

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Keswick Town Council held remotely using the Zoom app on Thursday 15th October 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Chairman
Councillor Paul Titley

Alexandra Boardman
Allan Daniels
Sally Lansbury
Peter Terry

David Burn
Alan Dunn
Tony Lywood

Markus Campbell- Savours
Steve Harwood
Duncan Miller

Also present were Lynda Walker (Town Clerk), Catherine Parker (Responsible Financial Officer), Dr Geoff Davies (Lake District National Park Authority North Distinctive Area Parishes' representative), 1 member of the press and 2 members of the public.

Prior to the meeting, Nicola Meadley, Paul McGreal and Richard Pearson gave an update on the situation regarding the Keswick Mountain Festival event for 2021. Plans were well in hand for the event which could be held following current Government Covid guidelines although the role of the Theatre by the Lake was uncertain at present. An additional 'run up Skiddaw' event was planned starting from Fitz Park. Financial constraints meant that external funding was being sought and a number of suggestions were put forward by Councillors.

103. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paxon and the Police.

104. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 17th September 2020 (pages 21-25).

105. Requests for Dispensations

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

106. Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

107. Police Report

RECEIVED the report of the Allerdale Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team.

108. Matters to be received from the Public

No matters were received from the public.

109. Matters to be raised by Councillors

Councillor Miller referred to a recent press report regarding the number of second homes and holiday lets in Keswick about which a number of residents had approached him. He was concerned that the sustainability of the community could be affected should the number continue to rise. The Clerk was asked to include an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councillor Terry clarified that he had no objection to the provision of additional CCTV cameras in the Market Square as agreed at the last meeting. His concerns had been about privacy and these had now been largely addressed.

110. Mayor's Report

RECEIVED a report from the Mayor covering the period 11th September 2020 – 8th October 2020.

111. Covid Update

The Mayor said that Keswick was coping well, with current levels of infection relatively low. He felt that this was largely due to mask wearing and asked everyone to remain vigilant and follow the rules to avoid the area moving to a higher 'tier' of intervention.

112. Applications for Development

Councillor Burn commented on the decision of the Planning Authority to grant permission for a Premier Inn on the site of the former Ravensfield care home. He thanked those who had supported refusal.

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

Plan Ref:	Description of Development Location
T/2020/0125	Beech - Lift crown by 1-2m and thin by no more than 30% to reduce pressure on stem during high winds 13 Fenton, Keswick, CA12 4AZ <i>No comments made</i> SUPPORT
T/2020/0129	T2 - Oak - Remove lowest limb back to stem. Reduce long limbs which reach across garden towards garage to growth points by approx 4mtrs and shape (back to boundary) 14 Fenton, Keswick, CA12 4AZ <i>No comments made</i> SUPPORT
T/2020/0130	Reduce branch by 2.5m - 5 day notice Greta Lodge, Southey Hill, Keswick, CA12 5ND <i>For information only, no comments required</i>
T/2020/0131	Reduce 1 beech (T2) by 2-2.5m and crown lift to 4.5-5m east side. Fell 1 sycamore (T3). Reduce canopies of yew trees under beech by 1-1.5m to reshape and crown lift to 3-3.5m Greta Hall, Main Street, Keswick, CA12 5NH <i>No comments made</i> SUPPORT
7/2020/2212	Proposed new pitched roof over existing flat roof, with rear single storey bedroom extension and new front porch 3, Lakeland Park, Keswick, CA12 4AT <i>No comments made</i> SUPPORT
7/2020/2220	Non-material amendment to planning approval 7/2020/2075 (Proposed ground floor infill extension, first floor side extension, loft conversion, facade alterations and all associated works, following refusal of 7/2019/2291) to use seamed GRP instead of seamed metal maintaining RAL 7016 colour Manor Crest, Manor Brow, Keswick, CA12 4AW <i>For information only, no comments required</i>

ii) **RECEIVED** update on National Park planning decisions.

113. White Paper – ‘Planning for the Future’

Consideration was given to the report of the Working Group recommending responses to the questions in the Government’s consultation on the Planning White paper.

RESOLVED that the proposed response be submitted as drafted.

114. Clerk’s Report

Consideration was given to the Clerk’s report.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the current delegation arrangements to the Clerk continue for a further six month period i.e.
 - a) To take action on any issue of such urgency that it cannot wait until the next normal Council meeting. If circumstances permit, the Clerk would normally be expected to consult with the Mayor or Deputy Mayor if the Mayor is unavailable and take his/her view into account
 - b) To submit planning observations on behalf of the Council to the planning authority following consultation with Councillors who for the time being constitute the Council’s Planning Group and with the Mayor or Deputy Mayor as above
 - c) To authorise the payment of accounts on behalf of the Town Council and Keswick Parks Charitable Trusts following inspection by two Councillors and consultation with Mayor or Deputy Mayor as above.

All decisions taken under delegated authority to be in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and reported to the next available Council meeting.
- ii) That the Staffing Committee be authorised to make an appointment following interviews to fill the post of Town Clerk
- iii) That the Terms of Reference for the Events and Staffing Committees be amended to provide for the appointment of up to six Councillors

115. Reports from Ward Representatives

RECEIVED reports from the following representatives:

- i) Allerdale Borough Council – Councillor Campbell-Savours reported that the Borough Council was currently looking at options for the re-opening of the Leisure Pool and a decision would be made in the next week.
Councillor Daniels referred to the item raised by Councillor Miller concerning second homes and holiday lets quoting a current figure of 35% of houses in Keswick coming into these categories, with a 6-7% increase in the last 3 years. He suggested that representations be made to the Trudie Harrison MP and Tim Farron MP. It was agreed that this be considered at the next meeting.
(Councillor Lansbury left the meeting).
- ii) Cumbria County Council – Councillor Lywood said that the one-way system in Station Street/St John’s Street appeared to be working well and that seasonal restrictions on parking in Church Street would be continued for the time being.
He reported that following the public vote in the competition to design a mural for the Penrith Road bus shelter, Paul Wilmott’s design (The Three Bears) had been chosen and the artist would be liaising with St Herbert’s School in due course.
He advised that Keswick Library had not been included in the County’s initial list of libraries to be re-opened and he was lobbying for it to re-open as soon as possible.
- iii) Lake District National Park Authority North Distinctive Area Parishes’ Representative – Dr Davies submitted a written report together with information concerning the actions which had been taken to address the issue of second homes and holiday lets in the National Park. He also commented on the Planning White Paper.
Dr Davies left the meeting.

The Mayor gave an update on work on the Keswick to Threlkeld Trail which should be open for public use by the end of November. He said that discussions were ongoing regarding the provision of toilets at the old Station site.

116. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

RECEIVED a report from the following representatives:

- i) The Battersby Charity – Councillor Lywood submitted a written report.
- ii) Keswick in Bloom – Councillor Terry reported that the Cumbria in Bloom awards were to be held digitally this year and offered to provide details to anyone who wished to ‘attend’.

117. Grants – Additional £2,000 allocation

Consideration was given to recommendations for grant payments from the additional £2,000 allocated from the Mayor’s expenses.

RESOLVED that the list of grants be approved for payment.

118. Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts for October 2020 as approved by the Inspection Committee be authorised for payment:

- i) For the Town Council, vouchers 78 – 98, amounting to £47,921.10 (forty seven thousand, nine hundred twenty one pounds and ten pence)
- ii) For the Trusts, vouchers HP96 – FP104, amounting to £13,608.74 (thirteen thousand, six hundred and eight pounds and seventy four pence)

119. Quarterly Budgets

RECEIVED for information the quarterly budget comparisons.

120. Proposed Amendment to Financial Regulations

Consideration was given to the report of the Responsible Financial Officer.

RESOLVED that the revised Financial Regulations be approved and adopted.

121. Update from Climate Emergency Working Group

RECEIVED an update from the Climate Emergency Working Group. Councillor Boardman confirmed that Allerdale Borough Council had approved in principle the provision of a Tetra Pack recycling facility at Otley Road.

122. Minutes of Committee Meetings

RECEIVED for information the draft Minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 28th September 2020.

123. Correspondence

RECEIVED the following correspondence:

- i) Allerdale Borough Council – Proposed Footway Lighting Energy Costs.
- ii) Lake District National Park Authority – Update on financial position.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Chairman

Date