

**WHICHAM PARISH
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 14 MAY 2026
COMMENCING 7.00 PM IN SILECROFT VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr A FELL (Chair), and 15 electors of the Parish,
APOLOGIES None received

PM1/26: Mrs Lesley Cooper, Low Marshside, Underhill nr Millom Cumbria was elected as clerk to the meeting

PM2/26: MINUTES
It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26 April 2025 be signed as a true and correct record.

PM3/26: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
The Chair gave a brief overview of the work the Parish Council had undertaken over the last 12 months.
Still struggling to get Cumberland Council to commit to a permanent lease for the land that the café sits on. Received £24k for last 2 years temporary licence.
Beach car park, introduction of overnight Motorhome/camper vans bringing in additional income, still learning and learning from mistakes. It is proving popular with motorhomes.
Play areas – looking to refurbish the tennis courts
Old Phone box, had problems with the electricity supply but should have donated defib fitted soon.
Dog fouling, still a problem on lane to fell and path to beach.
Thanked the councillors and clerk for all their hard work.

PM4/26: Talk by David Savage Chair of Millom Town Deal Board
Mr Savage gave some background to the deal and the receipt of funding of c.£30m to revitalise the economy of Millom, especially the visitor economy. Millom has a declining population, falling working population and a rising aged population.
Funding restricted to Millom and Haverigg area, and projects identified in the bid.
Iron Line – visitor experience, RSPB £10m.
Summer 2026 contract to be awarded working closely with RSPB/Natural England. Focus on education, volunteering, as well as food/beverage. About offering an experience.
Millom Park – regenerations (covid project)
Millom Leisure Centre, running track, 3g pitch, sports centre, swimming pool £12.5m. New operator appointed
Old bank – regeneration of Market Square Bank finished July 2026 an operator has been appointed. Top level for creative arts, 2nd level space for start ups. Exhibition area for hire.
Barrow to Esk active travel scheme connecting Millom/Haverigg to other communities.
Old Library re-opening with space for 60+ Sellafeld workers to work from.
Looking for Community Engagement.
The Chair thanked Mr Savage for his talk.

PM5/26 Open Forum
Discussion took part regarding sources of additional funding for projects within the town deal. Some residents questioned whether spending money on improvements was a waste with possibility of a GDF within the community.

PM6/26 **The Chair thanked the speaker and residents for attending the meeting**
 The meeting closed at 8.30pm
PM7/26: **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
 The next Annual Parish meeting will be held between 1 March and 1 June
 2027 ,

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