

Meeting: Annual Parish Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 12th May 2026

Venue: Parkin Memorial Hall

Present: Justin Ray (JR), Geyve Walker (GW) David Coulston (DC), Jason Heath (JH)

Apologies: Miles MacInnes (MM)

In Attendance: Sandie Watson (Clerk RFO), Nicky Vecqueray Westmorland and Furness Council (NV)

Members of the Public: 3

Minutes

362.1 Election of Chair

Cllr MacInnes was nominated by JR and GW. Resolved to elect. Due to absence the council resolved to allow the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed by Miles MacInnes before the next meeting in July.

363.2 Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr Ray was nominated by DC and GW. Resolved to elect. JR signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

364.3 Apologies for absence

Miles MacInnes – holiday

365.4 Declarations of Interests/Requests for dispensations

- a) Councillors were reminded of the need to update their Register of Interests.
- b) Personal Interests - None received.
- c) Prejudicial Interests – None received.
- d) Dispensation Requests - None received.

366.5 Minutes from the last Parish Council Meeting held on 10th March 2026 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

367.6 Public Participation Sessions

Concerns were raised regarding the increase of large vehicles towing large caravans, passing through the village causing blockages. A suggestion to introduce a one-way system was received. Are there any restrictions in place since the new bridge was built. Suggestion received to write to campsites to ask their visitors to avoid passing over the bridge and through the village. An unofficial 20mph sign has been erected by the bus shelter. Comment received that there has been an increased police presence and W&FC wardens in the village. Concerns over the new waste and recycling service. Where will all the new bins be stored at properties with no gardens/terraced houses etc. A leaflet has been circulated by W&F Council and residents can notify them of these circumstances.

368.7 Representation of Roles

MM – LDNPA and Neighbourhood Policing

JH – public toilets

369.8 External Meetings and Village/Parish Reports

W&F Councillor Vecqueray

Report – Public toilets – W&FC will not take back the toilets. Shap Toilets improvements are a mainly funded by private funders. Bridge Footlight enquiry – no response yet. 20mph Pooley Bridge can be included on the current list but would need to do the consultation as no funding available. Recycling – report missed bin collections on the W&FC website.

Village Warden Report: Report received and read by JR. The Council thanked the warden for great work during the year.

Community Fund: Funding available for projects.

SITU Hopper Bus: 2026 – up and running. Publicity erected in the bus shelter.

Missing Footway Light on Bridge: Still no response from W&FC.

Parish Boundary Review: No update

LDNPA VMAP Cumbria Tourism: Meetings arranged, MM to attend.

Disc Parking Scheme: see item 11

20mph speed limit: Pooley Bridge will be included in the next group for approval however if the Council would organise the consultation, it could be included on the current list as W&FC have no funding for this.

Bridge Railings: W&FC Highways has no funding to clean the Bridge. Request to Community Fund for funding.

Commemoration Stone: Cleaned by the Village Warden.

370.9 Planning

7/2025/3142 5 Church Croft: Withdrawn. Noted.

371.10 Public Toilets

1) Public Convenience Capital Investment Fund: MM investigated types of access. Council to further consider funding options. **Clerk to add to July agenda.**

2) Landscaping: quote received £4,900 +VAT to build a stone bench and replant the toilet area where the tree was. This was discussed and is acceptable but need to check with Clerk that only one quote was alright or whether we needed to get additional quotes. Council resolved to request funding from the Community Fund, **JR to put forward request to committee.**

Resignation received from the cleaner of the toilets. The Council extended thanks and appreciation. The council are looking for a cleaner. Council will advertise vacancy. DC and JH to ask around

372.11 Village Centre Parking and Pedestrianisation

JR read out the results of the consultation. 28 responses received, two letters of strong objections (acknowledged) and some observations from businesses in the village. The Council has received enough support to further investigate. The Council resolved to pursue further consultation with W&FC and prepare a revised layout to accommodate suggestions where/if possible. Open drop in sessions will be organised

373.12 Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Audit of Accounts 2025/26

- i. Resolved, received and noted the Annual Internal Audit Report
- ii. Resolved to approve The Annual Governance Statement
- iii. Resolved to approve The Accounting Statements
- iv. Resolved to approve the Certificate of Exemption
- v. The Clerk set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights 3rd June to 14 July 2026
- vi. Resolved Internal Auditor for 2026/27 appointed
- vii. Resolved bank signatories confirmed MM and JR
- viii. Resolved direct debits and standing orders authorised for 2026/27

374.13 Parish Council Insurance

Resolved to renew 2026/27, renewal documents circulated prior to the meeting.

375.14. Policy and Procedure – review and adoption

Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct, Data Protection Policy, Equal Opportunities, Freedom of Information Policy & Publication Scheme, GDPR Policy, Health & Safety Policy, Press and Social Media, Risk Management policy, Retention of Documents, Training and Development, Asset Register, Complaints Procedure, Co-option Policy, Grant Policy, Serious Infectious Diseases, Privacy Statement, Dispensation Procedure, Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure, Appraisal Policy and Protocol. IT Policy, Website Accessibility Statement.

376.15 General Power of Competence

Resolved to adopt as the council has met the eligibility criteria as defined in Localism Act 2011 and SI 965. The Parish Council's (General Power of Competence) (prescribed conditions) Order 2012 to adopt GPOC.

377.16 Finance

Resolved. The Clerk circulated the budget and bank reconciliation before the meeting. Closing balance on 31 March 2026 Current a/c £6678.72 and Reserve £66.09.

The Council reviewed and accepted the transactions and budget for year-end 2025.26. The bank statements were signed. £11,000.00 Precept received. Closing balance on 30 April 2026 £17,000.36, Reserve £66.24.

378.17 Payments to approve

Resolved to approve the following payments:

Npower	£62.64
Waterplus	£223.30
Clerk	£1003.80
Clerks Expenses	£5.40
Payroll	£40.80
Toilet Cleaning	£930.00
Toilet Supplies	£170.82
CALC Subscription	£148.37
SLCC Subscription	£50.20
Audit	£75.00
Warden	£580.00
Insurance	£1215.16

379.18 Clerks Report/Notifications and Correspondence

Eden Runners – British Fell Relays, 16 Oct 2027, notification received.

Epic Events – Parkfoot Epic Lake Swim, 27 June 2026, notification received.

Event organisers to notify/contact W&FC and Highways for relevant permissions.

Clerk to inform Cllr Vecqueray of the concerns raised re the new waste and recycling service.

380.19 Items for Agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting

Large towing vehicles passing through village.

Public Toilets future plan and funding.

Disc Parking/pedestrianisation of Village Centre.

Meeting closed: 8.39pm