

**WHICHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL 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,
Lesley Cooper Clerk
Cllr A Pratt – Cumberland Council
3 members of public

161/24 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Jopson (Family) were accepted

162/24 Exclusions of Press and Public

Press and Public were excluded from Agenda item 16 Closed Session

163/24 Declarations of Interest

None

164/24 To approve the Minutes of the meetings 12 March 2025

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

165/24 Police Liaison Report

Circulated. Cllr Tyson reported that complaints had been received of cars speeding through Silecroft towards the beach. The information to be passed on to the police. The Clerk had reported speeding motorbikes on A595 to the police.

166/24 Clerks report

The Clerk had checked and the waste bin was not in close proximity to the bench within the Silecroft play area.

Advertising the new play area had been put up on Facebook

167/24 Public Participation

A member of the public raised concerns that local Estate Agents had reduced the value of the property due to the possible location of the GDF and the financial impact. Cllr Pratt gave advice re the compensation scheme.

A member of the public questioned why the Parish Council was still involved with the Community Partnership. Cllr Cumming gave an explanation and reminded the member of public that the PC will make a decision on the issue after the Annual Parish Meeting on 26 April 2025.

One member of the public then left the meeting.

168/24 Report from Unitary Authority Councillor

Cllr Pratt gave the following report:

Council tax increased by 4.5% plus 5.3% Fire/Rescue Authority

2 new initiatives launched , 1 to challenge dog owners re picking up. Enforcement Officers will work late and early with a on the spot fine. 2. Campaign against fly postering on the side of the road with a £500 fine.

UK posterity fund - £1m to share for projects – applications to be submitted

Family Hub Bus to visit Millom on 15 April 11-3pm

CALC/Cumberland are doing a joint venture to encourage working between Cumberland and Town and Parish Councils

Nuclear Board met and briefly spoke re areas of focus.

The Chair thanked Cllr Pratt for his report

169/24 Applications for Development

169/24.1 To examine applications for development and submit observations to the Planning Authority

7/2025/4021 Moor Green Farm, Whitbeck

Siting of two number water butts for rainwater harvesting

Supported

AFell 7/5/25

169/24.2 To ratify the observations submitted by the Clerk under devolved powers

None

169/24.3 To note the decisions of the statutory planning authority with regards to recent applications:

None

170/24 Financial Records

170/24.1 Payment of invoices

The following invoices were approved for payment:

J Hillier	Toilet cleaning March & repairs	£ 419.99
A Bowden	Toilet cleaning Changing Places	£ 299.00
L Cooper	Clerks Salary & expenses	£ 291.60
HMRC	PAYE	£ 64.40
Thomas Graham	Cleaning supplies	£ 16.31

170/24.2 Receipts

Beach car park	£ 259.77
Church car park	£ 123.63

The Clerk reported that the precept for 25/26 was paid early but had since been recalled this could have a cost implication for the council. Clerk to check bank statement

170/24.3 To receive and note the bank reconciliation statement dated 28 February 2024

To be verified by Internal auditor

170/24.4 To consider the Budget Comparison Report as at 31 March 2025 and determine action need to address deviations from the budget.

The Clerk had previously circulated the completed budget. There had been an overspend of £40356 on budget, mainly due to the purchase of additional play equipment. There had been increased income on budget forecast of £32697, mainly grants for the play equipment.

170/24.5 To approve the Risk Management/Risk Assessment for 2025

Approved Proposed Cllr Cumming, Seconded Cllr Tyson

170/24.6 to approve the Asset Register as at 31.3.25

Approved Proposed by Cllr Cumming, Seconded by Cllr Millar

171/24 Village Matters

171/24.1 Silecroft beach car park

The Clerk reported that the potholes were worse where it narrows by the café. The Clerk was still trying to set up the PayPal account for the QR codes, problems with documentation not being recognised by PayPal.

There had been a complaint from a motorised wheelchair user that the car park surface was not suitable and it was difficult to access the café from the existing disabled car park. Clerk has pursued with Cumberland re the lack of the 2 disabled car parking spaces that formed part of the planning application for the café. Clerk to obtain quotes for installing 2 tarmacked car park spaces.

The cafe has agreed to have a car park donation box within the café. The Clerk to purchase a suitable box.

171/24.2 Café

There had been a complaint re the changing places being used as a store. This has been resolved, the bin store is now being used and the bin stored outside, No response received re the lease agreement.

171/24.3 Toilets

The cleaner reported that he had to replace the flush handle in the gents.

171/24.4 Play Inspection Report

Clerk reported that she had received 2 quotes for fencing at Silecroft, to obtain further quote for picket fencing. Tennis courts need weed killing. Netting around tennis courts ok apart from that closest to entrance.

171/24.5 Environmental issues

Clls Fell and Millar to liaise re planting the banking. Cllr Millar reported that she had donated £175 from the calendar sales for the flowers for the banking.

171/24.6 GDF

Cllr Cumming reported that still awaiting the review of the partnership to be published which may be end of April

171/24.7 War memorial

The Clerk had received notification that it was a Grade 2 listed monument and had contacted LDNP planning to query whether Listed building consent would be required. Awaiting a response. Information had been received re cleaning of memorial. Clerk to contact approved contractor to obtain a quote for the re-lettering of the names

171/24.8 Annual Parish Meeting 26 April 2025 Kirksanton Village Hall 2pm

Michelle Scrogam, MP had confirmed attendance

Martin Walkingshaw, NWS Chief Operating Officer to attend

The Clerk had invited Andrew Seekings, Cumberland to attend, a letter of refusal was read to the council. The Clerk was instructed to respond, expressing disappointment that no representative of Cumberland Council would be attending the meeting to hear the concerns/feelings of the community re the proposed area of interest for the siting of a GDF

Light refreshments will be provided.

2 members of the public left the meeting

172/24 To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies

- None

173/24 CORRESPONDENCE:

To discuss any correspondence received for open discussion:

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

- Email received from LDNP re complaint of locked gates on PROW at Silecroft—none found
- 4 emails had been received from members of the public asking for the council to withdraw from the partnership

174/24 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 Tyson enquired when the defib would be fitted in the phone box at Silecroft. Cllr Sharp to investigate.
- Cllr Cumming had received complaints of parking at the junction of the King Billy. Cllr Pratt to chase re white lining.
- The Clerk asked for replacement noticeboards. Clerk to obtain quotes for next meeting

175/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 7 May 2025 at Silecroft Village Hall commencing at 7.30p

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2144hrs.

Signed.....AFM..... Dated.....7/5/25.....