

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING WITH THE PARISH
IN CLEATOR MOOR TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY 14th MAY 2019 at 6.30PM

Present

Cllr M Denwood
Cllr N Ford (Chair)
Cllr D Hully
Cllr J Hully
Cllr L Jones-Bulman
Cllr M Messenger
Cllr O Dorgan
Cllr R Wood

Mrs H Gilmour (Clerk)
Ms E Stephenson (Clerk)

In attendance were Cumbria County Councillor F Morgan, the Reverend N Pennington and Mr M Rooney of Cleator Moor Celtic.

067/19 To approve and sign the minutes of the annual meeting with the parish held on 15th May 2018.

Resolved that the minutes be approved and signed.

068/19 Chairman's report for council year 2018/19, delivered by Councillor N Ford.

As chairman of Cleator Moor Town Council for the council year 2018/19 I would like to welcome you all the Annual meeting of Cleator Moor Parish.

We started the last municipal year with twelve serving councillors giving their time to our community free of charge. Among the councillors there are nominated representatives serving on Regeneration North East Copeland Board, Exchange Corner Neighbourhood Watch, Cleator Moor Town Community Interest Company, Cleator Moor Community Garden Association, The West Cumbria Community Forum, Phoenix Youth Project and also the Cleator Moor Youth and Community Centre Board.

Every meeting of the Town Council has an agenda item providing an opportunity for the public to raise issues or concerns with councillors. Over the year topics such as traffic regulation orders, Proposed developments, planning applications, speeding vehicles, library issues, Longlands Lake, Japanese

Knotweed, parish boundaries, youth issues, flooding, housing issues, the work of Regen North East Copeland and numerous other topics have been discussed.

This is also when there is the opportunity for our colleagues and representatives at County and Borough level to contribute to the meeting and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support

The Town Council Office is normally open four days each week between 9.00am and 3.00pm, where members of the public can speak with the Town Clerk or make arrangements to meet with a councillor.

This year we will be losing our Town Clerk Helen Gilmour and welcoming our new Town Clerk Eileen Stephenson, who will become part of our team. Eileen will work towards the CILCA (Certificate in Local Council administration) qualification and become a qualified Clerk. Not only is this qualification a valuable learning tool it will also enable the council to hold the ability to exercise the "General Power of Competence." This power became available as part of the Local Government Localism Act 2011 and is available to us with our existing Clerk.

The council awarded grants/funding of £17,353.33 during the last financial year to support established groups within the community in the provision of events and activities in Cleator Moor. A grant of £6,000 is provided to Phoenix Youth to support their core activities and a grant of £3253.33 was provided for Citizens Advice to continue the weekly outreach service in Cleator Moor.

Cleator Moor Town Council provides a meeting space within the town centre. Blue Skies Support Group currently use the meeting room weekly. The local pigeon and hound trailing clubs, Cleator Moor Chamber of Trade and the Cleator Moor Community Interest Company have also used the space free of charge throughout the year.

Office accommodation is provided free of charge for Citizens Advice, to enable the organisation to deliver a service to the people of Cleator Moor every Friday morning and these outreach sessions are very well attended.

The Town Council provides allotments and garage sites within the town. Grass cutting and general maintenance continues on these areas despite limited budgets. Amongst other items to improve the town were the new planters we provided on the town square and the wall at the Bighill park was repaired and renewed also regular pest control is carried out in the Cleator Moor area.

Blue Skies Support Group has been granted use of an allotment on the High Street site free of charge. Blue Skies Group manage their plot to provide an additionally healthy activity for the group. Cleator Moor Boxing Club also has an allotment for their use free of charge.

Parking on Cleator Moor Square and Jacktrees Road car park continues to be provided free of charge by the Town Council, for residents and visitors to the town. The car parks are leased from Copeland Borough Council and are paid for in partnership with Regeneration North East Copeland and Phoenix Enterprise Centre.

The play areas at Mill Hill and Prospect Row in Cleator are owned and maintained by the Town Council as is the Cleator Football Field. This land is open for public use, but is used predominantly by Cleator Moor Celtic, who manage the grass cutting and maintenance in this area. We are currently working to provide a new lease between the Town Council and Cleator Moor Celtic to enable their continued use.

Due to budget cuts at Borough level a number of Copeland owned grassed areas in the town were not being cut. Cleator Moor Town Council stepped in to address this issue. Members also continue to assume responsibility for the shrub beds at Montreal Street/Jacktrees Road. The land at Low Wath (Hen Beck) now owned and maintained by the Town Council which this year had repairs to the stone river edging and the stone seats tops replaced.

Grassed areas at Norbeck Park and Cleator Recycling centre do not fall in the responsibility of either Copeland or the Town Council. However, the Town Council have agreed to cut the grass in these areas while budgets allow. We also have the grave yard at St John's Church cut regularly through the growing season.

As a council we provide dog bags to the community to help combat dog fouling.

Throughout the last year, 48 planning applications were received and considered by the council.

Remembrance Day - each year a service is arranged by the Town Council with wreath laying and refreshments. This involves the partnership of all churches within the town, the Royal British Legions, Phoenix Youth Project, Cleator Moor Brass, the Army Cadets, Sea Cadets and St Johns Ambulance.

A Christmas Carol and Dedication of the Crib service was arranged by the Town Council. Members of all the Churches and residents in the area were invited. The event was followed by refreshments in the Methodist Church Hall.

Cleator Moor Town Council provides Christmas Lighting in the town, along with Christmas Trees around the Square and Cross Street displays. The Town Council supports the Christmas Market with provision of entertainers, for the event and helps to set up and assist on the day. In 2018/19 the cost to store, maintain and install these seasonal decorations and to provide the Christmas entertainers for the market was £9,950.77

Cleator Moor Town Council has updated and renewed its dedicated website for the Council and the Town, this is updated when necessary and is an additional tool to enable residents to contact the council for information on events and activities in the town.

The Town Council has a contract with the Borough Council for a Community Lengthmans to address environmental issues, not currently undertaken by either CBC or CCC. Other ad hoc duties are covered as and when required.

The Council's Internal Auditor, Jean Airey, a former Town Clerk of Keswick, regularly audits the Council's accounts and has provided reports back to the Council. This year's annual accounts have been prepared and the Clerk will shortly be sending off the required Annual Return to the External District Auditor.

Overall it has been a very busy and productive year for the Town Council. I would like to convey my thanks to all the organisations within the town that provide events, activities and entertainment for our community. I would also like to thank my team of fellow councillors and especially the Town Clerk for their service to the community.

I would like to add my and I'm sure everyone's heartfelt thanks to Helen who has been a most valued member of the council and has worked very hard, giving of her own time for the good of Cleator Moor.

069/19 To meet the Reverend Nicki Pennington.

Reverend Pennington gave a brief introduction to her role in Cleator Moor. She was interested to hear the overview of the work of the Town Council and looked forward to building relationships local schools and other groups within the community.

070/19 Concerns from the community.

Mr Mark Rooney of Cleator Moor Celtic attended the meeting to discuss the proposed new lease of the football field at Cleator. Mr Rooney confirmed that funding bodies preferred a 25 years minimum lease. This term is also recommended by Football Association funders.

The meeting was closed at 6.55pm.

Signed

Dated