

STANWIX RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 12th March at 7.30pm in Houghton Village Hall

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Cumberland Cllrs J Mallinson. Four members of the public.

SR 523/03/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cumberland Cllrs B Wernham and H Davison. Apologies were also received from The Clerk, S Kyle.

SR 524/03/25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 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 525/03/25 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made and no dispensation requests were received.

SR 526/03/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

526.1 Members of the Public

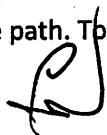
Three members the public were in attendance to raise concerns about the ongoing drainage issues on Houghton Village Green. A detailed report by Andidrain, commissioned by the Parish Council because of flooding on the Green had been circulated in advance of the meeting indicating a blockage under the drive of No. 1 The Green. A report summarising a proposed compromise had also accompanied the agenda. The resident queried the 'defective repairs', noted in the report under the access of No. 1. They also objected as they claim they do not own the access, but were responsible for the tarmac maintenance. Further they requested the full length of the pipe be jetted and cleaned and were informed that this would be done when entry was effected. The resident also asked the Council to consider using one company to do the complete works. The matter was to be considered on the agenda proper.

A resident who has generously offered to provide trees to replace the boulders on The Green asked why they could not also maintain them rather than donate them to the Council. He also raised concerns that they needed to be planted imminently. The Chairman stated that the trees would have to be maintained by the Parish Council because of Public Liability Insurance and would have to be incorporated into the Council's risk assessment schedule. It was further noted that the Parish Council must still consider the cost of removing the boulders.

Another resident queried why Brunstock Pond was not on the Parish Council's Risk Assessment. She also requested the Council inspect the life-saving equipment at the pond and requested confirmation of the risk assessment procedures. The Chairman confirmed that the equipment would be inspected, and replaced if necessary; and that regular inspections were reported. A further query regarding bonfires and fireworks on common land/village greens was addressed.

526.2 Cumberland Cllr's

Cllr J Mallinson said the council tax for the county would be rising by just below 4.99% as Cumberland Council continued to experience financial difficulties. He also raised the issue over the designation of St John's Path as a footpath. not a joint footpath and cycle path. To make it a joint path, the lane would need to be widened; Cllr



Mallinson stated he would investigate this as a possibility. Cllr Mallinson also confirmed he was continuing to pursue the matter of the verges on Houghton Road.

SR 527/03/25 PLANNING MATTERS

527.1 Resolved to Ratify Responses Submitted Prior to the Meeting:

24/0526 Beck Farm, Crosby on Eden, Carlisle, CA6 4QN - Erection Of 5no. Self/Custom-Build Dwellings

527.2 To Consider New Applications Received:

25/0047 Rose Cottage, Crosby Moor, Crosby on Eden, Carlisle, CA6 4QX - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Documents) of Previously Approved Application 23/0501 (Demolition of Existing Dwelling; Erection of no. Replacement Dwelling with Detached Garage) to Increase the Height of The Garage by 1m.

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

527.3 Resolved To Receive Permission Notices

25/0008 9 Whiteclosegate, Carlisle, CA3 0JA - Erection of Single-Story Rear Extension to Provide Additional Living Accommodation; First Floor Side Extension to Provide Bathroom; Installation Of 1no. Dormer To Rear Elevation To Facilitate Loft Conversion

527.4 Resolved to Receive Updates regarding Ongoing Planning Issues:

23/0347 Land at Brunstock Lane, Houghton, Carlisle - Residential Development Consisting Of 163no.Dwellings & Associated Infrastructure

Cllr Nedved informed members that the planning authority has received a report concerning drainage and Nutrient Neutrality. The application was unlikely to be considered by the planning committee before May 28th, 2025.

SR 528/03/25 Village Matters

528.1 Drainage, Houghton

A report had been circulated alongside the agenda detailing the recommendation of the Finance/Risk working group regarding drainage issues in Houghton. The householder was given consent to speak and reiterated they maintained they do not own the tarmacked access, but are responsible for its maintenance.

Resolved to proceed with discussions with Riverside housing regarding the willow trees. Also resolved for the Chairman to investigate legalities with the Clerk and to consider obtaining a quote that could be proportioned between the householder and Council. It was confirmed that the Council cannot legally lay hard surface on the Green and if they were to undertake the works, gravel would replace the tarmac surface.

528.2 Drainage, Brunstock

A quotation had been received for works at the above. The matter is to be deferred until the new financial year and considered once drainage costs for Houghton are confirmed. It was noted that works may need to be undertaken in two phases due to the cost.

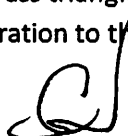
528.3 Brunstock Common Land

Consideration was given to a request from a member of the public for dogs to be allowed off-leads at the above.

Resolved that the requirement to keep dogs on leads must remain to safeguard the pond and due to the longer grass in area and proximity to A689.

528.4 Benches

A £1,000 contribution towards the cost of three benches from Cumberland Council has been received. One is to be sited at Linstock in replacement for the broken bench. Locations for the remaining two are to be confirmed however a likely suitable location could be on the large grass triangle on the approach to Tarraby. It was noted that the bench recently installed at Linstock requires some alteration to the fixings.



Resolved to authorise the remaining expenditure required for the purchase of the above.

518.4 Linstock Play Area

Noted a grant of £15,000 towards the work required for Linstock Play equipment had been secured from Cumbria Waste Management. The Parish Council's contribution would be £4,866. There will be a three-month lead time, but it is hoped that the equipment will be installed prior to the summer holidays.

Resolved to authorise the remaining expenditure required for the purchase of the above.

529/03/25 Administrative Matters.

529.1 LSE/NALC Emergency Planning Survey

Thanks were offered to Cllr Leitch, as the Emergency Planning Lead, for completing the above.

529.2 Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) Government Consultation

Consideration was given to the possibility of a unitary mayor for Cumberland. Cllrs were asked to provide feedback to the Chairman regarding the above by next week. The consultation is open until April 14th.

529.3 Risk Assessment

Resolved to adopt the Risk Assessment with the addition of Brunstock Pond. It was also agreed that the Chairman will and will re-inspect the safety equipment there in case of the need for replacement.

529.4 Financial Procedures

Resolved to update the financial procedures in accordance with the report circulated alongside the agenda. It was also resolved that the definitive record of payments for the current financial year be re-recorded as those itemised in documents SR0424 – SR0235, correcting any previous typographical errors in agreed minutes.

529.5 Emergency Plan

The plan was presented by Cllr Leitch. The chairman thanks the Emergency Planning Group, - both Cllr's Bell, and Cllr Nedved, and particularly Cllr Leitch for their work on the plan. Cllr Leitch also thanked Jozi Brown, of Action with Communities in Cumbria for advising the group.

Resolved to adopt the above, as circulated prior to the meeting.

529.6 Summer Play Scheme

Resolved to provide six summer play scheme days with arrangements the same as 2024.

530/03/25 Clerk's Report

In addition to items on the agenda, it was noted:

Benches

The bench in Linstock has now been installed. The bench in Tarraby has also been installed thanks to Top Notch Contracting Ltd. A report featured on-line in the local press regarding this.

Boards

Consent has now been received to relocate the Whiteclosegate noticeboard into the bus shelter on Houghton Road. It was also confirmed that the board at Rickerby has been scrapped and replaced with the refurbished Houghton board.

SR 531/03/25 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

531.1 Traffic Detection Unit Data, Linstock



The Council had received a report from Cumberland Council after a resident had complained about speeding in the village. A traffic survey was carried out in May 2024 confirming that the 85% of drivers kept within the speeding limit of 30mph. Therefore there was insufficient cause for any further police measures.

SR 532/03/25 FINANCE MATTERS

532.1 Payments

Resolved to authorise payment of the accounts listed in document SR0325 totalling £1,724.07.

532.2 Receipts

Resolved to note the receipt of £1000.00 from Cumberland Council (grant payment)

532.3 Bank Reconciliation

Resolved to note the bank reconciliation on 28th February 2025 as detailed in document SR0325.

532.4 Review of Internal Audit Arrangements

Resolved to approve the Finance/Risk Group recommendation to adopt the detailed updated arrangements.

532.4 Fidelity Insurance Guarantee

Resolved to approve a review of the above, prior to the receipt of the precept in April.

532.5 Asset Register

Resolved to approve the Finance/Risk Group recommendation to adopt the updated asset register.

SR 533/03/25 COUNCILLOR MATTERS

Cllr Nicholson noted a report of building materials being left at the Tarraby View site; this has been reported to the planning authority.

Cllr Nedved raised concerns with parking in Houghton near The Green with car parking on both sides of the road making it difficult for buses to get through. The matter will be re-raised with the local PCSO.

Cllr B Bell requested an update on the track and drainage at Linstock. It was confirmed the drainage has been authorised, but the contractors require better weather to proceed. It was also confirmed that one quotation has been received for the track repairs, however as it was over the spending threshold, further quotations are therefore being sought.

Cllr Watson reported that some fencing had been flattened near to the flood defenses in Crosby-on-Eden. This to be reported to the Environment Agency.

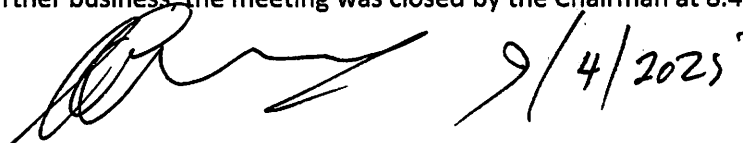
Cllr Nedved also raised concerns over the condition of the bench on Houghton Road North near the junction with Brunstock/Church Lane.

Cllr Coles reported that he would be resigning as a member at the annual meeting.

SR 534/03/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on Wednesday 9th April at 7.30pm in Houghton Village Hall. Agenda items must be submitted by 31st March 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.49pm.



A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by the date '9/4/2025' written in a similar style.