



# Penrith Town Council

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## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF PENRITH**

### **DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting held virtually on Monday 15 March 2021**

#### **ATM2021/01 Welcome**

The Mayor, Councillor Doug Lawson welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

#### **ATM2021/02 Apologies**

The meeting received apologies from Councillor Paul Donald (Penrith Town Councillor) and Councillor Virginia Taylor (Eden District Councillor).

#### **ATM2021/03 Minutes**

The meeting was asked to receive the minutes from the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 29 April 2019.

#### **RESOLVED THAT:**

The minutes from the Annual Town Meeting held on 29 April 2019 be received and that they be signed by the Mayor when permissible.

#### **ATM2021/04 Civic Year 2020-21**

The meeting received an overview of the civic year from Councillor Doug Lawson, the Mayor of Penrith, who acknowledged the difficulties imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and praised groups and individuals who had volunteered to help their neighbourhoods and the local businesses who had continued to serve by offering home delivery or click and collect services. Councillor Lawson encouraged people to think, shop and buy local once non-essential retail was allowed to reopen.

Councillor Lawson said it had been a pleasure introducing Mrs Julie Barton, High Sheriff of Cumbria, to Penrith's history and retail offer as well as introducing her to some local organisations and individuals who were supporting those who were vulnerable. It had also been important to mark Remembrance Day whilst following Government regulations with wreath laying at set times over a two hour period and a short but poignant section of the Last Post and the Citation live streamed onto the Town Council's social media.

Councillor Lawson acknowledged the Christmas Campaign organised by Cameron Stewart to provide cards and gifts to all residents and staff in care homes in Penrith and his current campaign of providing thank you cards to all the staff in hospitals and NHS sites in Cumbria.

### **ATM2021/05 Questions from the Public**

Two questions had been submitted by members of the public:

1. I am a Penrith Resident and also have a planning and tree consultancy in Penrith. The issue of light pollution is slowly moving up the government agenda and recently during a seminar on light pollution Penrith was noted as being one of the worst places locally for light pollution.'

What if anything is the Town Council proposing to do to help tackle this issue?

**Penrith Town Council Response:** Street lighting is the responsibility of Cumbria County Council or Eden District Council depending on where the lights are so there is nothing we can do directly; however, we are more than happy to lobby on these issues. We will be appointing a sustainability officer shortly and this will be part of their remit

2. Have members of Penrith Town Council represented the views of residents & the wider community in the position of not calling for Voreda House to be halted. Surely this should have happened until such times as local government reorganisation has taken place. Consideration should also have been taken that in this uncertain economic climate, anymore Council taxpayers' money should not be wasted on this building. Myself & many others find it hard to accept your decision when it seems most local people do not want this to go ahead. You asked for the view of the community but then don't adhere to it. I find this very undemocratic'

**Penrith Town Council Response:** Penrith Town Council is only a consultee in the planning process, we do not approve planning permission. Any response that we make must be returned to EDC within 21 days of receipt of the application and must be based on material planning grounds. We cannot include objections such as those on private issues between neighbours or an applicant's personal circumstances.

## **ATM2021/05 Questions from the Public Continued**

All planning applications within Eden are listed in the Herald and members of the public are entitled to respond. Members of the public can contact us with their comments which we can take to committee however we would always encourage them to send them direct to EDC as they are the Local Planning Authority. PTC first considered the application on 1 March when we did object to the application on material grounds. We also stated that we didn't believe that the adverse impacts of the development outweighed the benefits, especially when the issue of unitary status had not been finalised.

A revised planning application came forward to the Town Council for consideration that had taken into account comments made by the Conservation Officer and ourselves. As the material grounds for objection had been removed and as the Conservation Officer no longer had any objections, there were no grounds on which to object to the planning application.

## **ATM2021/06 Projects**

The meeting received oral presentations from the following Lead Councillors on projects that the Town Council was involved with:

- a) Devolution and Assets – Councillor Scott Jackson
- b) Neighbourhood Development Plan – Councillor Dave Knaggs
- c) In Bloom – Councillor Scott Jackson
- d) Penrith Climate Change Action Network (PECCAN) – Councillor Doug Lawson
- e) Youth Advisory Panel – Councillor Hilary Snell
- f) Penrith Town Working Group – Councillor Doug Lawson

## **ATM2021/07 Parish Poll**

A poll may be demanded before the end of a parish meeting on any question arising at the meeting, but no poll shall be held unless the person presiding at the meeting consents to it or the poll is demanded by 10 or one third of the local government electors present (whichever figure is the less) call for it.

A member of the public requested that a parish poll be undertaken to question public opinion regarding Eden District Council's decision and subsequent planning application for the development of Voreda House in the current economic climate during the reorganisation of local government in Cumbria.

The meeting was asked to vote on the question which was to be put in the poll. A vote was taken and the proposal fell as the demand was not supported by 10 or one third of the local government electors present nor the Chair.

## **ATM2021/08 Close of Business and Vote of Thanks**

Before the close of the meeting, Councillor Jackson offered his sincere thanks to the Chair for all his hard work and service, to the other Councillors who had given up their time and expertise to serve Penrith and to the officers for their hard work, support and advice.

Councillor Jackson also thanked the people of Penrith for their fortitude over the year and for providing Town Councillors the opportunity to serve the town as it was an honour to serve them as councillors were there by their grace.

**The Mayor closed the meeting.**

**CHAIR:**

**DATE:**

**FOR INFORMATION FOR ALL  
MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**