

# DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING WITH THE PARISH

## IN CLEATOR MOOR TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018 at 6.30PM

Present        Cllr L Adair  
                  Cllr P Burns  
                  Cllr M Donwood  
                  Cllr N Ford (Chair)  
                  Cllr D Hully  
                  Cllr J Hully  
                  Cllr L Jones-Bulman  
                  Cllr M Messenger  
                  Cllr D Riley  
                  Cllr R Wood

Mrs H Gilmour (Clerk)

In attendance were Cumbria County Councillor F Morgan, Copeland Borough Councillor D Banks and member of the public Mr R Mulholland.

**072/18 To approve and sign the minutes of the annual meeting with the parish held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

Resolved that the minutes be approved and signed.

**073/18 Chairman's report for council year 2017/18, delivered by Councillor N Ford.**

As chairman of Cleator Moor Town Council for the council year 2017/18 I would like to welcome you all the Annual meeting of Cleator Moor Parish.

We started the last municipal year with ten serving councillors giving their time to our community free of charge. There were a number of changes during the year with the resignation of Councillor Blakeway and the co-option of Councillor Denwood and Councillor Burns. Among the councillors there are nominated representatives serving on Regeneration North East Copeland Board, Exchange Corner Neighbourhood Watch, Cleator Moor Town Team/Community Interest Company, Cleator Moor Community Garden Association, 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, St Benedicts/Mayfield campus, new care home on the former Seekers site, speeding vehicles, library issues, Longlands Lake, Japanese Knot

weed, parish boundaries, planning and new developments, youth issues, flooding, the work of Regen North East Copeland and many more topics.

At this point in the agenda there is also the opportunity for our colleagues and representatives at County and Borough level to contribute to the meeting. 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 Clerk or make arrangements to meet with a councillor.

As a council we continue to hold the ability to exercise the new "General Power of Competence." One of the first council's in the county to be suitably qualified to use this new power. This power became available as part of the Local Government Localism Act 2011.

The Cleator Crack page has been sponsored by Cleator Moor Town Council twice during the year and a Christmas feature appeared in the Whitehaven Guide.

The council awarded grants/funding of £22,602.59 during the last financial year to support established groups within the community in the provision of events and activities in Cleator Moor. Applications from Wath Brow Hornets, The Methodist Church, Great North Air Ambulance and Macmillan Cancer Support were all provided with funding. A grant of £6,000 was provided to Phoenix Youth to support their core activities, and a grant of £3122.63 was provided for Citizens Advice to continue their weekly outreach service in Cleator Moor. Greenwich Leisure were granted £7,602.00 to enable the purchase of mats to support delivery of new activities at the Bowling Centre. Cleator Moor Brass, Cleator Moor Methodists and the Royal British Legion were also provided with a donation.

Cleator Moor Town Council provides a meeting space within the town centre. Blue Skies Support Group currently use the meeting room weekly. Cleator Moor Chamber of Trade and the Community Interest Company and the Hound Trailing Association 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. This outreach session is 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. The

community garden space at High Street is managed successfully by the Community Garden Association. Regular pest control is carried out in this area.

Cleator Moor Boxing Club and Blue Skies Support Group have all been granted use of an allotment on the High Street site free of charge. The Boxing Club use their plot for extra storage, and Blue Skies Group manage their plot to provide an additionally healthy activity for the group.

Parking on Cleator Moor Square and Jacktrees Road car park is 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 area at Mill Hill and Prospect Row, Cleator is owned and maintained by the Town Council. Cleator Football Field is also owned by the Town Council. This land is open for public use, but is used predominantly by Cleator Moor Celtic, who manages the grass cutting and maintenance in this area. Repairs to steps at the Bighill were also undertaken during the year.

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 was in recent years, transferred from Copeland Borough Council and is managed and maintained by the Town Council. 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.

Throughout the last year, 36 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 contributes to the cost of Christmas lighting in the town. Christmas trees around the Square and cross street displays were supplied by the Town Council. This year the cost to store, maintain and install these seasonal decorations was £8219.21.

Cleator Moor Town Council provides a dedicated web site for the council and the town. The continual process of updating the web site is on-going. Members of the community are welcome to contact the Town Council to provide information on events and activities in the town. The web site is an additional tool to enable residents to contact the council.

The Town Council has a contract with the Borough Council for a Community Lengthsman 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 the clerk for their service to the community, and their continued efforts to make improvements for our residents.

**074/18 Concerns from the community.**

Councillor Wood raised the concern that the general increase in traffic, plus the new developments planned for the Mill Hill and Rheda areas, are increasing the risks for pedestrians when trying to cross Whitehaven Road. Councillor Wood asked for this issue to be pursued with Cumbria County Council. County Councillor Morgan confirmed that this problem was a live issue and would be discussed at a meeting later in the week. Councillor Morgan agreed to keep members appraised.

The meeting was closed at 6.45pm.

Signed

Dated