KJ **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 16THJANUARY 2024 AT 5.30PM IN EGREMONT MARKET HALL**

Present

Mr Michael McVeigh (MM) Vice-Chairperson & Acting Chairperson

Also:

Mr Graham Calvin (GC) Mr Sam Pollen (SP)

Mr Gareth Stringer (GS) Mr Chris Whiteside (CW) who arrived at 5.35pm

Mr David Wright (DW) who arrived at 5.40pm

Mrs Geraldine Pritchard (GP) Town Clerk

Mrs Nicola Cattanach (NC) Assistant Town Clerk

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| **140.23.24**  **141.23.24**  **142.23.24**  **143.23.24**  **144.23.24**  **145.23.24**  **146.23.24**  **147.23.24**  **148.23.24**  **149.23.24**  **150.23.24**  **151.23.24**  **152.23.24**  **153.23.24**  **154.23.24** | **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  RESOLVED to note that apologies were received with reasons noted from Town Councillors Elaine Woodburn & Jean Lewthwaite & also Cumberland Councillor Graham Minshaw  **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**  CW declared an interest under correspondence – consultation on the removal of BT payphones.  **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  Cumberland Councillors  G Minshaw had submitted a report which had been emailed to all Councillors, this was noted.  SP said it that the improvements to the A595 from Cockermouth to Egremont was good news and he would continue to push for investment funding to be in line with other local areas. He also said that it is difficult as the South Cumberland panel covers a huge area from Frizington to Millom and each area has different priorities. CW arrived at this point.  There will be a Borderlands meeting held on 17th January to re-group & look at regeneration opportunities and matched funding. SP said that there is progression in the town with Thomas Graham expanding, Growing Well nursery and new housing developments. SP has met with representatives from Cumberland Council’s Planning and Transport departments to resolve & improve issues.  SP said he would deliver letters with details of how businesses can apply for high street funding grants to help improve their frontages.  GP asked SP if he had any update with regards to school crossings. He said that he and EW had met with Bookwell, Orgill & St Bridget’s school reps along with Lizzy Shaw from Cumberland Council to discuss this matter. DW arrived at this point. Matthew Reeves from the Highways has already visited the school areas & has recommended road markings & if agreed, this will improve matters but not resolve it all. DW said that there appears to be traffic count lines in place at the moment.  **CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS**  MM mentioned the blog that DW had written to encourage potential candidates to the vacant Councillor roles. Councillors all agreed that DW had written a thorough & honest account of what it is like to be a Councillor & it will now be used on social media platforms.  MM announced that the winner of the Best Dressed Window Christmas competition was Marions – a worthy winner.  MM announced to Councillors that a Cumberland Council officer would be attending a meeting in the Market Hall on 25th January at 2.00pm, the meeting is to introduce himself & to discuss the best way of working together for the good of both Councils, he will also be at least one of the officers dealing with the transfer of the Sandholes allotment site so this will be touched upon too, all Councillors are welcome to attend.  **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 28th November 2023 following the amendment of the start time from 5.00pm to 5.30pm  **TO CONSIDER & REVIEW ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS**  4/4 4/23/2385/0F1 Use of former nursery as a charity growing site with the demolition of a building and the erection of a new modular classroom  Beck Green Nursery, Cross side, Egremont  No objections  4/2 4/24/2001/0F1 Two storey side extension providing living accommodation, WC and bedroom. Single storey rear extension providing sun/garden room and front porch  32 Croftlands, Bigrigg  No No objections as long as there is neighbourhood consultation  **TO RATIFY COMMENTS WITH REGARDS ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**  4/4  4/2 4/3/2179/0F1 Replacement dog kennel block including demolition of existing block  Animal Concern Rescue, Marlborough Lonning, Egremont  No comments were submitted.  4/ 4/2372/2/0F1 Demolition of existing timber shed and erection of single story detached garage and proposed vehicle access off Springfield Road, Bigrigg  4 Croftlands, Bigrigg  Comments sent: Councillors noted the change on levels from the rear garden to the road level and that there will be, presumably, engineering works required over highway land to facilitate any safe highway access to the rear of the property. It was noted that the red line plan incorporates the highway verge and although land ownership may not be a material planning consideration Councillors are surprised if the highways department would be happy for a concrete ramp over their land onto an adopted highway.  Notwithstanding the landownership and highway safety issues, Councillors support the principle of residents making appropriate improvements to their homes and have no concerns with the design of the garage itself and note it is a large garden that can comfortably incorporate an outbuilding of the proposed size that will be associated with its residential use. However, if plans are to be re-submitted, Councillors expect to be consulted once more.  4/2  **TO CONSIDER ANY REPORTS INCLUDING FINANCE, PERSONNEL,**  **CEMETERY, BOWLING GREEN, MARKET HALL, WEBSITE, ALLOTMENTS, DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS, HEALTH & SAFETY, CUMBRIA IN BLOOM, PUBLIC REALM & WC PARTNERSHIP**  Allotments  GS confirmed that he & GC had visited East Road site at the weekend where it was noted that the majority of plots were well kept (although they are aware that there are a few plots to be re-let). They had spoken to Mr Sharples the pest controller who confirmed that a number of rats had been caught.  GS & GC plan to arrange site visits to Sandholes and Bridgend shortly.  Cemetery  The Curator has highlighted the need for burial equipment, RESOLVED that this matter is taken to the next finance meeting for consideration.  Cemetery House  GP reported that if a property has remained empty for 12 months or more, the landlord will have to pay 200% council tax, as this will affect the cemetery house on 1st April, it is essential that all outstanding work is completed as soon as possible so we can advertise it for rent, this was RESOLVED.  Christmas Lights  SP said that he had received some lovely comments on how nice the Christmas lights were, all agreed that the Amenity Committee do a fantastic job.  Lengthsman Scheme  GP confirmed that a meeting to discuss the Lengthsman scheme would be arranged shortly  **CONSIDER & REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE**  GP informed Councillors that a resident had called into the office to highlight his concerns about the proposed Aldi store, one of them being how a proposed parking area will affect vehicles coming to and from Wyndham Terrace. SP requested that these concerns are passed onto him & any future concerns once the official plans have been submitted.  SP reported that he had received several complaints about dog fouling, this has been reported to the enforcement dept at Cumberland Council.  MM commented on the dilapidated building between D’mounters and Tony Marks, he believed the property was bought at auction by a developer who lives in a different part of the country. Councillors acknowledged that this happens a lot but it leaves towns, like Egremont, looking rundown. It was stated that Copeland Council used to have officers who dealt with dilapidated buildings but now there was no resources. SP said that there were at least 6 dilapidated buildings in the town, DW said that it could be an opportunity for Cumberland Council to take on these buildings depending if they were listed or not, it was therefore RESOLVED that as this matter cannot be left to rest when empty properties will only get worse, SP will raise the matter at the Borderland meeting.  GP mentioned that two PCSO’s had visited the office following reports of anti-social behaviour at the castle with their recommendations to help tackle this behaviour, namely to install lighting & to lock the main castle gates at night.  Councillors discussed this matter but felt these recommendations would not necessarily resolve the issues, locking the gate at night would prevent residents/dog walkers going through the castle and therefore leaving any youths (than could easily access through the small gate at Castle Close or even over the wall, undisturbed.  Installing lighting in the castle, Councillors felt, would cost too much and be susceptible to vandalism as was the previous lighting.  CW said that if there was a serious public order problem, would it not warrant the installation of CCTV cameras, again Councillors felt this would be too expensive but also, there would be the question of where it would be wired up to and who would monitor it. SP said that it would not be easy to get funds & it would be for Lord Egremont to consider, the recommendation from the police was therefore noted only.  GP reminded Councillors that staff & residents from Calderwood had helped out at the cemetery & Market Hall during staff shortages which had enabled both sites to run smoothly. RESOLVED that a matter of a donation in appreciation of their hard work is discussed further at the next finance meeting.  A consultation letter was received from from BT via Cumberland Council about the proposed removal of a payphone at Bankend View, Bigrigg. The document stated that only 5 calls had been made from the box in the last 12 months & in the area where the box is sited, there has been no major accidents & unfortunately, near misses or damage to property/vehicles, does not class as serious accidents. The report stated that the coverage in the area was good however it was stated that not everyone has a mobile phone and no matter if only 5 calls were made, these 5 calls could have been in an emergency and is still a lifeline for some. It is also situated on the busy A595 road and could prove essential if an accident occurs. It was therefore RESOLVED that the Town Council objects to the removal & the proposal is highlighted on facebook so the public were aware & had an opportunity to submit their comments.  One of the primary schools in Egremont had enquired as to whether there was anywhere else (apart from the Phoenix Centre & the food bank) that families could go to if they were struggling with food etc. It was highlighted that there are families still struggling and wondered if there was a way that the Town Council could help those most in need via the covid budget. RESOLVED to discuss this matter further at the finance meeting.  **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 10th January 2024 amounting to £18,346.64.  **TO RECEIVE & APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 10TH JANUARY 2024**  RESOLVED to accept, consider & approve the financial statement at 10th January 2024 amounting to £27,427.06.  **COUNCILLORS MATTERS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO RAISE MINOR MATTERS NOT ON THIS AGENDA AND NOT FOR DISCUSSION**  SP mentioned that a personnel meeting needs to be organised.  SP also said that he is meeting with a representative from Nuclear Waste Services on 5.2.24 at 9.00am outside the Market Hall to discuss a possible opportunity for funding for playgrounds & youth facilities and all Councillors are welcome to attend.  CW said that he had reported to the National Highways site about the traffic light being out at the Scalegill Road junction in Moor Row. He reminded Councillors that discussions have been going on for years about improving the junction at High House Hill & it is an issue that the bus stop is across the road of the busy A595 and cars fly past at speed making it extremely dangerous, especially for elderly residents to cross.  SP had suggested inviting Karl Melville from the Highways to a meeting, this was RESOLVED.  SP also requested that any concerns/items relating to Moor Row is sent to Cumberland Councillor Graham Minshaw so he is kept up to date.  GP said that as the deadline for precept submissions had passed, an emergency meeting will be arranged shortly to discuss & agree the precept request for 2024/25.  **FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA**  Update from Karl Melville – Highways Dept re: A595 issues - CW  **RESOLVED THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**  RESOLVED the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 20th Februaryat 5.30pm.  The meeting was then brought to a close at 6.45pm | NC  SP  SP  ALL  GS.GC  GP  GP  GP  SP  GP  GP  GP  GP  SP  GP  ALL  GP |