



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 Extraordinary Meeting of Penrith Town Council held on Monday 13 March 2023, at Unit 2, Church House, Friargate, Penrith.

The meeting was called by the Council Chair at the request of Cllr. J. Davies and Cllr. M. Clark under Section 6a of the Council's Standing Orders.

PRESENT

Cllr. Bowen	Pategill Ward	Cllr. Knaggs	West Ward
Cllr. M. Clark	South Ward	Cllr. Rudhall	East Ward
Cllr. Davies	West Ward	Cllr. M. Shepherd	North Ward
Cllr. Donald	North Ward	Cllr. C Shepherd	East Ward
Cllr. Holden	Carleton Ward	Cllr. Snell	West Ward
Cllr. Kenyon	North Ward		

Town Clerk

Deputy Town Clerk

Services and Contracts Manager

MINUTES FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL Monday 13 March 2023

PART I

PTC 22/109 Apologies

Members received apologies from Councillors Burgin, G. Clark, Hawkins, and D. Lawson.

PTC22/110 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

No declarations of interests were received in respect of items on this agenda.

PTC22/111 Public Participation

Members received a representation from a member of the public.

Councillor Donald joined the meeting.

PTC22/112 Motion on Notice proposed by Councillor J. Davies

Councillor Davies proposed the motion which was duly seconded by Cllr. M. Clark. The motion authored by Cllr. Davies was as follows:

'That Penrith Town Council makes a request for Westmorland and Furness Council to conduct a Community Governance Review to change the upper-tier authority for the parish of Penrith to Cumberland Council.

Members are asked to resolve:

1. Request that a Community Governance Review be carried out in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to consider the possibility of transferring the parish of Penrith to different upper-tier authority of Cumberland Council.
2. Publicise this request and encourage local residents and other stakeholders to participate in the review process, in order to ensure that their views are taken into account.
3. Engage constructively with the upper-tier authority and other relevant stakeholders during the review process, and to make representations to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government as necessary.
4. Ensure that all costs associated with the Community Governance Review, including any professional fees or expenses, are accounted for and budgeted for in a transparent manner.

Background

- a. That under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, a Community Governance Review can be carried out to alter local government areas.
- b. That the current upper-tier authority has provided services to this council for many years, but that it may be advantageous for our community to be served by a different upper-tier authority.
- c. That a Community Governance Review could consider the views of our community and provide a fair and transparent process for determining whether a transfer to a different upper-tier authority would be in the best interests of our community.
- d. Penrith was historically part of Cumberland before the 1974 local government changes. Part of the parish formed the boundary between Cumberland and Westmorland at Eamont Bridge the former Welcome to Cumberland Pub still stands on the same site now as a residential property.
- e. The local government reorganisation taking place in Cumbria has caused many to feel they have no connection with the new Westmorland and Furness Council Penrith now finds itself part of.
- f. With the loss of Eden as a geographical identity and Cumbria relegated to a ceremonial place by name only.
- g. Penrith finds its self-adrift with no historical identity it can connect to.
- h. Placing Penrith back into the newly created District and County of Cumberland will give Penrith a sense of place I has historical links with and with the proposed parliamentary boundary changes set to take place mean Penrith is in the same local government area as the rest of the proposed constituency area.
- i. The motion calls of a community governance review and indeed it will be a decision the community will form a key part in the making of but one that will give the local community a chance to have a say in what has currently been a top-down change imposed on the Penrith and indeed Cumbria.
- j. Penrith has natural connect with neighbouring areas in Cumberland Carlisle Wigton Keswick and natural links with the M6, A66 and West coast mainline.
- k. Many people travel for work and education between Carlisle and Penrith daily.
- l. Penrith as is much of the North of the Westmorland and Furness council area disconnected by the Fells from the south of the new council and has little natural links with Kendal and Barrow to the south who see themselves as naturally drawn to Lancashire and the Bay area than they do Penrith and the North areas of the new Westmorland and Furness county area.'

As the debate opened, Cllr. Davies suggested that as a member of the shadow Westmorland and Furness Council, Cllr. Rudhall should declare an interest.

Cllr. Rudhall agreed and declared an interest.

Cllr. Davies requested that the voting be recorded within the minutes.

For the motion: Cllrs. Davies and M. Clark

Against the motion: Cllrs. Bowen, Donald, Holden, Kenyon, Knaggs, Rudhall, M. Shepherd, H. Snell

Abstention: Cllr. C. Shepherd

RESOLVED THAT:

The motion fall.

PTC22/113 Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of Council was scheduled for Monday 27 March 2023 at 6.00pm, Unit 2, Church House, Friargate, Penrith.

PART II – PRIVATE SECTION

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Access to Information

Copies of the agenda are available for members of the public to inspect prior to the meeting. Agenda and Part I reports are available on the Town Council website: <https://www.penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk/>