

**WHICHAM PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2026 AT
KIRKSANTON VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr Fell (Chair) Cllr S Millar, Cllr M Cumming, Cllr R Jopson, Cllr S Wilson, Cllr C Lowery
Lesley Cooper Clerk
4 members of the public

125/25 Apologies for Absence

Cllr M Sharp (personal) Cllr L Thomson (family), Cllr N Tyson (working) Cllr A Pratt – Cumberland Council

126/25 Exclusions of Press and Public

None

127/25 Declarations of Interest

None

128/25 To approve the Minutes of the meetings 7 January 2026

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

129/25 Police Liaison Report

Previously circulated – no comments

130/25 Clerks report

Clerk reported that she had requested salt bins to be located in Silecroft.

131/25 Public Participation

Representatives of the Sea Sports Society sought clarification on the siting of motorhomes and their impact on their ability to launch boats. The Chair thanked them for raising their concerns.

Representative of Black Combe runners gave an update on the arrangements for the forthcoming English Championship fell race which is to be held on 7 March 2026.

The Chair thanked them for their information.

All members of public left the meeting at this point.

132/25 Report from Unitary Authority Councillor

In the absence of Cllr Pratt, the Clerk gave the following report on his behalf:

Cumberland budget consultation is still open.

Whicham Valley road will be closed 16-21 February for remedial works.

GDF meeting held Wednesday 4 February in Millom, moving to bi-monthly meetings.

Application to Secretary of State to be submitted by March for permission to drill boreholes.

Contract awarded for Impact study and pros/cons of a GDF.

133/25 Applications for Development

133/25.1 To examine applications for development and submit observations to the Planning Authority

None

133/25.2 To ratify the observations submitted by the Clerk under devolved powers.

None

133/25.3 To note the decisions of the statutory planning authority with regard to recent applications:

None.

134/25 Financial Records

134/25.1 Payment of invoices

The following payments are presented for payment.

Waterplus	Direct Debit	£ 59.48
J Hillier	Toilet cleaning December	£403.00
L Cooper	Clerks salary & expenses	£302.00

HMRC	PAYE	£ 66.40
Cumberland Council	Waste	£ 84.50
Thomas Graham	Cleaning Supplies	£ 4.68
Clear Councils	Insurance renewal	£971.36
KMC Graffix	signage – car park	£998.00
M Sharp	Car park maintenance December	£150.00
A Fell	Car park maintenance – January	£270.00

134/25.2 Receipts

Beach car park	£ 163.96
Church car park	£ 134.10
ENW wayleave	£ 28.58

A donation of £30 received from sale of calendars.

134/25.3 To receive and note the bank reconciliation statement dated 31 December 2025

Checked and verified by Cllr Millar

134/25.4 To consider the Budget Comparison Report as at 31 January 2026 and determine action need to address deviations from the budget.

Current A/c £33097.62, Deposit A/c £11203.42

No adjustments required current underspend on overall budget of £7k.

134/25.5 To approve the bank signatories.

RESOLVED The following councillors were approved to be bank signatories.

Cllrs A Fell, C Lowery, M Cumming, S Wilson, R Jopson and the Clerk L Cooper.

Other bank signatories need to be removed.

134/25.6 To approve the purchase of a software account package.

The Clerk stated that the introduction of overnight parking for motorhomes will require the Council to register for VAT once an income of £6000 is reached. HMRC requires VAT to be generated by a software package.

RESOLVED to purchase the Scribe Councils accounting software package at an initial payment of £249, plus £33 per month.

135/25 Village Matters

135/25.1 Silecroft car park

Clerk reported that the booking system for overnight parking is now live. Works still requiring completing, installation of cassette waste disposal and tap for rinsing. Signage for bays. New signage for boat parking and turning area keep clear. Cllr Fell to order more tar planings from contractors undertaking road works on Whicham Valley.

135/25.2 Toilets

External works to be scoped and completed.

135/25.3 Café

Clerk has contacted Mark Walsh re an update, and no response has been received.

135/25.4 Proposed artwork location by Cumberland Council

Cllrs Miller and Cumming to attend online meeting to represent WPC objection

135/25.5 Play inspection reports and actions

Repairs undertaken as per inspection reports on all equipment, outstanding works to gate at Kirksanton and fencing at Silecroft

135/25.6 Defib – Silecroft

Cllr Sharp to give model details to Clerk to pursue other options.

135/25.7 Environmental issues

Still awaiting banking scraping

135/25.8 Date for Clerk's Appraisal

9 February 2026 11am

135/25.9 Sellafeld parking in lay byes

After discussion to not take enforcement action

135/25.10 IT Policy

Approved (Proposed Cllr Lowery, Seconded Cllr Cumming)

136/25 To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies.

- None

137/25 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 requiring information on bus shelters and ownership. It was determined that the bus shelter at Whitbeck and Kirksanton were owned by Cumberland Council

138/25 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 Cumming reported that the track by the Village Green at Kirksanton required potholes filling.
- Cllr Cumming had received requests from the community for some training on the defib. Clerk to arrange.
- Cllr Miller requested that the clerk obtain the booklet to be launched at Cumberland Local Nature Strategy
- The Clerk reported that she is knitting poppies to produce a garland for the war memorial. Clerk instructed to obtain costings for a fallen soldier from RBL and place on March agenda.

139/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 4 March 2026 at Kirksanton Village Hall commencing at 7.30p

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2135 hours.

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