

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

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

140/25 Apologies for Absence

C Lowery (working), Cllr R Jopson (working) Cllr A Pratt – Cumberland Council

141/25 Exclusions of Press and Public

None

142/25 Declarations of Interest

None

143/25 To approve the Minutes of the meetings 4 February 2026

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

144/25 Police Liaison Report

Previously circulated – no comments

145/25 Clerks report

None

146/25 Public Participation

None

147/25 Report from Unitary Authority Councillor

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

Whicham Valley road works had been extended for another week.

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.

148/25 Applications for Development

148/25.1 To examine applications for development and submit observations to the Planning Authority

7/2026/4009 Beckside, Silecroft

Three stand alone Anaerobic Digester plants comprising three above ground tanks located within three shipping containers. Separator to be housed in new portal frame building.

For information only

148/25.2 To ratify the observations submitted by the Clerk under devolved powers.

None

148/25.3 To note the decisions of the statutory planning authority with regard to recent applications:

None.

149/25 Financial Records

149/25.1 Payment of invoices

The following payments are presented for payment.

Waterplus	direct Debit	£132.23
L Cooper	Clerks salary & expenses	£301.80
HMRC	PAYE	£ 66.60
J Hillier	Toilet Cleaning February	£384.00
Information Commissioner	Data Protection payment	£ 52.00
WHamos	refund of test payments	£ 12.00
KMC Grafix Ltd	New QR codes	£ 15.00
Whamos Ltd	Unlocking laptop	£ 45.00

149/25.2 Receipts

Beach car park	£ 214.27
Church car park	£ 82.47
Scripe – Motorhome overnight fees	£ 101.74
Paypal car park donations	£ 54.13

149/25.3 To receive and note the bank reconciliation statement dated 31 January 2026

Checked and verified by Cllr Millar

149/25.4 To consider the Budget Comparison Report as at 28 February 2026 and determine action need to address deviations from the budget.

Current A/c £3056780 Deposit A/c £11229.97 Committed reserves £4154.60

Resolved to commit £7k to reserves for play areas.

149/25.5 To approve the following donations:

Silecroft Village Hall	£250
Kirksanton Village Hall	£250
Whicham PCC for the upkeep of the churchyard	£700

150/25 Village Matters

150/25.1 Silecroft car park

Works still requiring completion – elsan point and levelling of banking for bays 1 and 2.

Motorhome bookings – received 21 bookings and the system working well.

150/25.2 Toilets

Concerns raised re cleanliness of toilets after receiving complaints. To undertake a review of cleaning schedule and discuss appointment of relief cleaner(s) at April meeting.

150/25.3 Café

Clerk to contact solicitor to draft a long-term lease. To chase Mark Walshe re changing places being still open.

150/25.4 Proposed artwork location by Cumberland Council

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

150/25.5 Play inspection reports and actions

Clerk to obtain quotes for the resurfacing of the tennis court at Silecroft

150/25.6 Defib – Silecroft

Cllr Sharp to send photo through of defib. To see if a thermal bag will work

150/25.7 Environmental issues

Still awaiting banking scraping. Cllr Millar to order some spring native bulbs to plant around war memorial.

150/25.8 Fallen Soldier statue

Clerk to order a pair from Royal British Legion

150/25.9 Date for Annual Parish Meeting

14 May 2026 7pm, Speaker David Savage on Millom Town Deal

150/25.10 Data Protection Training

Clerk reminded all councillors to complete the Data Protection training

151/25 To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies.

- None

152/25 CORRESPONDENCE:

To discuss any correspondence received for open discussion:

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

- A letter has been received from the Pensions Regulator
- Grass contractor increasing price by £60 (approved by the Council)

153/25 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 Fell stated that the track onto the Combe was bad with dog fouling. Clerk to contact dog warden for help/advice. Signs to be made to be placed on fell gate.
- Cllr Tyson reported that there was an increase in dog fouling on the way to the beach and also on the beach car park. Clerk to order signs to be placed over current no overnight parking signs to clean up after your dog.
- Cllr Thomson reported that the Po House Road had been used as a rat run during the Whicham Valley closure and the verges and road was breaking up and increase in potholes.
- Cllr Millar reported that she had received complaints re holes in wall opposite Silecroft Village Hall and on some slurry dropped on the path towards the beach.
- Cllr Millar had received a request for disabled signs on the beach car park.

154/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 8 April 2026 at Silecroft Village Hall commencing at 7.30p

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2220 hours.

155/25 Human Resources

Cllr Fell reported that the Clerk's appraisal had been undertaken and she had met all standards.

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