

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Keswick Town Council held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Council Offices, Keswick, on Thursday 19th March 2015 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Chairman

Councillor Lorraine Taylor

Councillors

Martin Jordan

Andrew Lysser

Keith Taylor

Denstone Kemp

Duncan Miller

Paul Titley

Susan Leighton

Martin Pugmire

Also present were Catherine Howe (Administration & Finance Officer), Alex English (National Trust), Penny Webb (National Trust), Geoff Davies (LDNPA Parishes Member) and 4 members of the press.

Prior to the meeting Alex English and Penny Webb of the National Trust Borrowdale were present to talk about events for the coming year. A leaflet was distributed detailing the programme of National Trust events taking place in 2015 around Keswick, Cockermouth and the Coast. Councillors were then given details of King Pocky's Derwentwater Regatta taking place on 11th & 12th July 2015, this event was in its third year.

Mrs Mavis Clark – Former Keswick Town Councillor & Mayor of Keswick

Before the meeting commenced the Mayor advised Councillors of the sad news that Mrs Mavis Clark had died on Wednesday 18th March 2015. Mrs Clark was newly elected onto Keswick Town Council on Thursday 15th March 1990 and was elected as Mayor of Keswick for council year 1996/1997. On Thursday 17th April 2003 Mrs Clark stood down from Keswick Town Council, as did Sean Crawford, Stephen Hoggarth and Maysie McCambridge. At this meeting Mrs Clark was thanked for her exceptional long service and dedicated hard work in her respective specialist areas of responsibility.

The Mayor expressed best wishes to Mike and family, a minutes silence then took place as a mark of respect.

204. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Burn (holiday) and Lywood (holiday).

205. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday 15th January 2015 (pages 36 - 39) and Thursday 19th February 2015 (pages 40 – 42).

206. Requests for Dispensations

The Administration & Finance Officer reported that no requests for dispensations had been made.

207. Declarations of Interests

No declarations by elected and co-opted members of interests in respect of items on this agenda were received.

208. Police Attendance

PCSO Adele Lyall was in attendance. **RECEIVED** the reports of the Allerdale Neighbourhood Policing Team for period January to February and February to March. PCSO Lyall advised Councillors that the new shop watch scheme in Keswick should be up and running for the summer months. Councillors asked if Police patrols could monitor vehicles entering prohibited areas of the Town, in particular the Market Square and Derwentwater Foreshore areas, when resources allowed.

209. Matters to be received from the Public

No members of the public were present.

210. Mayor's Report

RECEIVED reports from the Mayor including details of the Mayor's calendar of duties during February and March.

211. Applications for Development

- i) **RESOLVED** that the following observations be submitted to the Lake District National Park Authority:

Plan Ref:	Description of Development Location:
T/2015/0018	Fell 3 trees, crown lift 4 beech trees Sub Station, St Johns Street NEUTRAL
7/2015/2021	Demolish existing car port and build utility room and store. Build new garage and extend dining room to private dwelling Tandarra, Vicarage Hill <i>Site visit made</i> NEUTRAL
7/2012/2025	Rear single storey extension and side entrance porch 58 The Headlands <i>Site visit made</i> NEUTRAL
7/2015/2035	Alterations and extension to bay window 50 The Headlands NEUTRAL
7/2015/2043	New garage High Chestnut Hut Hill, Chestnut Hill NEUTRAL

- ii) **RECEIVED** an update on National Park Planning Decisions for February and March.
iii) **RECEIVED** an update from Councillor Titley on LDNPA Development Control Committee site visit – Application 7/2014/2300 - Sheepdog Field, Off Brundholme Road

212. Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts for March 2015 as approved by the Inspection Committee be authorised for payment:

- i) The Town Council, vouchers 191 – 201 amounting to £14923.01 (fourteen thousand nine hundred and twenty three pounds and one pence)
ii) The Trusts, vouchers HP105 – FP98 amounting to £7589.77 (seven thousand five hundred and eighty nine pounds and seventy seven pence)

213. Public Toilet Provision in Keswick

RECEIVED a report from Councillor Titley, for consideration, following a meeting held on Tuesday 10th March regarding public toilet provision in Keswick.

RESOLVED that Allerdale Borough Council be advised that the Town Council would not be interested in taking over Bell Close toilets via Capital Asset Transfer. This would then allow any local consortium to contact Allerdale Borough Council to take over the running and management of Bell Close toilets.

214. Review of Internal Audit

RESOLVED that Councillors Burn and Miller carry out the annual review of effectiveness of the Council's system of internal audit.

RECEIVED the current Internal Auditor's interim audit report for the financial year ending 31st March 2015

RESOLVED that alternative quotations be sought for the next financial year to complete the Council's Internal Audit Service. The quotations were to be brought to the next meeting.

215. Review of Risk Assessment

RESOLVED that the revised Risk Assessment as at February 2015 be adopted.

216. A Boards

At the request of Councillor Keith Taylor, to consider making representations to the County Council for action to remove unlicensed A boards in the town centre.

RECEIVED a Report from Councillor Burn regarding current A-board permit scheme, for consideration.

RESOLVED that a letter be sent to Steph Davis-Johnston and Karl Melville, Cumbria Highways, containing the questions/suggestions in Councillor Burns report and asking how this permit scheme will be policed in the future.

Further **RESOLVED** that a letter be sent to Kevin Richards, LDNPA, to seek clarification on LDNPA Policy regarding A-board regulations and enforcement.

217. Allerdale BC Draft Council Plan 2015-2019 Consultation

RESOLVED that a response be sent to Allerdale Borough Council, as detailed in Councillor Leighton's report.

218. Allerdale BC Leisure Strategy Consultation

RESOLVED that the response to the consultation on the Leisure Strategy be as follows:-

- There was very little mention of Keswick within the consultation document; therefore it has little relevance to us.
- The Allerdale Borough Council grant of £20,000, towards Fitz Park maintenance (from the Environmental Initiatives budget) is appreciated, although this figure is far below the annual deficit amounting to almost £100,000 in Fitz Park each year. Fitz Park provides an essential facility for Keswick and the surrounding boroughs, with varied activities for all ages, abilities and genders, this adds to the health and wellbeing of many.

219. Rural Open Sure Signal Programme

RECEIVED an update from Councillor Titley.

RESOLVED that Councillor Lorraine Taylor bring an update on Broadband services in the area to the next meeting.

220. National Geological Screening Event

RECEIVED a report from Councillor Martin Pugmire following his attendance at the above event on 4th February 2015.

221. Reports from Ward Representatives

RECEIVED reports from the following representatives:

- i) Allerdale Borough Council Representatives - Councillor Pugmire & Kemp February reports /Councillor Pugmire March Report
- ii) Cumbria County Council Representative – Councillor Lysser gave a verbal report.
- iii) Lake District National Park Authority Representative - Geoff Davies, January and February reports.

222. Clerk's February Report & Administration & Finance Officers March Report

RECEIVED the Clerk's February report.

RESOLVED that:-

- any Councillors preferring to receive papers electronically must notify the office of this in writing.
- Councillor Titley look at the signage required in the Town Centre and for details to be sent to Cumbria County Council for approval. The amount remaining in the budget for additional signage is £1700.

RECEIVED the Administration & Finance Officers March report.

Councillors were reminded to read important notes relating to elections, nominations packs and to familiarise themselves with the restrictions that apply during PURDAH.

RESOLVED that:-

- Councillors Lorraine Taylor, Kemp, Pugmire and Leighton would be willing to take part in meet and greet sessions. The press were asked place an article in the local papers advising anyone interested in standing for Keswick Town Council and would like advice or assistance with completing their nominations forms to contact any of the above Councillors to make a mutually convenient appointment.
- The Health & safety Policy Statement be adopted.
- A letter be sent to Allerdale Borough Council asking if it would be possible to review the Keswick Parish boundary along with the East and West ward boundaries.

223. Correspondence

RECEIVED details of the following correspondence:-

- i) Allerdale BC – Allerdale Local Plan (Part 2) Site Allocations Issues and Options consultation – **RESOLVED** that as the deadline for comments had now passed (27/02/2015) no response be sent.
- iv) Allerdale Borough Council – Keswick Best Large Outdoor Market of the Year – Banner fee reduction request
RESOLVED that a reduction of 20% in the normal charge be agreed in views of the long term nature of the booking. The Town Council would require ABC to advise them of the dates the banners would be in place (working around bookings already received). No advertising of profit making companies/organisations would be allowed on the banners, as per policy.
- v) Sally Bickerdyke – copy of letter to Keswick Tourism Association re parking for events.
RESOLVED that a copy of this letter be sent to the Events Advisory Group to make all Keswick event organisers aware of this issue.
- vi) Theatre by the Lake – thanks for financial assistance 2015-16
- vii) Caldbeck Parish Council – 73/73A Bus Service update
- viii) CALC – Affordable Rural Housing: A Practical Guide for parish councils.
- ix) LDNPA - Long Bridge, Portinscale – Dedication Instrument for information
- x) Keswick Lions – 100 years celebration 2017 – **RESOLVED** that a request be made for further information regarding the help required and that this item be deferred to the next meeting. In the meantime it was suggested that Keswick Lions contact Keswick in Bloom and Friends of the Park to see if they can help on any way.
- xi) Paul Gallagher – United Utilities West Cumbria water supplies project – Request for views - **RESOLVED** that United Utilities be asked to attend the next Town Council meeting to give a presentation on the project. Further **RESOLVED** that Mr Gallagher be advised that members of the public can attend the Town Council meeting and address concerns.
- xii) Messrs Hutton, Springs Farm – Response to Sally Bickerdykes letter re parking for events - **RESOLVED** that a copy of this letter be sent to the Events Advisory Group to make all Keswick event organisers aware of this issue.
- xiii) United Utilities – West Cumbria water supply project – consultation and survey works information
- xiv) Rural Housing Policy – A Fair Deal for Rural Communities – Report summary for information – **RESOLVED** that this item be deferred to the next meeting for discussion.

224. Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)

RECEIVED a report from Councillor Pugmire on the presentation by Arnie Gundersen and Ian Fairlie regarding Geological Disposal Facilities held at the Skiddaw Hotel on Wednesday 11th March 2015.

225. Request for Financial Assistance – Above Derwent Parish Council

RECEIVED a request for financial help, amounting to £150, towards a cyclist sign at the Keswick side of Portinscale Footbridge.

RESOLVED that this request be declined due Councillors feeling that this would not be a suitable use of funds.

226. Allerdale Borough Council – Dog Waste Bags

RECEIVED a letter from Allerdale Borough Council regarding distribution of dog waste bags.

RESOLVED that we do not wish to offer this service due to the Allerdale Borough Council office opposite fulfilling this role already.

227. Local Housing Occupancy Policy Concerns

RECEIVED a report from Councillor Lysser for consideration in making representations to Lake District National Park Authority and Local Housing Groups regarding local housing policy concerns.

RESOLVED that the Keswick Town Council Housing Group hold a meeting to discuss this further and that dates would be circulated to arrange an evening meeting.

Prior to the following business, the Chairman moved the following resolution:

‘That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable/in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw’

228. Staffing

RECEIVED a report containing recommendations from the Staffing Panel.

RESOLVED that the Staffing Panel’s remuneration suggestion, as detailed in the report, be approved.

Further **RESOLVED** that this be reviewed on the six month anniversary of the current situation.

RESOLVED that the Staffing Panel be given delegated powers to spend up to a maximum of £1,000 for additional Clerk/Accountants support should the need arise.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Chairman

Date