

**WHICHAM PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2026 AT
SILECROFT VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr Fell (Chair), Cllr S Wilson, Cllr M Cumming, Cllr C Lowery
Lesley Cooper Clerk

75/26 Apologies for Absence: Cllr S Millar, Cllr M Sharp, Cllr N Tyson, Cllr R Jopson,

76/26 Exclusions of Press and Public

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

77/26 Declarations of Interest

None

78/26 To approve the Minutes of the Meetings

2 September 2026

17 September 2026

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

79/26 Police Liaison Report

Previously circulated

80/26 Clerks report

None

81/26 Public Participation

None

82/26 Report from Unitary Authority Councillor

In the absence of Cllr Pratt, the Clerk reported the following:

Cumberland has a new CEO.

Director of Children's services have left – no replacement as yet.

Cumberland has called in the External Auditors re finances and ongoing plan for Cumberland.

New boundaries are officially in place with the Electoral Commission

GDF – awaiting the Secretary of State's decision as to next phase.

83/26 Applications for Development

83/26.1 To examine applications for development and submit observations to the Planning Authority

None.

83/26.2 To ratify the observations submitted by the Clerk under devolved powers.

None

83/26.3 To note the decisions of the statutory planning authority with regard to recent applications:

None

84/26 Financial Records

84/26.1 Payment of invoices

The following payments are presented for payment.

Waterplus	direct Debit	£ 60.94
British Gas	Electricity	£ 57.72
L Cooper	Clerks salary & expenses	£ 900.65
HMRC	PAYE	£ 216.20
J Hillier	Toilet Cleaning August	£ 390.00
Cumberland Council	Waste management	£ 108.00
Dream Landscapes	Grass cutting	£1620.00
Thomas Graham	Cleaning Supplies	£ 57.00
KMC Graffix	QR codes	£ 15.00
Technophobia	Website support	£ 600.00

Scribe monthly fee	Direct debit	£ 39.60
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84/26.2 Receipts

Beach car park	£ 907.96
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Church car park	£ 188.62
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Stripe – Motorhome overnight fees/online car park fees	£1163.81
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NWS Grant for installation of electricity to toilets (2nd payment)	£4500.00
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84/26.3 To receive and note the bank reconciliation statement dated 31 August 2026.

Unable to verify as all present were bank signatories.

84/26.4 To consider the Budget Comparison Report as at 30 September 2026 and determine action need to address deviations from the budget.

No actions required

Current A/c £25785.49 Deposit A/c £31329.16 Committed reserves £11138

84/26.5 To approve the Internal Auditor for the Financial Year 2026-27

Resolved that Mrs VE Falconer be appointed as Internal Auditor.

84/26.6 To Discuss the draft budget for 2027-28.

The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2027/28 financial year. Amendments were made and the Clerk to produce a final budget at the November meeting.

85/26 Village Matters

85/26.1 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 motorhome parking bays.

Clerk to chase for licence.

Motorhome bookings – Clerk reported that in September, occupancy rate was 40%.

85/26.2 Toilets

Complaint received re toilet cleanliness, observed not been cleaned properly.

85/26.3 Café

See Closed Session below

85/26.4 Play inspection reports and actions

Deferred to November meeting

85/26.5 Defib – Silecroft

Defib requires new pads as the current ones have expired.

85/26.6 Environmental issues

Ash dieback had been identified in 2 trees. One in Whicham Church and one on land adjoining owned by the PC. Contractor prepared to fell at no charge if they can have the wood. Approved.

85/26.7 Potholes Kirksanton

Cllr Fell reported that some had been filled.

85/26.8 Grass cutting Whitbeck Church

An application had been received for grass cutting to be included in next year's budget. Approved.

85/26.9 People's Emergency Briefing – film show Kirksanton VH

To be held 17 October 2026 2-3.30pm Cllrs Cumming and Millar to lead on discussions. To advertise on website. Issues raised to be brought back to November meeting.

86/26 To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies.

- None

87/26 CORRESPONDENCE:

To discuss any correspondence received for open discussion:

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

- Request received from Silecroft VH for the PC to pay VH insurance and claim vat on works, both requests refused.
- Consultation on Bus Reforms

88/26 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 Wilson to order wreaths.

89/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

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

90/26 Closed Session

Resolved to terminate current cleaning contract as at 31 October 2026.

Resolved to contact solicitors to draw up a lease agreement re café.

Concerns raised re failure of Cumberland to maintain the Changing Places facility and keep it closed.

Resolved to request for a face-to-face meeting with Cumberland representatives in w/c 23 November 2026 to resolve outstanding issues. All to be resolved by 31 January 2027.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2107 hours.

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