

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of Keswick Town Council Events Committee held at Council Chamber, Keswick Town Hall, Keswick, CA12 5JS on Monday 25 August 2026 at 11am

Present: Councillor Natalie Evans (NE)
 Councillor Steve Harwood (SH)
 Councillor Claire Houghton (CH) (Chair)
 Yvonne Booth (Events Coordinator) (YB)
 Bob Barnby (Keswick Lions) (BB)
 David Quainton (Keswick Rotary) (DQ)
 Jack Beamont (Keswick Tourism Association) (JB)
 Mary Elliot (Theatre by the Lake) (ME)
 Vivien Little (Town Clerk) (VL)
 Catherine Parker (Responsible Financial Officer) (RFO)

MINUTES

9. Election of Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Claire Houghton be elected as Chair of the Events Committee for the 2026/27 municipal year.

10. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Scott, Phil Byers (Keswick Markets) and Ania Mlynczak (Support Officer).

11. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on the 20 July 2026 be approved, with the addition of a spelling correction.

12. Keswick Games Feedback

RECEIVED feedback on the Keswick Games.

- 118 children had taken part in 2026, 3 times what had taken place last year. 46 children also took part in the cross country race.
- The fell race had received a lot of entries, with the winner coming close to the record, which was an amazing achievement.
- The amount of teams dropping out at the last minute was disappointing, but next year there would be more control over that.
- There was more volunteers than needed this year, in a change from last year. The overall feedback of the day was extremely positive.
- It was generally felt that as it is becoming a successful event, we shouldn't change the format.
- KTA could help to put the request for sponsorship out to their members (Action – JB and YB). More could also be done to promote KTC events at the Keswick Tourism Association AGM.
- Families could be encouraged to enter the team event, which would need to be communicated.
- Thanks were given to the sponsors, and also Keswick Lions for their support of the day.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The time of the event for 2027 be set to run from 12 noon until 5pm.

13. Use of Inflatables in Keswick Games

RECEIVED the report of the Clerk. While Bee Unique were fully compliant with Keswick Town Council's requests regarding PLI and staff on site, concerns were raised over Mr Bounce and his inflatable obstacle course. Questions were raised as to whether this added much to the day. Keswick Tourism Association may be able to help source alternative entertainment.

RESOLVED that Mr Bounce's inflatable obstacle course not be used for the event in 2027.

14. Christmas Lights Switch On 2026

RECEIVED an update of the event from the Events Coordinator.

- The event at Packhorse Court would go ahead as usual, starting at 5pm, and ending at 5.30 following the lights switch on by Peter Rabbit.
- The aim would be 7pm for the main lights switch on, with hopefully something from TBTL to showcase their Christmas show, followed by music led by a slimmed down Local Vocals, who had been booked.
- JB requested that a group of musicians who normally played for the pubs and bars in Keswick be able to do a couple of songs. This was agreed.
- Taylor's funfair would be invited to attend, as their rides were incredibly popular, and they always donated monies to the Events.
- Need to have a strategic plan to ensure that any bottle necks could be identified quickly, and dealt with. There would be an Event Safety briefing at least a week before, to enable all volunteers to ask questions.
- VL would write to Allerdale Police, informing them of the event, and requesting that there be appropriate support on duty (Action – VL).
- After discussion, it was agreed that this year, the Mayor and the Town Crier would jointly switch on the lights.
- NE and VL were to attend a future meeting of Cumberland Council's Lakes to Sea panel to request that consideration was given to working with Cumberland Council to place bollards at the entrance to Derwent Close (Action – VL and NE).
- YB to produce a sponsors email and send it to KTA for distribution (Action – YB).
- DQ informed the group that there would be lights put on the trees at Tithebarn Corner by the Rotary Club this year.

15. Future Events

The following dates were set for 2027 events:

- May Day – Monday 3 May 2027 at Townsfield
- Party in the Park – Saturday 26 June 2027 in Fitz Park
- Keswick Games – Sunday 15 August 2027 in Fitz Park
- Christmas Lights Switch on – 3rd week in November 2027 (date to be set following this year's event).

16. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was set as Wednesday 30 September 2026 at 11am.

The meeting finished at 12.37 pm

Chair

Date