

**WHICHAM PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 JULY 2025 AT SILECROFT
VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr Fell (Chair) Cllr S Millar, Cllr M Sharp, Cllr N Tyson, Cllr M Cumming, Cllr L Thomson
Lesley Cooper Clerk
1 member of public

37/25 Apologies for Absence

Cllr S Wilson (working) Cllr R Jopson (working) Cllr A Pratt – Cumberland Council

38/25 Exclusions of Press and Public

None

39/25 Declarations of Interest

None

40/25 To approve the Minutes of the meetings 4 June 2025

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

41/25 Police Liaison Report

Circulated. Cllr Tyson had attended a regional police meeting and raised the issues of speeding in Silecroft and vandalism of beach toilets. As a result, there has been an increased police presence in the area. Residents are encouraged to report any incidents to police on phone 101 or email 101, in an emergency dial 999
<https://www.cumbria.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>

42/25 Clerks report

The Clerk reported that the letters had been sent to NWS and Cumberland re stating that Whicham was not a willing community. A response had been received from Cumberland directing comments to NWS and a late response had been received from NWS directing comments to Cumberland Council.
A cheque had to be re-issued to HMRC due to words/figures not matching.

43/25 Public Participation

A member of the public raised concerns re the process and requested that links be placed on the website re Health and Wellbeing and that all correspondence should be on the website.

44/25 Report from Unitary Authority Councillor

None

45/25 Applications for Development

45/25.1 To examine applications for development and submit observations to the Planning Authority

7/2025/4042 Silecroft Beach Cafe, Silecroft Beach Car Park, Silecroft
Approval of details reserved by condition 7 (hard landscaping details) on application 7/2020/4031 - Construction of a new cafe including public toilets and changing places facility
No response required

7/2025/4045 Whicham Hall Farm, Whicham
Installation of a new Slurry Store
Supported

45/25.2 To ratify the observations submitted by the Clerk under devolved powers

None

45/25.3 To note the decisions of the statutory planning authority with regards to recent applications:

7/2025/4044 Whicham Hall Farm, Whicham
Extension to cattle cubicle shed
Prior Approval Not Required (NOI) Notice of Intention (Agricultural, Q6g)

46/25 Financial Records

46/25.1 Payment of invoices

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Waterplus	Direct Debit	£ 34.75
J Hillier	Toilet cleaning June	£ 390.00
A Bowden	Toilet cleaning Changing Places	£ 221.00
L Cooper	Clerks Salary & expenses	£ 291.60
HMRC	PAYE	£ 64.40
Thomas Graham	Cleaning supplies	£ 15.74
Noticeboards Online	2 x noticeboards	£2817.82
Sharpe	repairs to Silecroft car park	£ 615.00

46/25.2 Receipts

Beach car park £ 287.17

Church car park £ 105.72

The Clerk requested that the noticeboard at the entrance to the car park be replaced with a new one. Agreed

46/25.3 To receive and note the bank reconciliation statement dated 31 May 2025

Checked by Cllr Millar

46/25.4 To consider the Budget Comparison Report as at 30 June 2025 and determine action need to address deviations from the budget.

None required

46/25.5 The Clerk reported that an explanation as to why the reserves were so low had been received from the External Auditors. The clerk has submitted a report to the External Auditors showing where reserves had had to be used as a direct consequence of the build of the new café.

47/25 Village Matters

47/25.1 Silecroft car park and toilets

Clerk still awaiting BNG report. Cllr Fell to contact contractor re road planings from Whicham valley road works. Clerk reported that she had sought clarification re Cumberland Council's drive to have more water sports from the beach including jet skis and water skiing. Councillors reiterated that the beach was for the quiet enjoyment.

47/25.2 Café

The Clerk reported that the café had closed for a week and the contractor failed to attend to complete the snagging issues.

The Clerk reported on the zoom meeting held on 26 June 2025 with Michael Barry, Andrew Higson and Jane Taylor (Cumberland Council representatives). A lease for approval was promised by 30 June, this had not yet been received.

47/25.3 Play inspection reports and actions

Notification had been received that the annual inspection would be undertaken in August.

47/25.4 Defib – Silecroft

Cllr Sharpe stated that there was no electrical isolation unit in the phone box. Clerk to contact BT for more information.

47/25.5 Environmental issues

Cllr Millar requested that the banking to the entrance of Silecroft be scraped.

47/25.6 Parking Kirksanton Village Green and around Village Hall

Clerk report that a response from the owners of King Billy re providing additional parking to rear had been received. Clerk to follow up

The clerk reported the grass contractor had complained that visitors to a property close to the village green had parked on the grass preventing the contractor from cutting the grass.

47/25.7 Commons Register

Notification had been received that the deadline for correcting anomalies on the commons register was in 2027

48/25 To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies

- None

49/25 CORRESPONDENCE:

To discuss any correspondence received for open discussion:

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

- Letter from Nuclear Free Councils requesting that links be placed on the PC's website re the proposed GDF. To be placed on September agenda for decision.
- Email from resident enquiring if a response had been received from Cumberland and NWS

50/24 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 Cumming requested that an extra meeting be held to discuss the South Copeland Partnership joint statement in response to the external review. Agreed to hold a meeting on 16 July 7.30pm Kirksanton Village Hall
- Cllr Millar reported that she had attended the coffee morning and the following issues were raised: Café new menu/prices, hedge clippings being left on footpaths and Gabion baskets near steps disintegrating. Clerk to report gabion baskets to Cumberland Council
- Cllr Fell had been informed that the solar light at the play area appeared to be not working. Clerk to contact provider.

51/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 3 September 2025 at Kirksanton Village Hall commencing at 7.30p

There be no further business the meeting closed at 2130 hours

Signed..... Dated.....