

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Keswick Town Council held remotely via the Zoom app on Thursday 21st May 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Chairman
Councillor Paul Titley

Alexandra Boardman
Allan Daniels
Sally Lansbury
Adam Paxon

David Burn
Alan Dunn
Tony Lywood
Peter Terry

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 (LDNPA) North Distinctive Area Parishes representative), Vanessa Metcalfe (Keswick Tourism Association (KTA)), 2 members of the press and 2 members of the public.

Prior to the start of the meeting, there was a one minute silence in memory of James (Jim) Newstead, one of Keswick's remaining World War 2 veterans, to acknowledge his service to the Royal British Legion. The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Burn, then reflected on his mayoral year which had been unusual in many ways starting with the sad death of Martin Pugmire which had resulted in a two stage election resulting in a full Council not being in place until July, and ending with the Coronavirus pandemic. He thanked Councillor Titley for his support as Deputy Mayor during the year, all other Councillors and the office staff.

1. Election of Chairman (Town Mayor)

There being only one nomination it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Paul Titley be elected as the Chairman (Town Mayor) for the ensuing year. Councillor Titley made the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office. He said that it was a huge honour to be Mayor of Keswick again and that he expected it to be an unusual and difficult year. He thanked Councillor Burn for all his work as Mayor.

2. Election of Deputy Chairman (Deputy Mayor)

There being two nominations a vote had taken place and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Burn be elected as Deputy Chairman (Deputy Mayor) for the ensuing year. Councillor Burn made a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16th April 2020.

5. Requests for Dispensations

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

6. Declarations of Interests

Declarations by elected and co-opted members of interests in respect of items on this agenda were received from:-

Councillor Lansbury – item 11 (i) application no. T/2020/0052 – property owner

Councillor Terry – item 11 (i) application no. 7/2020/2073 – owns neighbouring property

7. Police Report

RECEIVED: the report of the Allerdale Rural Neighbourhood Policing team. Councillors reported difficulty in accessing the crime statistics on the website and the Clerk was asked to raise this with the Police.

8. Matters to be received from the Public

A local resident raised the issue of the wearing of face coverings during the coronavirus pandemic. She asked for the Council's support in encouraging residents and visitors to wear them and to promote Keswick as a 'covered community'. There was general support for the initiative and it was agreed to include an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned for ten minutes so that participants could join the weekly 'Clap for Carers' at 8.00 p.m.

9. Matters to be raised by Councillors

- i) Councillor Boardman thanked Councillor Dunn for repairing the plaque at Friars Crag placed by former Mayor Martin Pugmire who died last year. She said that this had meant a lot to the family.
- ii) Councillor Dunn raised the issue of the placing of signs at the entrances to Keswick to deter visitors to the town following the relaxation of lockdown rules allowing people to travel to take exercise. He was concerned that the Town Council might be portrayed as 'vigilantes' and asked for consultation in future prior to any such action being taken. The Clerk explained that the signs had been organised by Keswick Community Asset Company.

10. Keswick Recovery Plan

The Mayor gave further details about a proposed three point plan for the recovery of Keswick following Covid-19. Vanessa Metcalfe of Keswick Tourism Association provided information about its planned campaign and 'road map' giving provisional dates when businesses would re-open. Messaging was likely to start in June and reassurance would be provided that Keswick was as safe as possible to visit.

Councillor Lansbury outlined initiatives which could benefit local people and asked for the Town Council to identify a sum of money to support these. The Mayor said that the 'Party in the Park' was unlikely to happen for some time and that the Events Committee would keep this proposal 'on the back burner'. Councillor Campbell-Savours asked for community consultation to take place.

11. 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/2020/0044	Fell 1 multi stem cypress (T1) 12 Greta Villas, Keswick, CA12 5LJ <i>Support - Tree is dominating the property and is only going to cause problems as it grows with regard to underground services etc.</i> SUPPORT
T/2020/0052	Raise crown to 4.8m, crown clean and prune 2 beech trees The Grange, Manor Brow, Keswick, CA12 4BA <i>Support - Subject to a professional/affiliated Tree Surgeon being appointed to carry out the work on said trees which have T.P.O's on them.</i> SUPPORT
7/2020/2073	Siting of timber chalet for temporary residential purposes during construction of approved dwelling Land Adj The Screes, Chestnut Hill, Keswick, CA12 4LR <i>Object – The standard of accommodation proposed goes beyond what would normally be considered as temporary accommodation while a house is being built. It is stated that the new house has an extant permission which would allow it to be built at any time in the future. In this context the chalet could be left in place for an undefined period and should be considered as a possible permanent structure.</i>

The Tree Report submitted to support the application includes a plan which shows the siting of the chalet in a different position - behind the tree cluster - to that shown on the planning application drawing which shows it between and in front of the tree cluster. We object to the siting on the Tree Report plan as this would be open to other uses independent of the new house. We also object to the siting as shown on the application drawings as it would be in too close proximity to the rear of the new house without impacting on existing trees - not considered in the report submitted.

In addition, Keswick Town Council would like assurance that this planning application will be decided by the Development Control Committee and that it will not be made under the extended delegated powers.

OBJECT

7/2020/2087

Permanently retaining temporary access AP07 approved under temporary permission (ref:7/2016/2027) as part of the United Utilities Thirlmere West Coast Pipeline, providing new access to High Keld High Keld, Chestnut Hill, Keswick, CA12 4LR
Support - This access will satisfy United Utilities' needs and provide a safer vehicle entrance/exit for the property named 'High Keld'.

SUPPORT

7/2020/2100

Provision of a small store adjacent and connected to the existing pencil museum, to replace the small section of building removed as part of the entrance realignment
The Pencil Museum, the former Cumberland Pencil Factory Site, Southey Works, Carding Mill Lane, Keswick, CA12 5NG
Support - New build storage unit in a more prominent location than existing one. Suggest that colour co-ordination of exterior match the strong visual style of the Pencil Museum

SUPPORT

7/2020/2104

Permanent retention of existing temporary access track and re-landscaping and re-profiling of compound area back to grass field incorporating material excavated from tunnel excavations
Naddle Compound, Keswick to Threlkeld Railway Trail and adjoining land, Keswick
Support - Sensible recycling of material from the 'Big Tunnel' on the K2T Multi Use Trail

SUPPORT

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

12. Standing Committee and Working Group Members

- i) Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that the Staffing Committee comprise six Councillors - the Mayor (ex officio) (Councillor Tittley) and the Chair of the Parks Trusts (ex officio) (Councillor Paxon), plus Councillors Burn, Daniels, Harwood and Miller

- ii) Events Committee

RESOLVED that the Events Committee comprise six Councillors and that Councillors Burn, Daniels, Dunn, Lansbury, Lywood and Tittley be appointed to the Committee.

- iii) Planning Group

RESOLVED that Councillors Daniels, Harwood, and Miller be appointed to the Planning Group.

13. Outside Bodies & Liaison Meetings

RESOLVED that the following Councillors be appointed as representatives on outside bodies and to attend liaison meetings e.g. Allerdale 3 tier meetings, CALC etc.:-

The Battersby Charity	Councillor Tony Lywood
Keswick in Bloom	Councillor Peter Terry
Keswick Community Emergency Recovery Partnership	Councillor Sally Lansbury
Keswick Tourism Association	Councillor Alan Dunn
Keswick Youth Centre	Councillor Markus Campbell-Savours
Keswick Fair Trade Committee	Councillor Markus Campbell-Savours
Keswick Flood Action Group	Councillor Paul Titley
Keswick Convention Town Liaison Group	Councillor Adam Paxon Councillor Markus Campbell-Savours Councillor Duncan Miller (substitute)
Liaison Meetings (CALC, Lake District Partnership Parish Forum etc)	Councillor Alexandra Boardman Councillor Steve Harwood Councillor Paul Titley

14. Chairman's Allowance

RESOLVED that the Chairman's allowance in pursuance of Section 15 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 be set at £2,000, as per the budget provision made with the normal payment arrangements to apply.

15. Schedule of Meetings 2020/21

RESOLVED that the dates and times of ordinary meetings of the Council for the ensuing year be fixed as follows:

(Meetings start at 7.30 pm except where stated otherwise)

18 th June	Town Council Meeting
9 th July	Charitable Trust Meeting
16 th July	Town Council Meeting
20 th August	Town Council Meeting
10 th September	Charitable Trust Meeting
17 th September	Town Council Meeting
15 th October	Town Council Meeting
12 th November	Charitable Trust Meeting
19 th November	Town Council Meeting
17 th December	Town Council Meeting 7.00 pm start

14 th January	Charitable Trust Meeting
21 st January	Town Council Meeting
18 th February	Town Council Meeting
11 th March	Charitable Trust Meeting
18 th March	Town Council Meeting
15 th April	Annual Parish Meeting 6.30 pm Town Council Meeting
20 th May	Annual Council Meeting
27 th May	Annual Trust Meeting

16. Schedule of Charges

RECEIVED the report of the Responsible Financial Officer.

RESOLVED that the existing charges stay in place for 2020/21.

17. Annual Review of Standing Orders

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED that the template protocol to cover 'virtual' meetings be added to the current Standing Orders and that no other revisions be made.

18. Payment of Accounts

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

- i) The Town Council, vouchers 10 – 31 amounting to £52,571.71 (fifty two thousand five hundred and seventy one pounds and seventy one pence)
- ii) The Parks' Trusts, vouchers HP6 – FP16 amounting to £3,963.19 (three thousand nine hundred and sixty three pounds and nineteen pence).

19. Reports from Ward Representatives

RECEIVED reports from the following representatives:

- i) Allerdale Borough Council Ward Representatives
Councillor Daniels said that the Borough Council was considering the re-opening of Keswick market and had asked for comments on this proposal. Concerns were expressed and it was agreed to include an item on the agenda for the next meeting.
Councillor Lansbury said that she had been dealing with a number of applications for business grants which had 'slipped through the net'. She commended Heather Askew for her work in setting up the Street Warden Scheme in Keswick and thanked her and all the volunteers.
- ii) Cumbria County Council Ward Representative
Councillor Lywood said that the K2T Multi-user trail was expected to be open at the end of October/beginning of November. Final work was being completed on the Penrith Road flood alleviation project. He advised that Danfo had now re-opened the public toilets in Keswick. The County Council was not currently meeting. The Battersby Trust intended to re-paint the Moot Hall and had allocated £15,000 for grants to local schoolchildren in need.
- iii) Lake District National Park Authority North Distinctive Area Parishes Representative
Dr Davies submitted a written report and advised that two planning applications had now been determined using enhanced delegated powers. A 'virtual' meeting of the Development Control Committee was planned for 1st July.

20. Proposal for Councillors' Surgeries

Consideration was given to Councillor Terry's report proposing that Town Councillors hold 'surgeries' with members of the public to provide an opportunity for issues to be raised and to raise the profile of the Council. **RESOLVED** that the proposal be trialled for 3-6 months when conditions allow, and that Councillors Terry, Burn and Campbell-Savours bring detailed proposals to the next meeting.

21. Keswick to Threlkeld Multi-User Trail

Consideration was given to the response received from UNESCO to the Council's concerns regarding the decision by the LDNPA to use a tarmac material on the K2T Multi-User trail, and to a request from Councillor Harwood for the Council's support to continue the challenge to the governance of the LDNPA which he felt had been deeply flawed on the project and totally unresponsive to widespread local concerns.

RESOLVED that Councillor Harwood prepare a submission to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs setting out the Council's concerns on the decision-making process employed in the project whereby the LDNPA had acted as client, developer and applicant and had granted themselves planning permission in contravention of their own stated policies and their prime responsibilities under the Environment Act 1995 to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.

22. Climate Change

Councillor Boardman put forward a proposal from the Climate Change Working Group to send a letter to Trudy Harrison MP and the Secretary of State asking for changes to 'build back better' to avoid future environmental disasters in setting out a strategy for how the country will come out of the Covid-19 pandemic. Councillor Terry expressed dissent on the basis that there was no reference in the letter to the effect of a burgeoning world population on climate change.

RESOLVED that the letter be sent as drafted.

23. Clerk's Report

RECEIVED the report of the Clerk.

24. Correspondence

RECEIVED the following correspondence:

- i) DEFRA and Trudy Harrison MP – Thirlmere Reservoir

Prior to the following business the Chairman moved the 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'

25. Committee Minutes

RECEIVED for information the Minutes of the Staffing Committee meetings held on 14th April 2020, 20th April 2020, 5th May 2020 and 11th May 2020 (draft).

RESOLVED that adjustments to the current year's staffing budget be approved as recommended.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Chairman

Date