

STANWIX RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 9th April at 7.30pm in Houghton Village Hall

PRESENT

The Chairman Cllr C Nicholson, Cllrs A Bell, B Bell, P Nedved, A Robinson, A Coles, C Savory, D Small and N Watson.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Clerk, S Kyle

SR 535/04/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr E Leitch. Apologies were also noted from Cumberland Cllr J Mallinson.

SR 536/04/25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 12th March 2025

Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a true and accurate record, the minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council.

SR 537/04/25 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No dispensation requests were received. Cllrs Nicholson and Robinson declared an interest in planning application 25/0182, as the applicant is known to them. Cllr Nicholson also declared an interest in item 543.2, as he is listed on the payment schedule for equipment reimbursement, and 543.4 as his wife is the treasurer of Houghton Village Hall (grant application). Cllr Watson also declared an interest in this 543.4, as his wife is the Chair of Linstock WI Hall.

SR 538/04/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

538.1 Members of the Public

No members of the public were in attendance.

538.2 Cumberland Cllr's

No Cumberland Cllrs were in attendance. In Cllr Mallinson's absence the Chairman reported that investigations were continuing into the classification of the cycle way from St Johns Bridge toward the A689. and that some 'no cold calling' stickers from Trading Standards will be delivered soon.

SR 539/04/25 PLANNING MATTERS

539.1 To Consider New Applications Received:

25/0169 Houghton House Farm, Houghton, Carlisle, CA6 4DX - Demolition of Part Collapsed Farmhouse

Resolved that the application be determined in accordance with local and national planning policy and guidance.

25/0181 61 Jackson Road, Houghton, Carlisle, CA3 0NR - Demolition of Existing Garage & Porch; Erection of Two Storey Side & Rear Extension to Provide Extended Kitchen/Lounge, Playroom, Utility, Store & WC On Ground Floor With 2no Bedrooms (1no. En-Suite) & Bathroom Above

Resolved that the application be determined in accordance with local and national planning policy and guidance.

25/0182 Croft House, Brunstock, Carlisle, CA6 4QG - Erection of Detached Garage with Home Office & Storage Above
Cllr Savory took the chair for this item. Cllrs Nicholson and Robinson did not take part in the decision.

Resolved that the application be determined in accordance with local and national planning policy and guidance.

539.2 Resolved to Receive Permission Notices

24/06937 The Courtyard, Mill House, Brampton Old Road, Carlisle, CA6 4QE - Reinstatement of Property Following Fire Damage (LBC)

25/0031 104 Tribune Drive, Houghton, Carlisle, CA3 0LF - Demolition of Garage; Erection of Single Storey Rear and Side Extension to Provide Additional Living Accommodation

23/0514/5 (LBC) Eden Grove, Crosby on Eden, Carlisle, CA6 4QJ - Conversion & Extension to Stable Block to Provide 3no. Holiday Cottages with Associated Parking; Construction of Sewage Pumping Station & Treatment Plant

539.3 Resolved to Receive Updates regarding Ongoing Planning Issues:

23/0347 Land at Brunstock Lane, Houghton, Carlisle - Residential Development Consisting Of 163no. Dwellings & Associated Infrastructure Town and Country Planning (Appeals) (Written Representations Procedure) Regulations 2000. It was noted that the Natural England consultation response has now been submitted. However, due to the proximity of the SSSI, species habitat and bat roosting reports are required. Therefore, the application will not be considered before 28th May at the earliest.

Town And Country Planning (Appeals) (Written Representations Procedure) Regulations 2000 24/0471 82 Longlands Road, Carlisle, CA3 9AF - Erection of Detached 4no.Bedroom Dwelling Together with New Vehicular Access to Neighbouring Property

Resolved to that no additional representations be made.

23/0001/S211 - Works to 1no. Sycamore Tree in Tarraby Conservation Area

An updated was provided regarding the above, noting that works had been carried out without consent.

SR 540/04/25 Village Matters

540.1 Drainage, Houghton

It was noted that the required quotation for the works adjacent to 1-3 The Green has not yet been received. Riverside has now inspected the willow tree and will make further contact in due course.

Resolved to authorise expenditure for Cluaran Landscapes of £1,140 to remove the willow tree adjacent to Houghton Village Hall.

540.2 Houghton Village Event

Resolved to authorise consent for Houghton School PTA to use Houghton Village Green for a public event on 4th May.

541/04/25 Administrative Matters.

540.1 Tree Risk Assessment

Resolved to authorise expenditure of £700 on the required tree risk assessment. It is expected that the assessment will be conducted in August.

540.2 Cumberland Council Housing Strategy - Formal Stakeholder Consultation

The above consultation was noted. Cllrs were advised to respond individually or submit comments to the Chair for collation as soon as possible. The consultation closes at 5pm on Tuesday 29 April 2025.

541/04/25 Clerk's Report

In addition to items on the agenda, the following items were noted:

Linstock Track Resurfacing

Quotations are continuing to be sought for the works.

Bus Shelter Noticeboard Relocation

This matter remains outstanding and will be actioned in due course.

Brunstock Pond Risk Assessment

Further to the last meeting, it is confirmed that a separate risk assessment is actioned in respect of the above and is completed regularly by a volunteer in the hamlet. For clarity, the item has been added to the overall risk assessment.

Brunstock Pond Life Saving Equipment

An updated inspection of the equipment has been carried out and as previously stated, the equipment was found to be in full working order and remains in place. A replacement device has nevertheless been ordered and will be installed on a new plinth to replace the damaged support.

Linstock Play Equipment

A deposit has been paid and a due date for installation is expected imminently.

Benches

Three new benches have been ordered and will be installed around the parish in due course.

Noticeboard

Further to an inspection, the notice board (public) at Houghton was irreparable and a replacement has been ordered.

Harker Overhead Lines

Notification has been received that replacement line installation will take place this year, between April and October 2025, with most works taking place between Harker and Gretna from April to June, and between Harker and The Border (via Longtown) from June to October. Further related work will take place in 2027.

SR 542/03/25 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

542.1 Speed Indication Device

Resolved to receive the following, which had been circulated alongside the agenda:

- SID half-yearly report October 2024 to March 2025
- SID cumulative data April 2023 to March 2025
- Future SID reports to the Council

Traffic volumes were considered in both directions, and it was noted that speeding has decreased over the two-year period to approximately four per cent on weekdays and 10% at weekends since its installation in 2023 (compared with around eighty per cent in 2015). It was considered that the data would not be effective in determining expected volumes for future planning applications, although a visual count of vehicle numbers in existing areas might be useful. It was also **resolved** that simple half-yearly reports with key information, including traffic volumes, continue to be produced with additional updates if necessary.

SR 543/04/25 FINANCE MATTERS

Cllr Nicholson left the room for items 543.1 to 543.4

543.1 Payments

Resolved to authorise payment of the accounts listed in document SR0425.

543.2 Bank Reconciliation

Resolved to note the bank reconciliation as noted in document SR0425. The balance at bank on 31st March 2025 was £50,355.62. It was clarified that this did not constitute the unallocated reserves of the Council, which will be confirmed in the annual accounts at a future meeting.

543.3 Receipts

Resolved to note the receipt of income:

- Unity Bank Interest £355.51
- HMRC VAT repayment £4437.90
- ELNW Wayleave £16.10
- Cumberland Council Grant for Benches £1000

Cllr Watson left the room for this item.

543.4 Grant Awards 2025/26

Resolved to make the following grant awards:

- Houghton Village Hall, £185.00 towards re-usable equipment for future events (LGA1972 s.145 Provision of entertainment and support of the arts)
- Linstock WI Hall, £1,672.80 towards replacement windows (Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities, Local Government Act 1972, s.144).

A further round of grant funding with a limited sum of £642.20 will be made available for future consideration.

SR 544/04/25 COUNCILLOR MATTERS

Cllr Savory reported sightings of timber lorries on the Brampton Road.

Cllr Savory also reported that occurrences of dog fouling were being stencilled in yellow on local roads.

Cllr Watson reported that branches were overhanging the footway between Brunstock road end and Hadrian's Camp; this will be reported to Highways alongside blocked gully drains in the same area.

Cllr Nedved requested confirmation that the bus shelter at Crosby Moor had now been removed.

Cllr Small requested attention be paid to the fallen bollards on Houghton Village Green.

Cllr Coles submitted his resignation with immediate effect. Cllr Coles was sincerely thanked for his service to the Council over the years.

SR 545/04/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on Wednesday 14th May in Crosby Parish Hall. Agenda items must be submitted by 2 May 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.07pm.