

**WHICHAM PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT
SILECROFT VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

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

55/26 Apologies for Absence: None

56/26 Exclusions of Press and Public

None present. Press and Public present would have been excluded from Agenda item 16 Closed Session

57/26 Declarations of Interest

None

58/26 To approve the Minutes of the Meetings

1 July 2026

23 July 2026

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

59/26 Police Liaison Report

Previously circulated

60/26 Clerks report

None

61/26 Public Participation

None

62/26 Report from Unitary Authority Councillor

- None.

63/26 Applications for Development

63/26.1 To examine applications for development and submit observations to the Planning Authority

7/2026/4048 The Shaw Meadow & Sea Pastures SSSI, West, Seldom Seen Lane, Silecroft

Proposed installation of broadband infrastructure, comprising narrow trench, the installation of underground tobies and a chamber – 10.19m of 50mm of narrow trench in the carriageway. 112.93m of 50mm of narrow trench in the grass verge. 4 x tobies in the grass verge. 1 x FW2 chamber in the grass verge

Supported

7/2026/4051 11 Main Street, Silecroft

Removal of conservatory type structure and the construction of a new mono-pitched roof structure. The new addition will not exceed the footprint of the existing. The proposal also includes the installation of external windows and doors, plus internal works.

Supported

7/2026/4049 Sledbank Farm. Silecroft

Three bedroom dormer bungalow as private dwelling – removal of condition 3 (Agricultural Occupancy) of planning permission 7/86/4075 to remove the Occupancy restriction.

The Council resolved to support the application but requested that condition 3 be modified to a Main Residence Occupancy restriction instead.

63/26.2 To ratify the observations submitted by the Clerk under devolved powers.

None

63/26.3 To note the decisions of the statutory planning authority with regard to recent applications:

7/2026/4009 Beckside, Silecroft, Millom, LA18 5LU

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
Granted.

64/26 Financial Records

64/26.1 Payment of invoices

a) The following payments were made in August under Financial Standing

Orders

Waterplus	Direct Debit	£ 253.21
J Hillier	Toilet Cleaning (July)	£ 403.00
L Cooper	Clerks salary & expenses	£ 313.00
HMRC	PAYE	£ 66.40
Thomas Graham Ltd	Cleaning supplies	£ 108.14
Moore	External Audit fee	£ 409.50
Cumberland Council	Waste removal	£ 81.00
Scribe	Direct Debit	£ 39.60
S& B Electrical Ltd	Installation of electricity to toilets etc	£17072.91
Cllr Thomas queried whether this payment could be paid without full council approval, Cllr Thomas was assured that all procedures had been followed		
S Palmer	Relief Cleaner	£ 90.75
J Ruddy	Relief Cleaner	£ 74.25

b) The following payments are presented for payment.

Waterplus	direct Debit	£ 60.94
L Cooper	Clerks salary & expenses	£346.00
HMRC	PAYE	£ 77.40
J Hillier	Toilet Cleaning August	£301.99
Scribe monthly fee	Direct debit	£ 39.60
Furness Supply	Gate and hangers	£340.02
D Horrocks	repairs to toilets	£150.05
Thomas Graham Ltd	Toilet supplies	£ 39.88
ROSPA	annual inspections	£204.00
Scribe	Direct Debit	£ 39.60
LDNP Planning	Approval of conditions application	£309.00

64/26.2 Receipts

Beach car park	£2274.88
Church car park	£ 452.40
Stripe – Motorhome overnight fees/online car park fees	£3515.49
NWS Grant for installation of electricity to toilets (1st payment)	£4500.00

64/26.3 To receive and note the bank reconciliation statement dated 31 July 2026
Checked and verified by Cllr Millar

64/26.4 To consider the Budget Comparison Report as at 31 August 2026 and determine action need to address deviations from the budget.

No actions required

Current A/c £21930.21 Deposit A/c £31329.16 Committed reserves £11138

64/26.5 To receive the external Auditors Report and approve any actions required.

Comment noted.

64/26.6 To approve the National Pay award of 3.3% for Clerks

Noted and approved.

65/26 Village Matters

65/26.1 Silecroft car park

Clerk to obtain additional quotes for the installation of a hot water system in the toilets and also the installation of CCTV cameras.

Barriers to prevent parking – suggested low curb stones to mark out bays.

Clerk to chase for licence.

EHU charges £5 in summer and £10 in winter months. Clerk to monitor usage.

Motorhome bookings – Clerk reported that in July, occupancy rate was 56% and in August 68%

A request had been received to install a memorial plaque on one of the benches. Agreed, fee to be £250 ring fenced for future bench purchase/maintenance. Clerk to respond.

65/26.2 Toilets

Contractor has completed repairs to toilets. Contractor had also been asked to monitor flow to urinals. Feedback had been received from the locum cleaners regarding the state of cleanliness in the toilets.

65/26.3 Café

Deferred to 17 September for discussion.

65/26.4 Play inspection reports and actions

Clerk reported that she was having difficulty obtaining 2 more quotes to resurface the tennis court. Will contact Cumberland Council to see if they had a contractor.

Reports received from ROSPA to be discussed at October meeting and an action plan put in place. Clerk to contact Playdale re concerns raised on a new piece of play equipment.

65/26.5 Defib – Silecroft

Defib requires new pads as the current ones have expired.

65/26.6 Environmental issues

Cllr Millar requested that the banking be stripped in October ready for planting.

65/26.7 Potholes Kirksanton

Cllr Fell to fill with tar planings.

66/26 To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies.

- None

67/26 CORRESPONDENCE:

To discuss any correspondence received for open discussion:

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

- CALC requesting short articles for Annual Report
- Consultation on Polling Stations
- Email from resident concerned re crossing closures at Silecroft. Clerk to raise concerns with Northern Rail.
- Email from visitor complimenting the council on the overnight motorhome parking facilities.
- From Kirksanton Village Hall re playing of a film entitled People's Emergency Briefing and requesting this be a joint venture with the Parish Council. To be placed on October agenda for discussion.

68/26 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 reported that a member of the public had observed vermin around café bins. Clerk to contact operators.
- Cllr Fell reported that a meeting with Cumberland representatives had been held and they had requested that the bins be located in front of the septic tank.
- Cllr Lowery reported that a request had been received from Whitbeck church to pay for the grass cutting in 2027. To be discussed at the October meeting.

69/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 7 October 2026 at Silecroft Village Hall commencing at 7.30p

70/26 Closed Session

Due to the lateness of the hour the following items were deferred and to be discussed at a meeting to be called on 17 September 2026. Press and Public will be excluded from this meeting.

To approve the changes to the Cleaning Contract

To authorize Clerks o/time payment and approve additional hours

To discuss the proposed new Café Lease

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2201 hours.

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