted Willow” and willow tree logo (Advertisement application) Moot Hall, Market Square, Keswick, CA12 5JR <i>Support – we support the Advertisement consent application for new signage to replace the existing in the arch over the front and rear entrance doors at the Moot Hall for the new tenants “Twisted Willow”</i> <b>SUPPORT</b></p>

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

**212. Mayor's Report**

**RECEIVED** details of the Mayor's engagements and meeting attendance for the period 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**213. Reports from Ward Representatives**

**RECEIVED** reports from the following representatives:

- i) Cumberland Council – Councillor Lansbury gave an update following the introduction of double yellow lines in the Back Streets. There had been some enforcement work, but acknowledged that it probably was less than what was expected. Residents permits for the whole of Cumberland would be discussed at the Highways Board meeting in July, but warned that nothing would happen quickly.
- ii) Lake District National Park Authority North Distinctive Area Parishes – **RECEIVED** the report of the Lake District North Distinctive Area Parishes Representative.

**214. Payment of Accounts**

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

- i) The Town Council, vouchers 297 – 12, amounting to £66,329.09 (sixty six thousand three hundred and twenty nine pounds and nine pence); and
- ii) The Parks Trusts, vouchers HP 216 – FP8, amounting to £16,537.59 (sixteen thousand five hundred and thirty seven pounds and fifty nine pence).

**215. Budget Summary Comparisons as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

**RECEIVED** budget comparisons for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.

**216. Annual Review of Revised Financial Regulations**

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

**217. Clerk's Report**

Consideration was given to the report from the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that

- i) Keswick Town Council thank Friends of the Lake District for producing such an important report to highlight the housing crisis in the Lake District National Park (Action – Clerk);
- ii) Keswick Town Council publicly support the findings of this report and the proposals within;
- iii) Keswick Town Council write to Markus Campbell-Savours, MP, the Lake District National Park Authority and Cumberland Council urging action on affordable housing for our community (Action – Clerk); and
- iv) Keswick Town Council agrees to add its signature to the Friends of the Lake District open letter to Steve Reed MP, Secretary for State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Action – Clerk).

**218. Visitor Management Working Group**

**RECEIVED** for information the notes of the latest Visitor Management Working Group meeting.

**219. Tour de France**

**RECEIVED** an update from Councillor Harwood.

**220. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

- i) **RECEIVED** Sustainable Keswick report – Councillor Natalie Evans.

**221. Police Report**

PC Moss, the new Community Beat Officer for Keswick was in attendance at the meeting. He spoke to Councillors about the police focuses for the upcoming summer of the Borrowdale Valley Parking issues, fly camping and anti-social behaviour. He emphasised that any information that people had helped the police to build a better picture of what was occurring in Keswick.

**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’*

**222. Tour de France update**

**RECEIVED** an update from Councillor Harwood.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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Chair

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Date