

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

EVENTS COMMITTEE

**Council Offices
50 Main Street
Keswick
CA12 5JS**

Email: townclerk@keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk

A meeting of Keswick Town Council Events Committee will be held via the Zoom app on **Monday 28th September 2020 at 10.30 a.m.** Meeting details are given below.

Topic: Events Committee

Time: Sep 28, 2020 10:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89585517437?pwd=c2gybkl3WXBLsmtZa0FGdWRVYVBMQT09>

Meeting ID: 895 8551 7437

Passcode: 772575

One tap mobile

+442034815240,,89585517437# United Kingdom

+442039017895,,89585517437# United Kingdom



**Lynda Walker
Town Clerk**

AGENDA

1. **Apologies** - To receive apologies for absence.
2. **Minutes** - To agree the minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on the 16th July 2020 (page 1).
3. **Christmas 2020**
To consider arrangements for the 2020 lighting display and switch on.
4. **Remembrance Sunday**
To discuss options for the annual Remembrance Sunday service and parade.
5. **Himalayan Balsam Bashing Event**
To consider a proposal put forward by Councillor Peter Terry.
6. **Updates from partners**
To receive an update from partners about any events taking place or planned.
7. **Date of next meeting**
To agree the date of the next meeting.

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Keswick Town Council Events Committee held via the Zoom app on Thursday 16th July 2020 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Paul Titley (Chair) (PT)
Councillor David Burn (DB)
Councillor Allan Daniels (ADa)
Councillor Alan Dunn (ADu)
Councillor Sally Lansbury (SL)
Councillor Tony Lywood (TL)
Lynda Walker (Town Clerk) (LW)
Catherine Parker (Responsible Financial Officer) (CP)
Sue Plant (Events Co-ordinator) (SP)
David Roberts (Keswick Lions Club)
David Quainton (Keswick Rotary Club) (DQ)
Vanessa Metcalfe (Keswick Tourism Association) (VM)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Phil Byers and Chris Harper.

2. Appointment of Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Titley be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 18th March 2020 (pages 15-16).

4. Christmas 2020

CP reported that the contractor had everything in hand for the lighting display apart from detail regarding the exact location of the tree. A discussion took place regarding the arrangements for the Christmas Lights Switch-on scheduled for Friday 20th November 2020 in view of the continuing Coronavirus restrictions.

RESOLVED that the situation be reviewed in September and a decision taken at that time.

Note: Councillor Lywood asked on behalf of the Battersby Trust for the wiring on the Moot Hall to be removed or tidied up. CP to contact the contractor and arrange a site meeting if necessary.

5. Updates from Partners

Councillor Daniels reported that consideration was being given to holding the Remembrance Sunday service in Fitz Park in November due to limitations of space inside St John's Church and the requirement for social distancing. Discussions were ongoing and he would report back to the next meeting.

The Chair reported that Fitz Park Trust had agreed to hire the park to Turners Funfair for two weeks. A lively debate followed and it was confirmed that the hire contract could be terminated if problems arose.

6. Date of next meeting

Monday 28th September 2020 at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting ended at 3.05 p.m.

Chairman

Date

Himalayan Balsam

Recently, like all Councillors, I was e-mailed by Sustainable Keswick (SK), about a 'Balsam Bash'. I was unfortunately unable to attend. I did think at the time that it was short notice and seemed to be somewhat disorganised in its approach. After receiving an e-mail from Councillor Lansbury I realised that I was wrong in this assertion and that SK had a programme for the year of balsam eradication but like many other things Corvid played its part in cancelling these plans. I did however think at the time that possibly the Council, rather than a single issue group, could play a lead role in this eradication programme. By getting the Council to lead, I feel that it could be a 'town issue' in which all residents have an interest.

It was as a result of my thoughts and subsequently speaking with Councillor Boardman that I asked for it to be included as an agenda item at last Thursday's Environment Group meeting. As I promised at this meeting I would put together some of my ideas for the Group to consider. Detailed below in no particular order, importance or preference are my thoughts:-

- The Council take the lead in a 2021 'balsam bash' campaign. I am fully aware that other organisations e.g. SK & the Lions, have made efforts to eradicate the balsam and as such I feel that it is important that we do not step on their toes and cause resentment. If the campaign is given the 'go-ahead' by the Council I would suggest that these two organisations are contacted very early on to gain their full support.
- To assist in this campaign a small working group be formed, fronted by a Councillor.
- The working group to be by invitation but include a representative from SK and other identified knowledgeable individuals.
- The working group make use of knowledgeable individuals as 'consultants', e.g. Martin Jordan.
- To attempt to include the town's population and at the same time engender a feeling within the people of Keswick of togetherness by newspaper and social media build up a 'head of steam' over the winter and in the spring period of the Council's 'bashing' intentions.
- Draw up and advertise a diary of 'bashes'. My initial understanding of the timing of bashes seems to suggest three weekends one each in the spring, summer and autumn. I have been reading on the eradication tactics. The timing of when bashes are done is very important as actions at the wrong time can do more harm than good. The timing is therefore one subject that we would need specialist guidance.
- Other Councillors be involved as area leaders. For those Councillors who can afford the time they be allocated areas of the town where during the winter period they can log areas of balsam infestation. These logged areas would form the basis of the eradication programme. I appreciate that as the plant is an annual variety, winter logging is not necessarily an easy task.
- Involve and invite to the bashes local groups, e.g. Boy Scouts; Girl Guides; Schools; Lions; Rotary; Round Table; ramblers; Sports' Clubs; etc. The Golf Club do have heavy infestations along the river bank.
- Liaise with other organisations including Governmental with local knowledge e.g. Environment Agency; CCC; ABC
- Liaise with and involve other Parish Councils, it is not just a Keswick town problem.

- Liaise with and involve other organisations such as the West Cumbria River Trust e.g. Ian Creighton
- At the suggestion of Mr Mayor, make a social event of the ‘bashes’ e.g. soup and sandwiches; tea/coffee etc.
- The campaign is likely to be ongoing for more than just 2021. Total eradication in just one year is likely to be a fond dream. At best I believe that control is the best we could hope for in the immediate future. Concerted efforts over a number of years will be required to effect full eradication.

For this initiative to succeed I believe that it needs the full support of the Council. I would be happy to coordinate the campaign if it is the wish of the Council but I cannot stress enough that on-going support and work of Councillors would be essential for it to be a successful control/eradication campaign.

I am sure that Environmental Group Councillors will have other thoughts and ideas on conducting a successful ‘bash’ campaign. I would be delighted to include other thoughts and ideas in this paper, which if after agreement within the Environmental Group, it can be then be tabled as an agenda item at a future full Council meeting for their support or otherwise.

Peter D Terry

6th September 2020