

**WHICHAM PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2025 AT
SILECROFT VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

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

74/25 Apologies for Absence

Cllr L Thomson (ill) Cllr S Wilson (working) Cllr R Jopson (working)

75/25 Exclusions of Press and Public

Agenda item 17 Close Session

76/25 Declarations of Interest

None

77/25 To approve the Minutes of the meetings 3 September 2025

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

78/25 Police Liaison Report

Police continue to attend at Silecroft to deter speeding. Clerk to request data from recent speed monitoring strips.

79/25 Clerks report

The Clerk reported that the Japanese Knotweed had been reported and this has now been sprayed.

80/25 Public Participation

None

81/25 Report from Unitary Authority Councillor

Cllr Pratt gave the following report:

Corney Bridge due to open 2 October 2025

South Copeland Community Panel met on 30 September and are planning drop in sessions

CALC AGM is on 4 October speakers are Police and Crime Commissioner and North Yorkshire Mayor

Cumberland Council are meeting w/c 6 October to agree to elect a mayor with Westmorland and Furness

National Lottery have Environmental grants available of £300 - £300k must benefit community/environment, submit before December

GDF drop in session at Kirksanton, some funding still available, new funding year commences December.

The Chair thanked Cllr Pratt for his report

82/25 Applications for Development

82/25.1 To examine applications for development and submit observations to the Planning Authority

7/2025/4075 Parsonage Farm, Silecroft,

Non-material amendment to application 7/2025/4011 (Slurry Tower) to confirm exact size and colour

For information only

82/25.2 To ratify the observations submitted by the Clerk under devolved powers

None

82/25.3 To note the decisions of the statutory planning authority with regards to recent applications:

None

83/25 Financial Records

83/25.1 Payment of invoices

Waterplus	direct Debit	£ 34.76
J Hillier	Toilet Cleaning September	£ 390.00
A Bowden	Toilet cleaning Changin places Sept	£ 390.00
L Cooper	Clerks salary & expenses	£ 300.00
HMRC	PAYE	£ 66.40
CALC	GDPR course	£ 20.00
Dream Landscapes	Grass cutting	£1560.00
Whamos Ltd	Website Annual support	£ 220.00

83/25.2 Receipts

Beach car park £ 470.07

Church car park £ 178.53

83/25.3 To receive and note the bank reconciliation statement dated 31 August 2025
Checked and verified by Cllr Millar

83/25.4 To consider the Budget Comparison Report as at 30 September 2025 and determine action need to address deviations from the budget.

The Clerk reported that finances were tight but should remain within the overall budget for the year.

Current A/c £21099.82, Deposit A/c £11174.16

83/25.5 To discuss the draft budget for financial year 2026/27.

The Clerk presented a draft budget and report to the council. If Cumberland still refused to pay £12k a year Licence fee for the café, then the precept would need to be raised by a minimum of 31% to balance the books. Council resolved to delay the acceptance of the budget until further negotiations have been undertaken with Cumberland Council.

83/25.6 To approve the rebuild of the website at a cost of £2000 to comply with assertion 10 of the AGAR. Decision deferred, cost to be included in 26/27 budget.

84/25 Village Matters

84/25.1 Silecroft car park

Clerk reported that the LDNP had now accepted all documentation for the planning application and would inform of a decision by 5 November 2025. Clerk reported that car park was badly breaking up by café. Cllr Fell to investigate. Clerk requested that donation boxes were repainted as they were going rusty.

84/25.2 Toilets

No issues

84/25.3 Café

Resolved to stop paying for the cleaner for the changing places facility from 31 October 2025.

84/25.4 Play inspection reports and actions

Clerk presented a list of concerns from the reports. Clerk to purchase 2 new “no dogs allowed” signs and to contact Playdale re cost of inspection/repairs to swings

84/25.5 Defib – Silecroft

No response from BT re electrical supply

84/25.6 Environmental issues

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

84/25.7 Date for Clerk’s Appraisal

Thursday 9 October 11am

85/25 To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies

- None

86/25 CORRESPONDENCE:

To discuss any correspondence received for open discussion:

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

- Quotation received to replace gabion baskets at steps – Clerk to respond

87/25 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 Millar had queried the BNG report with the contractor and they have agreed to amend the report and re-issue. There still would be a requirement to buy BNG units.

88/25 Cllr Millar gave her apologies and left the meeting at 2045hrs to attend to a personal matter.

89/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 5 November 2025 at Kirksanton Village Hall commencing at 7.30p

90/25 Closed Session

- a) Clerk's overtime payment from April to September approved
- b) Minor changes made to Land Licence – Clerk to make changes and submit to Cumberland Council
- c) Resolved to invoice Cumberland Council for café location. Clerk to submit an invoice

There be no further business the meeting closed at 2100 hours

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