

**WHICHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2025 AT KIRKSANTON
VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr A Fell(Chair), Cllr M Cumming, Cllr S Millar, Cllr M Sharp, ,
Lesley Cooper Clerk
Cllr A Pratt – Cumberland Council
12 members of public

129/24 Apologies for Absence

Cllr N Tyson(III) Cllr S Wilson(personal) Cllr Jopson (working) accepted

130/24 Exclusions of Press and Public

Press and Public were excluded from Agenda item 16 Closed Session

131/24 Declarations of Interest

None

132/24 To approve the Minutes of the meetings 8 January 2025

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

133/24 Police Liaison Report

Circulated.

134/24 Clerks report

None

135/24 Public Participation

A member of the public gave an update as to the plans for the Black Combe fell race to be held on 8 March 2025. A plan had been produced with regards to parking etc. The Chair thank him for his report.

Members of the public expressed concerns re the recent announcement from NWS re the location of potential sites for the land works for the proposed GDF. Questions were asked about withdrawing consent, impact on house prices, disruption to the community. A request was made for a public meeting and to invite MP, Cumberland Council representatives and Chair of Community Partnership.

The public left the meeting

136/24 Report from Unitary Authority Councillor

Cllr Pratt gave the following report:

A595 works finished as funds are now exhausted.

Remedial works still to be undertaken on Whicham Valley road during daytime.

New bridge to be installed on Corney Fell road July/August

No other roadworks allocated to Whicham

New grant announced for disable facilities in people's homes

137/24 Applications for Development

137/24.1 To examine applications for development and submit observations to the Planning Authority

None

137/24.2 To ratify the observations submitted by the Clerk under devolved powers

None

137/24.3 To note the decisions of the statutory planning authority with regards to recent applications:

7/2024/4084 Woodhouse Farm, Silecroft

Change of use and conversion of an existing agricultural barn to form a single holiday let variation of condition 2 (plans) of planning permission 7/2022/4105 to change internal layout resulting in new external window & door profiles.

Granted

138/24 Financial Records

138/24.1 Payment of invoices

The following invoices were approved for payment:

J Hillier	Toilet cleaning January	£ 403.00
A Bowden	Toilet cleaning Changing Places	£ 50.00
L Cooper	Clerks Salary & expenses	£ 291.60
HMRC	PAYE	£ 64.40
Community Heartbeat	replacement pads	£ 76.74
Waterplus	Direct Debit	£ 33.73
Playdale	play equipment Silecroft	£ 8675.60
Arbtech	phase 2 botany survey	£ 1786.80
ThomasGraham	Cleaning supplies	£ 16.31
Clear Councils	Insurance renewal	£ 922.72

The following invoice approved at the January meeting was cancelled

Playdale	play equipment	£21291.18
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138/24.2 Receipts

Beach car park	£ 129.70
Church car park	£ 76.38
VAT claim	£ 6505.16
RWM donation to play area	£10000.00

138/24.3 To receive and note the bank reconciliation statement dated 31 December 2024

Checked and approved by Cllr Millar

138/24.4 To consider the Budget Comparison Report as at 31 January 2025 and determine action need to address deviations from the budget.

The Clerk reported that there would be a year end balance in the current account of approx. £5k. Reserves had to be used for unexpected costs around the planning application for Silecroft beach car park totaling £11747

139/24 Village Matters

139/24.1 Silecroft beach car park

The Clerk reported that the Phase 2 botany Survey had been booked for 2 June 2025. Potholes were bad close to the café where the car park narrows.

139/24.2 Café

Clerk reported that there had been no response from Cumberland officials re request for urgent meeting. It was noted that a workman was on site dealing with some of the snagging issues, but there was still no kitchen.

139/24.3 Toilets

Cllr Fell to sort out outside tap.

139/24.4 Play Inspection Report

Clerk reported that Silecroft now complete but Kirksanton still not completed. Cllr Sharp to measure the fencing at Silecroft for clerk to obtain quotes for replacement fencing.

139/24.5 Environmental issues

Cllr Millar requested that the bank at the end of Silecroft be scraped off so that planting could take place.

139/24.6 GDF

Cllr Cumming reported that still awaiting the review of the partnership to be published. Resolved to hold a public meeting for residents re siting of GDF access tunnel and to invite MP, Cumberland Chief Executive, Chair of Community Partnership and Cllr B Kelly, Cumberland representative to the meeting to answer questions.

139/24.7 Fencing around Septic tank – Whicham School car park

Clerk to contact owner re proof of responsibility

139/24.8 S137 donations

Resolved to donate £250 to each Village Hall

Resolved to donate £600 to Whicham Church for the upkeep of the church yard

139/24.9 War memorial

Cllr Millar to take some photographs of the lettering requiring renovation

139/24.10 Change of meeting venue

Resolved to change March meeting from Silecroft to Kirksanton.

Resolved to hold winter meetings at Kirksanton and summer ones at Silecroft

139/24.11 Policies

The following policies were approved

Risk Management Policy

Press and Media Policy

Retention of Documents Policy

Complaints Procedure

Data Protection Policy

Grievance Policy

Disciplinary Policy

Subject Access Request Policy

It was noted that the following policies had been reviewed and no changes required

Standing Orders

Health and Safety Policy

Freedom of Information Policy

Equal Opportunity Policy

Protocol on the recording and filming of Council and Committee meetings

140/24 To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies

- Cllr Sharp reported that he attended the Millom Silecroft cycle route meeting for which there is no funding

141/24 CORRESPONDENCE:

To discuss any correspondence received for open discussion:

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

- Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing pledge

142/24 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

- None

143/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 12 March 2025 at Kirksanton Village Hall commencing at 7.30p

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

Signed.....*M.M. Cumming*..... Dated.....*12/3/25*.....