



Penrith Town Council

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF PENRITH

Minutes of the Meeting held on

Wednesday 21 May 2025

ATM2425/01 Welcome

At 6.00pm Councillor Doug Lawson, the Chair of Penrith Town Council and Mayor of Penrith welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

ATM2425/02 Minutes

The meeting was asked to receive the minutes from the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 22 April 2024.

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 22 April 2024 be received and signed by the Mayor.

ATM2425/03 Questions from the Public

One question from the public had been received in advance of the meeting:

a) Question:

I would like to ask the council what, if anything, they are proposing to do in regards to the increasing level of antisocial driving occurring on Penrith's roads.

We are plagued by drivers with extra loud and probably illegal exhaust systems while they accelerate up and down our main streets both day and night, with very little police presence to prevent or discourage such dangerous driving.

As a town we need a concerted effort to deal with this increasing problem as it is making our roads and neighbourhoods feel more like the Wild West than a pretty Cumbrian market town at present?

Answer:

As you know antisocial driving is a matter for the Police who the Town Council and its Councillors liaise with as necessary.

Eden Neighbourhood policing team have carried out two partnership operations over the last few months. One was in February where the key focus was anti-social driving in and around B&Q. Cumbria Fire & Rescue were part of the operation and brought with them the VR equipment for education, and VOSA vehicle examiners were also in attendance to examine vehicles. The operation went well, and a number of enforcement and education measures were utilised.

The second operation was in May, again very similar in terms of the partnership arrangements with a focus on both vehicle and youth ASB in and around Castle Park and McDonalds. McDonalds sponsored the event with free burgers to help with engagement and education at this locality. Again, very positive.

Broadly speaking, in responding to road safety complaints, all complaints to the Police are logged on a multi-agency platform, where a joint review is carried out of the reported issues with partner agencies, including Highways colleagues. Where issues are confirmed, the Police implement enhanced safety measures and enforcement, taking into account the location, threat, harm and risk posed by the issue.

The Police adopt a blended approach of education and enforcement.

Their officers go into schools, colleges, and 6th forms to give road safety and ASB driving educational talks. They also work in collaboration with the Fire Service (Who currently take the lead on road safety education), to carry out educational and practical activities to young and ASB drivers.

In terms of enforcement, officers from Cumbria Police actively target and disrupt ASB drivers, including excessive exhaust noise, and will prosecute where appropriate. They hold regular ASB driving operations in the town centre, working with partners, including the DVSA, to identify and enforce road safety offences.

In addition to the work carried out by their Neighbourhood Policing Team, they are supported by colleagues on the Roads Policing Unit, who regularly patrol Penrith and wider Eden, and will enforce issues where appropriate.

Two more comments were received from members of the public. The first related to people driving into the bus station the wrong way through the no entry which the Mayor said would be passed on to Cumbria Police whilst the second related to empty shops. The Mayor explained that this was a matter for private landlords however the Town Council was working closely with Westmorland and Furness Council and other organisations such as the Business Improvement District and Chamber of Trade to do what they could.

PTC2425/04 Town Council Projects and Priorities

Those present received a presentation from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. They detailed information about the Council before outlining what the Council had achieved during the last year, the projects it had supported and was continuing to support, its aspirations moving forward and events that had been attended by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or other Councillors.

PTC2425/06 Close of Meeting

Before the close of the meeting, the Mayor thanked everyone for attending and for working hard for Penrith and providing opportunities for people to get involved.

The Mayor closed the meeting.

CHAIR:

DATE:

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