

**WHICHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 2025 AT KIRKSANTON
VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr A Fell(Chair), Cllr M Cumming, Cllr S Millar, Cllr M Sharp, Cllr N Tyson, Cllr S Wilson, Cllr Jopson, Cllr C Lowery
Lesley Cooper Clerk
Cllr A Pratt – Cumberland Council
7 members of public

144/24 Apologies for Absence

None

In the absence of the Chair Cllr Cumming took the meeting

145/24 Exclusions of Press and Public

Press and Public were excluded from Agenda item 16 Closed Session

146/24 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wilson declared an interest in planning application N7/2025/4011

147/24 To approve the Minutes of the meetings 5 February 2025

The Chair was authorized to sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

148/24 Police Liaison Report

Circulated. Cllrs Tyson and Jopson agreed to be the councils representatives on the Police Liaison committee, provided that it was held in an evening.

149/24 Clerks report

None

150/24 Public Participation

A member of the public raised concerns re the recent announcement of the area being of interest to the siting of a GDF what this would have on property prices and that local Estate Agents and Solicitors may not be aware of this development.

After discussion the members of public left the meeting.

151/24 Cllr Fell joined the meeting at 1945hrs and took over the Chair.

152/24 Report from Unitary Authority Councillor

Cllr Pratt gave the following report:

Council tax up to maximum allowed. No surplus buildings sold off as yet.

Proposal for Mayor submitted, which if approved would bring in c.£50m to the area
Elections for mayor will be in 2027.

26 March 2025 10.30 Tin Chapel Millom – meeting of South Cumberland Panel.

Funding is still available.

153/24 Applications for Development

153/24.1 To examine applications for development and submit observations to the Planning Authority

N7/2025/4011 Parsonage Farm, Silecroft

Slurry Tower

Supported

153/24.2 To ratify the observations submitted by the Clerk under devolved powers

None

153/24.3 To note the decisions of the statutory planning authority with regards to recent applications:

None

154/24 Financial Records

154/24.1 Payment of invoices

The following invoices were approved for payment:

J Hillier

Toilet cleaning February

£ 325.00

A Bowden	Toilet cleaning Changing Places	£ 195.00
L Cooper	Clerks Salary & expenses	£ 291.60
HMRC	PAYE	£ 64.40
Waterplus	Direct Debit	£ 13.01
Thomas Graham	Cleaning supplies	£ 107.11
Tulle House	data search	£ 90.00
Silecroft Village Hall	donation	£ 250.00
Kirksanton Village Hall	donation	£ 250.00
Whicham St Mary's	donation to maintain grounds	£ 600.00
Information Commissioner	Data Protection fee	£ 52.00
Playdale	New equipment Kirksanton	£12615.58

154/24.2 Receipts

Beach car park	£ 151.40
Church car park	£ 57.47

154/24.3 To receive and note the bank reconciliation statement dated 28 February 2024

Not checked

154/24.4 To consider the Budget Comparison Report as at 28 February 2025 and determine action need to address deviations from the budget.

No actions required

155/24 Village Matters

155/24.1 Silecroft beach car park

The Clerk reported that the potholes were worse where it narrows by the café. It has also been reported that cars with youth in are doing "donuts" on the car park.

155/24.2 Café

Resolved to move to end of agenda

155/24.3 Toilets

Cllr Fell had repaired the outside tap and changed the padlock.

155/24.4 Play Inspection Report

Clerk reported that Kirksanton had now been completed and she was awaiting further quotes for the fencing for Silecroft.

155/24.5 Environmental issues

None

155/24.6 GDF

Cllr Cumming reported that still awaiting the review of the partnership to be published Annual Parish meeting to be held on 26 April 2025, MP Michelle Scrogham invited to attend to answer questions re GDF/

155/24.7 Fencing around Septic tank – Whicham School car park

Clerk had received a response that the owner would undertake the replacement fencing.

155/24.8 War memorial

Awaiting permission to proceed

155/24.9 Policies

a) The Following new Policies were approved:

Safeguarding Policy

Co-option Policy

Lone Working Policy

Vexatious Complaints Policy

Anti-bullying and Harassment Policy

Equality and Diversity Policy

Sexual Harassment Policy

Social Media Policy

Environment and Sustainability Policy

b) Noted that the following policies have been reviewed and no changes made

Biodiversity Policy

Appraisal Policy
Recruitment Policy
Sickness Absence Policy
Training and Development Policy

156/24 To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies

- None

157/24 CORRESPONDENCE:

To discuss any correspondence received for open discussion:

All other correspondence to be circulated in the normal manner for Council's perusal

- An email had been received from a resident regarding scrap cars at a residence. Advised to contact Cumberland Council
- An email had been received from a resident requesting that a motion be placed on the Agenda. It was explained by the Clerk that a motion cannot be put forward by a member of the public.

158/24 Councillor Matters

An opportunity for Councillors to raise minor matters, not on this agenda, on behalf of residents

(Note. No discussion or decisions can be made on these matters but the Clerk may make investigations and/or they may be placed on a future agenda of the Council

- Cllr Sharp reported that there is no isolator in Silecroft Phone Box, to investigate further
- Cllr Fell reported that a member of public had complained that the dog waste bin is located too close to the bench in Silecroft play area.
- Cllr Tyson asked if an age related sign be placed for new equipment. An article to be placed on This is Silecroft Facebook page.
- Cllr Wilson had received a complaint that the PROW by the tennis courts is blocked. Clerk to contact LDNP
- Cllr Cumming required confirmation of the times that Duddon Bridge will be closed overnight. Confirmed it will be 10pm to 6am for 5 nights.

159/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 2 April 2025 at Kirksanton Village Hall commencing at 7.30p

160/24 Closed Session

Discussion took place re the proposed Licence with Cumberland Council re the café. A number of changes were noted and the Clerk to respond.

Cumberland Council also wished to locate a bin store for the café.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2145hrs.

Signed..... *AFEM* Dated..... *02/04/25*