

TOWN OF KESWICK

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Keswick on Thursday
18 April 2024 at 6.00 pm

Chairman

Councillor Steve Harwood

In attendance: 1 member of the press, 6 electors of Keswick, Vivien Little (Town Clerk), Catherine Parker (Responsible Financial Officer)

1. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on Thursday 20th April 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Councillor Harwood thanked attendees to the meeting. It had been a time of change for the town of Keswick, with seven new Councillors on the Town Council, with now a 50/50 split based in gender. The Town Council had lobbied Cumberland Council regarding the continued closure of the swimming pool, as well as the lack of toilets at the start of the Keswick to Threlkeld trail.

Kerry Irving was granted the Freedom of Keswick on a sunny day in July.

In Planning, the Town Council had consistently objected to guest houses being turned into holiday lets without onsite management, and through the holiday nuisance reporting scheme which had been set up, gained enough evidence to prove antisocial behaviour, meaning that the LDNPA refused its first application.

The staff workshop in Upper Fitz Park finally began to come to fruition.

Councillor Harwood gave thanks to Parks and Office Staff for their hard work.

Councillor Murray, Chair of Keswick Parks Charitable Trusts encouraged members of the public to take their litter home. She also was extremely happy with the progress of Elizabeth's Wood, and encouraged people to visit.

Councillor Laphorn gave an update to the Keswick in Bloom report. Keswick in Bloom were seeking volunteers. They spend most of their budget on plants and landscaping. One of the key things to note was that the 'Keswick' bed was suffering from box blight, and would be replanted in June, while longer term solutions were being sought.

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:-

Cumberland Council – No observations

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) **That the Town Council work with partner agencies to seek potential solutions to the issues with increasing numbers of campervans and converted vans staying in Lakeside car park overnight, and to pass the information onto Cumberland Council.**

Councillor Murray pointed out that there were people disposing of chemical waste and rubbish in the woods behind the theatre, and that it was a health hazard.

The Town Clerk reported that in previous conversations with the Parking Manager (operations) at Cumberland Council, he would be happy to meet with Councillors to discuss the matter.

RESOLVED that this item be brought to a future Town Council meeting to be considered further.

- ii) **We need a Police/Health/Community response to Stop /Contain/Reduce this as it distresses local people & detracts from the area and everyday life.**

Peace and safety should be a priority.

Issues -

101 emails/phone calls are rarely replied to adequately - if at all.

1 community beat policeman - who I have never seen - is insufficient.

Crime Prevention needs to be a priority

Restraining Orders /SPO need to be implemented to stop copy cat & spreading issues

After discussion, it was unclear what the Town Council were specifically being asked to do, therefore rejected the resolution; however they did state that would bring the matter of community policing up with the local police officers.

- 6. To receive matters raised by members of the public

A member of the public brought up the state of the Howrah's path, which had previously been brought up the previous years' meeting. There had been no improvement in the path, and the member of the public stated that they had made a Freedom of Information request regarding this topic to Cumberland Council, to try and understand what their future plans for the path were.

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.

The meeting closed at 6.27pm

Town Mayor

Date