



Penrith Town Council

Unit 1, Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7XR

Tel: 01768 899 773 Email: office@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the meeting of

PENRITH TOWN COUNCIL

Held on **Monday 01 November 2021**, at 5.30 pm, at Penrith Parish Centre, St Andrews.

PRESENT

Cllr. Bowen	Pategill Ward	Cllr. Jackson	North Ward
Cllr. S. Clarke	Carleton Ward	Cllr. M. Shepherd	North Ward
Cllr. Davies	West Ward	Cllr. C. Shepherd	East Ward
Cllr. Hawkins	East Ward		

Acting Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk

The Town Council resolved from 20 May 2019, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence.

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL

01 November 2021

PTC21/76 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Burgin, M Clarke, Kenyon, Knaggs, Lawson. Councillor Snell has a dispensation for attendance at meetings.

Cllrs Donald and Fallows were absent without apologies.

Cllr Hawkins joined the meeting at 18:04.

PTC21/77 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

Members were asked to disclose their interests in matters to be discussed whether disclosable pecuniary or other registrable interest, and to decide requests for dispensations:

- a) Councillor Davies declared that in his capacity as Chair of Clifton Community Council they had also submitted a response to the A66 Northern Trans Pennine Project consultation.
- b) Councillor C. Shepherd declared that he was a member of the Ramblers Association who had submitted a response.
- c) Councillor Bowen declared a pecuniary interest that her private residence is near to the development of the A66 Northern Trans Pennine project and her property value may be affected by the works.

PTC21/79 Public Participation

a) Public Representations

Members noted that there were no questions or representations that had been received from members of the public prior to the meeting.

PTC21/80 EXCLUDED ITEM: Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960

Members confirmed that no items on the agenda should be considered without the presence of the press and public, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960.

Councillor Bowen left the meeting.

PTC21/81 A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project

Members considered the Council's corporate response to the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project statutory consultation.

RESOLVED THAT:

Amendments be made to the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project consultation letter and the response be approved and submitted to Highways England prior to the 06 November 2021. A copy of the final letter is appended to these minutes.

PTC21/82 NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting will be held on Monday 29 November 2021 at 6.00pm, at Penrith Parish Centre, St Andrews.

CHAIR:

DATE:

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



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Monica Corso Griffiths

A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project

Highways England

5th Floor, 3 Piccadilly Place

Manchester

M1 3BN

02 November 2021

Dear Ms Corso Griffiths

A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project, Statutory Consultation

Further to Highways England's letter of 20 September 2021 setting out that Penrith Town Council is a prescribed consultee for the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project, the Council hereby encloses its consultation response.

Thacka Beck Field

The Council is freehold owner of land known as Thacka Beck Field, registered titles CU215569, CU215568, CU216037 which adjoins the proposed road scheme. The Council has received a separate letter as having an interest in land that is proposed to be acquired to facilitate the project. Whilst liaison between the Council and Highways England will proceed outside of the consultation process the Council wishes to reaffirm that it has a legal easement for access over Highways England land off the A686 and to the Thacka Beck Field. The access to the field must be maintained at all times. As part of any acquisition of part of Thacka Beck Field, the Council would like to work with Highways England to facilitate improvements to the field for the benefit of the local community.

Footpath and Cycling Connectivity

The Council requires for the footway connectivity which links the A686 with Carleton Hall Police Headquarters maintained via the existing underpass.

Prior to construction can Highways England provide a footpath connecting Eamont Bridge, with the Fire Station, Police Headquarters, and the Carleton Hall underpass.

The Council requires that pedestrian, cycling and horse accessibility to cross all the roads at Kemplay Roundabout during construction is maintained as these are key conduits for the public accessing Penrith with Eamont Bridge particularly.

The Council needs the existing pavement that runs alongside the eastbound side of the A66 from Junction 40 to Kemplay Roundabout turned in to a Public Right of Way and segregated from the new carriageway. Segregation by way of a hedge or other means would provide an improved experience and safety for pedestrians and cyclists. This is a much-used link between the new housing developments and the Penrith Industrial parks. The Public Right of Way and any acoustic barriers need to be complete and in use prior to work starting on the eastbound carriageway.

It is suggested that direct access to Wetheriggs Country Park from the A66 should be restricted as there has been evidence of people using the park entrance as a public convenience with the perpetrators allegedly accessing from the nearby laybys.

It is required that the footpath over the North Bridge at Junction 40 is maintained for use throughout the construction works. It is a Public Right of Way which was created as a diversion when the M6 was constructed.

The Council requires the section of the new eastbound carriageway from Junction 40 to Kemplay Roundabout to have an acoustic barrier constructed that would provide reduced noise impact for residents particularly those on Clifford Road and users of Wetheriggs Country Park.

Construction Matters

The Council requires Highways England to relocate the access to the construction compound on Kemplay Bank to the north side of the bank of trees, and requests that there is no removal of any trees to accommodate a construction compound. This would reduce noise impact for the residents of Eamont Bridge which would be totally unacceptable on the proposed location. Also, the Council requires confirmation and details of any measures to be taken to prevent surface water runoff from this compound.

The Council requests that Highways England consider alternative locations for a construction compound that will have less impact on nearby residents at Eamont Bridge and Kemplay Bank.

Parts of Eamont Bridge are shown on the consultation documents as being within Fluvial Flood Zone 2. The consultation documents show a drainage pond and new wetland habitat to be created at the west side of Skirsgill Lane. Can Highways England give the Council and residents confidence that the creation of these areas will not increase the risk of flooding. The Council requires confirmation that there will be a physical barrier between the wetland habitats and existing gardens and houses at Eamont Bridge.

The Council requires Highways England to consider restoring the green space after construction which is currently the centre of the Kemplay Bank Roundabout, by cut and cover. This lends to noise mitigation and enhances the area a 'Green Gateway' to Penrith, whilst also adding as a habitat steppingstone and wildlife corridor.

To mitigate noise impact on residents from Junction 40 to Kemplay and on towards Frenchfield the Council requires that the road surface is a 'quiet' tarmac surface.

Where Highways England intend to install carriageway and any other lighting can they consider measures to control 'light spill' and reduce light pollution, whilst also considering solar lighting.

Can Highways England install CCTV upon the route to monitor breakdowns, safety, and congestion.

The Council requests confirmation from Highways England that they will maintain the existing number of lanes on all arms of the Kemplay Roundabout. Anything else would create increased congestion in this area.

Managing Congestion

There is undoubtedly going to be congestion and disruption whilst the works are ongoing. The Council requests that the following measures are taken:

Advanced warning signs be displayed on approach roads and encourage traffic to use earlier exits and entry points on to the M6 to avoid the area at Kemplay Bank and Highways England publicise this using various ranges of media.

Highways England to forecast, plan and mitigate traffic using other local routes around Penrith to reduce congestion of these routes.

Highways England to liaise with Cumbria Highways and Utility companies to ensure that planned maintenance is coordinated to lessen the impact of roadworks, traffic signals elsewhere in and around Penrith during the construction phase of the A66 scheme.

Highways England look at alternative mitigating road options that go beyond the construction phase.

Highways England to liaise with the Highway Authority to coordinate for the installation of 'smart' traffic lighting throughout Penrith.

Other Matters and Matters Outside Penrith Town Council Boundary

Following the proposed removal of the laybys on the West and East bound carriageways between Junction 40 and Kemplay Bank could replacement HGV parking provision, with amenities be provided by liaising with current owners of the Skirsgill Depot.

The Council would ask Highways England to consider the provision for diverted traffic at the junction of the B6262 in the event of closure or failure of Eamont Bridge. A section of asphalt on the centre reservation with a removable barrier would allow temporary traffic lights to manage diverted traffic.

The Council would like a public right of way connecting from Brougham, Countess Pillar, Center Parcs and Ninekirks Old Church.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Shepherd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping tail.

Cllr. Charlie Shepherd

Chair of Council