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**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2024 IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL AT 5.00PM**

Present: Mrs Elaine Woodburn (EW) Chairperson

Also: Mr Sam Pollen (SP) Mr Chris Whiteside (CW)

Mr Gareth Stringer (GS) Mr David Wright (DW) arrived at 5.40pm

Mr Patrick McMahon (PM) Mr Robbie Tear (RT)

Mrs Geraldine Pritchard (GP) Town Clerk

Mrs Nicola Cattanach (NC) Assistant Town Clerk

Mr Graham Minshaw (GM) Cumberland Councillor

Members of the public – Good Citizens Awards

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Tracy McFadden as the only attendee was presented with her award and EW thanked her for her work within the community.  The Chairperson then announced the winner of the Individual Award – John Edwards who was recognised for being the official standard bearer at the annual Remembrance Sunday parade for over 40 years, organising the event and ensuring poppies and wreaths were purchased. Unfortunately, John was not able to attend the presentation.  The Chairperson explained that it had also been so difficult to choose between those nominated for the group award and announced the runners up Egremont Bowling Club and Friends of Egremont Castle Group and presented them with their awards.  Chairperson then presented the overall winner of the group award, Egremont Amateur Boxing Club and thanked them for continuing to provide a great service for young people in the community.  All recipients then left the meeting.  DW arrived at 5.40pm  **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**  DW declared an interest on item 7 as he is involved with the planning application for 27 Market Street.  **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  GM began by saying he had joined the Towns Team Borderlands initiative via Teams.  He and GC had plans to visit the Quaker burial site in Moor Row, where there is a sandstone plaque with an inscription about who originally designated the site. It has been reported to Highways, however it is not a concern unless it dangerous to the public.  GM said he had attended the Whitehaven and Coastal Community Network event on Tuesday the 8th of October, which included a presentation from Growing Well.  SP welcomed GM onto the Borderlands Towns Team.  SP said work on the Orgill play park is due to start with some new items being installed after investment. SP has further meetings to discuss play parks, 106 agreements and other positive opportunities. He said the south of the town has many dilapidated buildings and this will be addressed with the place plan, going forward.  SP said that the official Growing Well official opening was a great success and featured on the local news.  SP said that he was hopeful that a decision on the proposed new Aldi store would push through soon.  SP mentioned the new Greggs shop moving into the former McColls building on Main Street and there is concern about vehicles parking on the pavement outside.  SP is continuing to work with the hub to support new residents with opportunities to all who need assistance. SP also said that there are houses of multiple occupancy in the town to house Asylum Seekers and it was proving a challenge, however it must be dealt with in the right way.  SP said he attended a Cumberland Council meeting with Stakeholders on 3rd October to discuss the provision of school crossings and it was a well-attended successful event.  **CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS**  EW with Councillors, formerly agreed to 3 months permitted absence to meetings for Councillor Jean Lewthwaite.  EW said it had been confirmed that Cumberland Council had fixed the path at Skirting Beck.  EW suggested that with regard to sub-committees the two new Town Councillors PM & RT should sit on the Appeals Committee and that a more experienced Councillor, GS should move to Personnel. It was also agreed that RT would be on the Allotment Committee and GS will show him around the allotment sites at East Road and Bridge end.  **TO CONSIDER, APPROVE & SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING:**  RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Egremont Town Council held on 17th September 2024.  **TO CONSIDER & REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS**  Consultation on Additional/Amended Information:  Planning Application Reference: 4/24/2208/0F1  Material change of use of garage and workshop to form conference/community facility and the demolition and replacement of an existing single storey extension and minor external alterations to the rear elevation to enlarge a window and door opening.  Former Brick House Bakery to rear of 27 Market Place, Egremont  No comments  Consultation on Additional/Amended Information:  Planning Application Reference: 4/24/2050/0R1  Application for reserved matters relating to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline application 4/21/2360/0O1 – outline application for residential development with details of proposed access junction and all other matters reserved.  Land at Scalegill Road, Moor Row  No comments  4/24/2186/0A1 Proposed single storey extension to rear of property    Whincroft, Woodend, Egremont    No comments    4/24/2323/0R1 Application for reserved matters relating to layout, scale, appearance and landscaping pursuant to outline application reference 4/23/2076/0O1 – Residential development for up to 65 dwellings with details of proposed access and all other matters reserved.  Land off Dalzell Street, Moor Row, Egremont  No comments  It was agreed that GP would contact Cumberland Council to request that planning application amendments can be identified to the Town Council when sent in.  4/  **T TO CONSIDER ANY REPORTS INCLUDING FINANCE, PERSONNEL**  **WEBSITE, BOWLING GREEN, ALLOTMENT, CEMETERY, MARKET**  **HALL, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, EG CASTLE, PUBLIC REALM**  **& BORDERLANDS, LENGTHSMAN SCHEME**  Bowling Green  The Bowling Club Committee reported that extractor fans were not working at  the club. The Town Council arranged for an electrician to fix them.  Cemetery  PM has been looking into funding available to refurbish the chapels in Egremont  Cemetery. EW & PM to arrange a meeting week commencing 28th September GG to  be invited.  DW to contact Cumberland Council to see if they have historic records of the chapels.  Christmas Lights  The Christmas lights have been put up by the contractor on the Main Street, ready  for the light switch on, on 24th November.  Egremont Castle  There has been a report that there may be Japanese Knotweed in an area of the castle.  Cumbrian Rivers Trust have been consulted and it can be treated onsite twice a year  With Roundup.  Antisocial behaviour is continuing with youths digging up flower beds and the moat to make ramps for bikes.  Friends of Egremont castle Group were awarded silver in the Cumbria in Bloom competition for their bed.  Works 4 You have confirmed that the Lengthsman will repoint the border wall of the entrance bed.  PM will contact Lord & Lady Egremont about clearing the drains from the castle.  Public Realm/Borderlands  Two planters near the Co-op have not been planted under the scheme. GP to contact  the winter planting supplier and ask if they will plant them up this year.  Consultations are ongoing regarding three projects:  The former Red Lion site, the development of Florence Arts Centre and Connect  Egremont.  SP he has a meeting with DW and Cumberland Council representatives to discuss  play park facilities in the area where all funding possibilities will be considered. CW  said it would be good practice to involve the whole Town Council to be involved  and EW said it would be helpful to know about funding and if all would be spent on  play park facilities or if there would be funds left over. DW said that he and SP were  attending the meeting, representing the Town Council to get things moving forward  and will report back.  GS queried that Borderlands discussions began with the former Red Lion site,  Florence Arts Centre and connectivity and a play park has not been mentioned for  any of these. SP said no decisions have been made and a recreational area could still  be considered.  **CONSIDER & REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE**  A letter was received from 4th Egremont Brownies to request funding towards taking the group to camp 13th – 15th December 2024.  It was RESOLVED to give a donation of £160.  There was a verbal request via MM to ask if young man can walk with his own flag on Remembrance Sunday. It was RESOLVED that he could attend and walk within the parade.  There was a request from West Cumbria Rivers Trust to site a permanent notice on the directional post, near Gulley Flatts, to sign post the Watery Walks project. It was RESOLVED that the Lengthsman would be asked to do this in Spring 2025.  There was a further request from the Fair Trade Farmers Market Committee to allow the Emergency Exit doors to remain open following the Town Council’s decision to keep them closed during the market. It was RESOLVED that as a decision was made by full Council on Health & Safety grounds that the doors will stay closed and not be used as an entry/exit point.  A request from Parish Administration – St Marys & St Michaels church to have the trees cut back in the church yard resulted in a review from Cumberland Council who decided that the trees did not need as much work as suggested. The church committee asked for the Town Council’s support for them to have further work carried out.  It was RESOLVED that the Town Council would not support the application to carry out this work as it could jeopardise the maintenance responsibility for the trees currently managed by Cumberland Council.    **TO CONSIDER & RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT**  RESOLVED to accept, consider and approve the Clerk’s report.  **TO RATIFY THE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS**  RESOLVED to ratify the payments at 9th October 2024 amounting to £5,596.50  **TO RECEIVE & APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 9TH OCTOBER 2024**  RESOLVED to accept, consider & approve the financial statement at 9th October 2024 amounting to £16,420.54.  **TO CONSIDER A SUITABLE DONATION FOR THE CEMETERY WOODLAND SCULPTURES**  It was agreed to give Works 4 You a donation of £150 and also place an order for some sculptures for Christmas.  **TO CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF A NETMORE BOOSTER AERIAL TO THE MARKET HALL**  Netmore confirmed that the Market hall would be a suitable site to install an aerial with £50 towards electricity and £300 rent per year. DW asked that as the building is in a conservation area could a higher rent be commanded. GP to contact Netmore.  **TO CONSIDER WHO WILL BE LAYING THE POPPY WREATHS AT THE REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE**  It was agreed that the Chairperson would lay a wreath on behalf of the Town Council, MM would lay a wreath for the Labour Party, SP would lay a wreath for Cumberland Council, CW would lay a wreath for the Conservative Party and GC would lay a wreath on behalf of the Town Council at Moor Row service.  **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM BOOKWELL SCHOOL HEAD TEACHER REGARDING SCHOOL AUDIT RESULTS**  Bookwell school requested support with funding towards a school crossings survey carried out.  Egremont Town Council has given their full support to Mr Hardy in his belief for the necessity of a crossing and as a result in the school funding an independent traffic survey and is unable to offer a donation at present but the Council are looking into options of a financial contribution.  **COUNCILLORS’ MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION**  The old Greggs shop has closed and the keys have been handed back to the Landlord.  De Mounters shop will close on 26th October.  The Amenity Committee Winter Wonderland event is on Sunday 24th November and donations of Tombola items are welcome.  The next Town Council meeting is to be held on Tuesday 26th November at 5.30pm.  **ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA**  Best Dressed Christmas Window  The meeting was brought to a close at 7.45 pm | NC  GS  DW  PM  GP |