

TOWN OF KESWICK**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in the Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, Elliot Park, on Thursday 16 April 2026 at 6.00pm.

Chair

Councillor Louise Dunn

In attendance: 1 member of the press, 17 electors of Keswick, Vivien Little (Town Clerk, Keswick Town Council), Catherine Parker (Responsible Financial Officer, Keswick Town Council).

1. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on Thursday 17th April 2025 be signed by the Chair as a true record.
2. Councillor Dunn opened the meeting by thanking those in attendance. She pointed out that the Councillors were now in their third year in office, and elections would be taking place next year. She then thanked Leonard Will, who had been persistent for a number of years with regard to the Howrah's path, which had finally been repaired this year, proving that persistence paid off. She then went on to thank the staff at the Town Council for their hard work.

Councillor Dunn then introduced her report, stating that the Council had now chosen to focus far more on the residents of Keswick, especially in regard to the events, rather than visitors. Councillor Sally Lansbury had also been an incredible advocate for the people of Keswick in her role as Cumberland Councillor.

Attention was brought to the fact that Keswick had actually shown that it was deprived according to the Government deprivation index in two areas – access to affordable housing, and access to services, once again highlighting the lack of funding that comes to Keswick. The start of the Tour de France from Keswick in 2027 will be a good test to see if the infrastructure within Keswick can cope with the number of visitors.

As yet, there is still no decision on the fate of the swimming pool in Keswick, however it had been mentioned in a Cumberland budget forward plan, so there was some degree of hope, however small.

Councillor Dunn finished off her section of the Annual Report by stating that she was coming to the end of her two year period as Mayor of Keswick, and was looking forward to the future.

Councillor Chris Houghton (Vice-Chair, Keswick Parks Charitable Trusts) then introduced the Parks Report on behalf of the Chair of the Trusts.

The reports from Outside Bodies were then received, and one theme that ran throughout all the reports was the need for volunteers for all groups, as many had retired or moved away.

RECEIVED the Town Council's annual report for 2025/2026, including reports from representatives on voluntary organisations in the town.

3. Councillor Sally Lansbury, the Cumberland Council representative for Keswick, introduced her report. She highlighted a number of local projects which were ongoing, including the

Howrah's path, the recent work done in the Back Streets to put in double yellow lines, along with work being done in the background to keep the campaign for the reopening of the swimming pool alive. She encourage all members of the public to keep reporting their issues through the website, no matter how small, as that is how Cumberland keep track of issues and need in Keswick.

RECEIVED the observations of the Town representatives on Cumberland Council.

4. To consider resolutions of which written notice has been given.

i) **Keswick Community Housing Trust again calls on the Town Council to request that Cumberland ring fences 100% of the council tax premium raised from 2nd home owners in Keswick, so that the money can be used towards the provision of affordable rental housing in Keswick, whether that is via new build, conversions or the purchase of existing properties within Keswick.**

Councillor Laphorn thanked the Town Council for their support last time, however felt that there had been a complete lack of engagement from Cumberland Council on this issue. Keswick had 264 second homes out of a total of 2497 within the Cumberland area, which brings in a total of £630,000 for Cumberland Council.

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

ii) **Keswick Community Housing Trust again calls upon the Town Council to request that Cumberland actively works 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.**

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

5. To receive matters raised by members of the public.

A member of the public spoke in relation to the current plight of Keswick Archery Club, which was struggling to find an affordable solution to housing their club. They thought they had a solution, which was in a field outside Keswick, with 3 containers, painted green. They had worked closely with the Rivers Trust and the Woodlands Trust, however upon putting in for planning permission, LDNPA planners stated that as it was a leisure activity, it needed to take place within a park – however there is no such space available that can take the containers as well as have the safe free space.

Although no decisions could be made at this meeting, a number of Councillors pledged to support the club, with Councillor Harwood offering to help ensure that a compelling argument be made to the LDNPA at the Development Control meeting in early May.

The meeting closed at 7.03 pm

Town Mayor

Date