

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of Keswick Town Council Events Committee held at the Quaker Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick, on Monday 9 February 2026 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillor Rob Nelson (Chair)
 Councillor Louise Dunn (LD)
 Councillor Steve Harwood (SH)
 Councillor Natalie Evans (NE)
 Councillor Claire Houghton (CH)
 Yvonne Booth (Events Coordinator) (YB)
 Catherine Parker (RFO) (CP)
 Vivien Little (Town Clerk) (VL)
 Ania Mlynczak (Support Officer) (AM)
 Bob Barnby (Keswick Lions) (BB)
 Andy Cannon (Keswick Lions) (AC)
 Mary Elliot (Theatre by the Lake) (ME)
 David Quainton (Rotary) (DQ)

36. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Scott, Phil Byers (Cumberland Market) and Emily Hardy (SusKes).

37. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on the 15 December 2025 be approved (pages 12-13).

38. Christmas Lights

Cllr Louise Dunn presented the results of the recent public consultation survey, which received over 400 responses. 75% responders supported simplifying the event and only 17% wished the event to remain in its current format.

The Committee considered the survey feedback and discussed the following proposals:

- **Glass Containers and Dogs in the Market Square**

The most popular suggestion was to prohibit glass containers and dogs in the Market Square during the event.

Committee agreed to:

- Explore the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to restrict glass containers and dogs during the event.
- Consult with Cumberland Council regarding the provision of enforcement officers.
- Investigate restricting dogs in the Market Square between 5 pm and 7pm, potentially through stewarded entry points. This could be achieved with help from Rotary, Lions and potentially volunteers from the Rugby Club.

- **More traditional format of the event**

Committee agreed to:

- Liaise with local schools regarding choir participation.
- Incorporate Packhorse Court entertainment into the main event
- Work closely with Packhorse businesses and Rotary on incorporating both events.

- **Smaller stage to create more space**

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- Committee agreed that a smaller stage would create additional space.
- Action: Events Coordinator to liaise with Fluid (Action YB).

- **Accessibility**

- It was agreed to retain the accessible area by the stage as per previous year within improved management arrangements.
- Committee was also considering designated area for young children, and this could be arranged.

- **Children's funfair**

- Committee agreed to explore more traditional alternatives to the small funfair including Santas Grotto or Lantern Parade. A final decision will be made in a later date.

- **Removing market stalls**

- This idea to be discussed with Market manager, Phil Byers.

- **One way system**

- Possibility of implementing one-way pedestrian system will be investigated.

- **Change the event to middle week to reduce the numbers.**

- **RESOLVED** that the 2026 Christmas Lights Switch-On Event will take a place on Wednesday 18 November 2026.

Action: Office staff to investigate variation on premises licence (Action AM).

39. 2026 Events

To continue forward planning the 2026 events.

- **Mayday – Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2026, Townsfield, 10am to 3pm**

- Following the success of the 2025 event, Chair suggested increased promotion and further developing event as a family -focused day with additional games and volunteers from Lions and Youth Club.
- Confirmed participants include food vendors, Bee Unique, Calvert ponies and Mazurka Band.
- The May King and Queen tradition will continue and new May Day Bonnet competition will be introduced.

Action: YB will contact local schools regarding participation in King/Queen, Bonnet Competition and maypole dancing. (Action – YB)

- **Party in the Park – Saturday 27 June 2026, Fitz Park, 3pm to 9pm**

- The event will follow the same format as per previous years featuring local bands, Bee Unique and food and drink vendors.
- There will be no hay bales provided and people will be encouraged to bring their own seating and blankets.

- **Keswick Games – Sunday 16 August 2026, Fitz Park**

- The Committee anticipated increased numbers following the success of last year event, especially with race up Latrigg as a new competition.

Agreed arrangements:

- Revised layout – to position stalls and activities closer to pavilion
- Increased promotion of both male and female races
- More volunteers with clear timetables
- A-boards to be ordered
- Banners to go up 28 days before event.
- Maximum of 20 teams, 6 participants per team with entry fee of £30 per team.
- Lions will be happy to help with the admin side of the events

R.N

40. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be held on Monday 23 March. Time to be confirmed.

The meeting finished at 12.10pm



Chair

26.03.26

Date