



Penrith Town Council

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Penrith Town Council held on Monday 25 March 2024, at 6.00pm at Unit 2, Church House, Friargate, Penrith CA11 7XR.

FULL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Cllr. Holden	Carleton Ward	Cllr. Knaggs	East Ward
Cllr. Jackson	North Ward	Cllr. Lawson	Carleton Ward
Cllr. B. Jayson	West Ward	Cllr. Smith	Carleton Ward
Cllr. D. Jayson	North Ward	Cllr. Snell	West Ward
Cllr. Kenyon	North Ward		

Acting Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk

MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL 25 MARCH 2024

PTC23/113 Apologies for Absence

Apologies with reasons for absence were received from Councillors Bowen, Burgin, Rudhall and Shepherd.

Cllr Donald was absent without apologies.

PTC23/114 Minutes

a. Committee Minutes

Members noted the minutes from the following committees had been circulated and published on the Council website since the previous ordinary meeting:

- i. Planning Committee: 5 February, 4 March and 11 March 2024
- ii. Finance Committee: 18 March 2024
- iii. Communities Committee: 26 February 2024

b. Confirmation of Full Council Minutes

Members were asked to authorise the Chair to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of Full Council held on Monday 29 January 2024 and agree they be signed as such by the Chair.

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes be approved, and the Chair be authorised to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 29 January 2024.

PTC23/115 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

Members were invited to provide declarations of interests in respect of items on this agenda and apply for a dispensation to remain, speak and/or vote during consideration of that item. The following declarations were made:

There were no declarations of interest and requests for dispensations.

PTC23/116 Public Participation

a) Public Representations

Members received one representation from a member of the public.

Mr Utting made a statement to the meeting relating to the Motion on Notice – A Regeneration Plan for Penrith. He stated that having lived in Penrith for 50 years he had never been more worried about the town than

he is today. He said that since the auction mart closed some years back the town has lost its unique selling point. He said the town did not have a plan. Previous plans may have failed but at least there was a plan. He stated that Penrith needed a plan, a bold vision to restore the town's cultural identity. The alternative is a decline. He urged Penrith Town Council to seize the opportunity and confirmed that he supported the motion to be debated.

b) Reports from Westmorland and Furness Councillors

Members received the following reports:

Cllr Bell informed the meeting that Westmorland and Furness Council plans to succeed. She reported that the Council wanted to work cooperatively and in partnership with other councils and organisations. She reported that the responsibility was with the Town team to focus on regeneration. She hoped that Penrith Town Council continued to be a member of the Town Team to work to agree a vision for the town. Westmorland and Furness Council are the strategic planning authority and will be commencing a review of its local plan in the autumn, setting itself 18 months to complete the task. She agreed that the focus had to be the town centre and that a wider strategic conversation would start later on in the year.

PTC23/117 Excluded Item: Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960

Members considered whether any 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.

RESOLVED THAT:

Item 18 Staffing Report be considered in Part Two, private session without the presence of the press and public due to the confidential nature of the matters to which the report refers in that it relates to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) including personal sensitive information relating to members of staff.

PTC23/118 Motion on Notice – A Regeneration Plan for Penrith

Councillor Knaggs spoke to his motion on Notice.

Penrith Town Council notes that Westmorland & Furness Council has been established for almost a year. Having transitioned into the new Council, it was now the right time for Westmorland and Furness Council to comprehensively engage with the Town Council to plan for the critical issues of the growth of the town, infrastructure development and town centre regeneration.

Penrith Town Council also notes that a Westmorland & Furness Councillor reported at the last meeting of Full Council (29 January 2024), that Westmorland & Furness Council wished to start more detailed work with the town council on a range of initiatives including Borderlands, Parking and Movement and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. However, though important initiatives, these programmes are not enough to address wider issues of town centre regeneration, the growth of Penrith and its infrastructure needs.

There must be a renewed focus on the key challenges confronting our town and its centre alongside the broader social, economic and environmental issues.

Along with resident feedback, we must collaborate with stakeholders and the members and officers of our two councils to harmonise and synchronise planning. We must steer away from using external consultants who struggle to bring added value to the process in favour of a more locally driven and empathetic approach.

As there have been significant changes as a result of the local government reorganisation, there should be a refreshed approach with a new group focused solely on creating a regeneration plan. As a new group, they would be unhindered by previous strategic planning assumptions and well placed to bring fresh thinking to lead and steer the development of a town regeneration plan, allowing the harmonising of efforts and aligning strategic objectives.

We must encourage the creation of a radical, bold and innovative regeneration plan focused on transforming the town and its centre into a vibrant community hub that, alongside retail, incorporates health, residential housing, arts, culture, education, entertainment, leisure, business and office space.

A strategic plan with a clear vision will secure Penrith's status as an appealing destination for residents, professionals, and tourists alike as a dynamic hub of activity and opportunity.

Motion by Councillor Knaggs
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

The Council:

- i. commits to working with Westmorland and Furness Council, partners and stakeholders to support the development of a comprehensive Strategic Regeneration Plan for Penrith and its town centre focusing on the critical issues of the growth of the town, infrastructure development and town centre regeneration.

PTC23/118 Motion on Notice – A Regeneration Plan for Penrith, continued

- ii. writes to Westmorland and Furness Council requesting that they follow up on their statement to Council on 29 January 2024 by organising an initial meeting to agree on the approach to developing a transformative regeneration plan for Penrith as a major town in the new authority area.
- iii. ensures that the plan is developed by drawing on previous extensive consultations involving residents and stakeholders and by undertaking any additional public consultations that may be necessary to secure alignment with their priorities and aspirations.
- iv. Seeks to harmonise efforts with the Westmorland & Furness Council to achieve shared outcomes and maximise the benefits for Penrith's residents and visitors by recognising the importance of strategic regeneration planning and a cohesive vision in guiding Penrith's development within a unified approach that fosters sustainable development.

Amendment by Councillor D Jayson

That the following additional point be included with the original motion

The Council firms up a series of liaison sessions with Westmorland and Furness Council.'

Councillor Knaggs as the mover of the original motion and Councillor Jackson as the seconder of the original motion agreed with the additional point being included.

RESOLVED THAT:

The Council:

- i. commits to working with Westmorland and Furness Council, partners and stakeholders to support the development of a comprehensive Strategic Regeneration Plan for Penrith and its town centre focusing on the critical issues of the growth of the town, infrastructure development and town centre regeneration.
- ii. writes to Westmorland and Furness Council requesting that they follow up on their statement to Council on 29 January 2024 by organising an initial meeting to agree on the approach to developing a transformative regeneration plan for Penrith as a major town in the new authority area.
- iii. ensures that the plan is developed by drawing on previous extensive consultations involving residents and stakeholders and by undertaking any additional public consultations that may be necessary to secure alignment with their priorities and aspirations.
- iv. Seeks to harmonise efforts with the Westmorland & Furness Council to achieve shared outcomes and maximise the benefits for Penrith's

residents and visitors by recognising the importance of strategic regeneration planning and a cohesive vision in guiding Penrith's development within a unified approach that fosters sustainable development.

- v. firms up a series of liaison sessions with Westmorland and Furness Council.

PTC23/119 Report from the Council Chair

Members noted that the Town Mayor was unable to provide a report on recent duties undertaken and a report will be presented to the next meeting of the Town Council.

PTC23/120 Reports from Members

Members received and noted the following oral reports from Councillors:

Cllr Knaggs reported that he had attended a meeting of the Scaws Tenants and Residents Association and that he had attended the Penrith Lottery Good Causes launch event.

Cllr Jackson reported that he was working with the Friends of North Lakes School with regard to school bus provision.

Cllr B. Jayson reported that the Castletown Community Action Group had disbanded. She was also working with Westmorland and Furness Highways to look at disabled access routes from Newton House to the shopping areas and she had connected a resident with the local police in relation to damage to a vehicle.

Cllr Smith reported that he attended Community Plan Engagement Training.

Cllr Holden reported that the housing developer at Carleton Meadows/Mulberry Heights had presented alternative designs for the play area to residents for consultation. There are highway works and future road improvements planned for the Carleton area, and tree works have been undertaken on Inglewood Road that are being investigated by the Forestry Commission.

Cllr D. Jayson reported that he had visited the Omega plant.

Cllr Snell reported that she was involved with the Refugee network.

PTC23/121 Resolutions Report

Members noted the report.

PTC23/122 Climate Strategy

Members considered the refreshed Climate Strategy and first year action plan which was recommended for approval by the Climate Strategy Task and Finish Group.

RESOLVED THAT:

The Climate Strategy and first year action plan be approved.

PTC23/123 Finance Committee

Members considered the approved recommendations from the Council's Finance Committee from their meeting held on Monday 18 March 2024. The Committee Chair had requested that these matters be brought to the Full Council for ratification:

a) Budgetary Control Statement 2023/24: 29 February 2024

Ratify the budgetary control statement for the eleven-month period to 29 February 2024.

RESOLVED THAT:

The budgetary control statement to 29 February 2024 be ratified.

b) Internal Audit Report

Ratify the interim Internal Audit Report for the period 01 April to 31 December 2023.

RESOLVED THAT:

The interim Internal Audit Report for the period 01 April to 31 December 2023 be ratified.

c) Annual Review of Fees and Charges

Ratify the proposed Fees and Charges for 2024/25.

RESOLVED THAT:

The Fees and Charges for 2024/25 be ratified.

d) Review of the System of Internal Control 2023/24

Ratify the review of the Council's System of Internal Control 2023/24.

RESOLVED THAT:

The review of the Council's System of Internal Control for 2023/24 be ratified.

e) Policy Review

Ratify the following reviewed policies:

- i. Grants Scheme.

RESOLVED THAT:

The Grants Scheme be ratified.

- ii. Scheme of Delegation.

RESOLVED THAT:

The Scheme of Delegation be ratified.

- iii. Asset Valuation Policy.

RESOLVED THAT:

The Asset Valuation Policy be ratified.

PTC23/123 Finance Committee, continued

f) Cornmarket Area

Ratify the fee of £865 to be charged to the Board and Elbow for the use of the Cornmarket area in 2024.

RESOLVED THAT:

The fee of £865 be ratified.

PTC23/124 Planning Protocol

Members were asked to ratify the amended Planning Protocol which was reviewed at the Council's Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 04 March 2024.

RESOLVED THAT:

The Planning Protocol be ratified.

PTC23/125 Informal Consultation to the Eden Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order

Members considered the Westmorland and Furness Council informal consultation on proposed changes to the Eden Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order for Salkeld Road and Inglewood Road Penrith.

RESOLVED THAT:

The Council submit a response to Westmorland and Furness Council supporting in principle the proposed changes to the Eden Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order including the:

- i. Proposed 40mph speed restriction on the C3002 Salkeld Road.
- ii. Proposed new 30mph and 40mph speed restrictions on Inglewood Road, and whether Westmorland and Furness Council would consider extending the proposed 30mph limit to the junction with Green Lane.

PTC23/126 Informal Consultation on proposed introduction of an Experimental Traffic Order - Burrowgate

Members considered the Westmorland and Furness Council informal consultation on the proposed introduction of an experimental traffic order prohibiting driving along Burrowgate between the hours of 22:00 – 03:00 on Saturday nights and at times of other significant occasions.

RESOLVED THAT:

The Council submit a response to Westmorland and Furness Council:

- i. asking that the proposal could be looked at more broadly.
- ii. asking whether the proposal moves the problem to another area.
- iii. asking how the closure would be managed and enforced.

PTC23/127 A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project

Members noted the letter received from National Highways confirming that the Secretary of State for Transport has approved the Development Consent Order for the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project.

PTC23/128 Freedom of Information Requests

Members noted the report.

PTC23/129 Next Meeting

Members noted the next meeting of the Council is the Annual Town Meeting which was scheduled for Monday 22 April 2024 at 6.00pm, Unit 2, Church House, Friargate, Penrith.

PART II – PRIVATE SECTION

The following was exempt information as it related to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and personal and sensitive information relating to individual members of staff.

PTC23/130 Staffing Report

Members approved the recommendations contained within the written report.

CHAIR:

DATE:

**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/>

Background Papers

Requests for the background papers to the Part I reports, excluding those papers that contain exempt information, can be made between the hours of 9.00am and 3.00pm, Monday to Friday via office@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk