

## TOWN OF KESWICK

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Keswick on Thursday  
20 April 2023 at 6.00 pm

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### Chairman

Councillor Steve Harwood

In attendance: 1 member of the press, 14 electors of Keswick, Vivien Little (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lansbury, Lywood and Paxon
2. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on Thursday 21st April 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. Councillor Harwood began by thanking the six Keswick Town Councillors who were not standing again, as well as the achievements and experience they had brought to the Council and Town. Councillor Harwood also thanked the office staff and the parks team for their hard work. He stated that he wished it put on record that they had received nothing but praise for both of the parks, and that the Parks Manager had done an incredible job with them to keep them looking spectacular.  
  
**RECEIVED** the Town Council's annual report for 2022/2023 including reports from representatives on voluntary organisations in the town.
4. **RECEIVED** the observations of the Town representatives on the following authorities:-  
  
Cumbria County Council – No observations  
Allerdale Borough Council – No observations  
Cumberland Council – Councillor Markus Campbell-Savours gave advice to any new Councillors which was that you get back what you put in. The Town Council does hard work in the town, but the benefits are there to see, and it was worth letting people know just what the Town Council does.
5. To consider resolutions of which written notice has been given.  
The Town Clerk reported that two written notices of resolution had been received.
  - i) **KCHT calls upon the Town Council to work with KCHT and the Cumberland Unitary Authority to identify opportunities in Keswick, including disused buildings and other spaces, that may be able to be used to add to the stock of affordable homes available for the people of Keswick.**  
  
A member of the public spoke in relation to this item, as there was at least one prominent empty building in Keswick which was felt was currently an eyesore, and that it was hoped that it could fall under a compulsory purchase order, but it was important to look at all unused buildings and spaces for housing.  
  
**RESOLVED** that this item be brought to a future Town Council meeting to be considered further.
  - ii) **I call upon KTC to ensure effective Peace keeping & Accountability of Public Servants in Public Health & Safety roles & measures, especially in relation to VAWG & ASB which people experience locally, nationally & increasingly since lockdown.**  
  
**Holding post-holders to account enables good use of funds and ensures peace & order are maintained/increased for the benefit of community.**

Those in attendance struggled to understand what exactly the Town Council were being asked to do, therefore rejected the resolution, and requested that the proposer return to a future Town Council meeting in order to discuss this matter further.

6. To receive matters raised by members of the public

i) A member of the public brought up the state of the Howrah's path, which had huge puddles – that were boot high – during wet spells. They had raised it with the appropriate highways authority, who stated that it was low down on their list of priorities.

**RESOLVED** that this it would be brought to a future meeting of the Town Council, with a view to trying to find a solution for this.

ii) A member of the public was concerned that formerly Allerdale Borough Council, and in the future Cumberland Council could close car parks without consultation to us or businesses in Keswick, with a potential economic impact. It was requested that an approach be made to Cumberland Council, in order to ensure that KTC is consulted on decisions before they are made.

**RESOLVED** that this item be brought to a future Keswick Town Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.33pm

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Town Mayor

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Date