

STANWIX RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 10th December 2024 at 7.30pm in Village Hall, Houghton

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Cumberland Cllr J Mallinson. Two members of the public. The Clerk, S Kyle.

SR 491/12/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr's D Small and N Watson. Apologies were also received from Cumberland Cllr H Davison.

SR 492/12/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2024

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

SR 493/12/24 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Nicholson declared an interest in item 500.3, his wife being the treasurer of Houghton Village Hall.

Dispensations were granted to Cllr's A Bell and B Bell in respect of precept setting. All other attending members had precept dispensations previously approved for this Council term.

SR 494/12/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

494.1 Members of the Public

One member of the public was present to observe proceedings relating to item 498.1. Another member of the public reiterated previously raised concerns regarding the boulders and wildlife area on Houghton Village Green. He noted he had written to the Council in August regarding the matter and emergency vehicle access, which the Chairman recalled responding to in person. It was noted that no plans had been submitted for the wildlife area for 2025 yet.

491.2. Cumberland Cllr's

Cllr Mallinson informed members that grant funding was available for suitable projects; the application deadline is 12 February. He also reported the Cumberland Council budget consultation is accepting responses,

SR 495/12/24 PLANNING MATTERS

495.1 Resolved to Receive Refusal Notices:

24/0471 82 Longlands Road, Carlisle, CA3 9AF - Erection Of Detached 4no.Bedroom Dwelling Together With New Vehicular Access To Neighbouring Property

495.2 Updates Regarding Ongoing Issues

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



It was noted that there is no further progress, with a committee hearing unlikely to take place before February 2025.

SR 496/12/24 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

496.1 Financial Regulations

Resolved to adopt the updated Financial Regulations, as circulated alongside the agenda, with immediate effect.

496.2 Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Network Event

Cllr Nedved updated members regarding proposals for public transport improvements following the awarding of a £5m grant to Cumberland Council. Various potential options were discussed, including an evening service in Houghton, the reinstatement of the Cumbrian section of the Hadrian's Wall AD122 service, and further support to the volunteer Border Rambler bus. Concerns over the lack of public transport to the new GP surgery in Carlisle were also considered.

Resolved: Cllr Nedved to draft a Council response to the proposals for submission and ratification in January.

SR 497/12/24 CONSULTATIONS

479.1. Cumberland Ward Boundary Consultation

Cumberland Cllr Mallinson explained the rationale behind the above, noting that the intention had always been to review boundaries in preparation for the Council elections in 2027.

Resolved that a draft response will be prepared and submitted for comments at the January or February meeting.

497.2. Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meeting Consultation

Resolved to circulate the above to members for individual responses.

SR 498/12/24 VILLAGE MATTERS

498.1 Houghton/Linstock Village Green Drainage

Three estimates had been received for necessary maintenance works on Linstock Village Green, being £5,240, £6,685 and £7,525. The three prices were based on proposed works from each contractor and are not necessarily to the same exact specification.

It was also noted that an estimate of £1,460 had been received for investigative works on Houghton Village Green alongside a quote of £730 for investigative works in Brunstock. It was clarified that the investigative works are essential to determine the extent and costs of the remedial works required.

Resolved to ring-fence a sum of £8,000 for the Linstock works, with a contractor to be determined once quotations had been reviewed thoroughly. Also **resolved** to proceed with the investigative works at Houghton and Brunstock at the contractor's earliest convenience.

498.2 Brunstock Common Land

Members were informed that all works had now been completed at the pond. Some planting may be required, and an aerator device might be beneficial when the budget allows.



SR 499/12/24 CLERK'S REPORT

Bus Shelter Noticeboard Relocation

This matter remains outstanding whilst waiting for a response from Cumberland Council.

Replacement Street Furniture

The installation of the new noticeboard in Houghton has been completed. The board for Crosby and bench in Linstock are expected to be completed imminently. Once the boards are removed, they will be sent for refurbishment with an eventual plan to replace the failing Rickerby board.

Traffic Data

This request also remains outstanding; the Clerk to contact Cumberland Council again.

Tarraby Bench

A replacement bench has been ordered for the above. Thanks were offered again to Top Notch Contracting Ltd for funding the purchase and installation of the bench.

SR 4500/12/24 FINANCE MATTERS

500.1 Payments

Resolved to authorise the payment of invoices below:

Sarah Kyle	December Salary	£1,365.56
HMRC	PAYE December	£176.25
NEST	Pension December	£99.70
A Kyle	December Salary	£249.00
Unity Bank	Monthly charge	£12.00
Lakeland Landscapes Ltd	Brunstock Pond	£6,320.43

500.2 Bank Reconciliation

Resolved to note the bank reconciliation on 30th November 2024:

Balance at 01.04.2024	£54,817.42
Receipts to 30.11.24	£51,128.63
Expenditure to 30.11.24	£33,527.49
Cash book balance 30.11.24	£72,418.56

500.3 Grant Award Amendment 2024/25

Members were asked to consider a retrospective request for a change in application payee from Houghton Village Hall following a denial of the Cumbria Waste Management application

Resolved to make the previously agreed £800 payable directly to Houghton Village Hall.

500.4 Budget and Precept 2025/26

A report had been circulated alongside the agenda, detailing the proposed budget and precept recommendation for the Council year 2025/26.

Resolved to accept the attached budget and to set the precept for 2025/26 at £51,150.



SR 501/12/24 COUNCILLOR MATTERS

Cllr Savory reported an outage of streetlights on Houghton Road, which Electricity North West had now repaired.

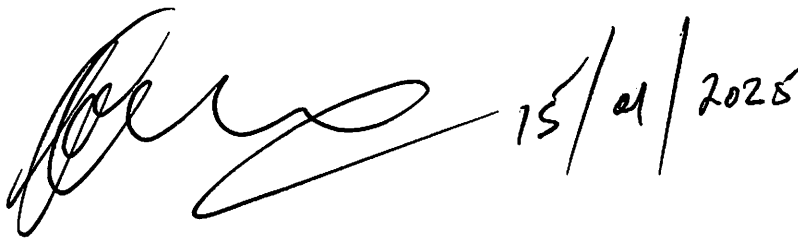
Cllr B Bell requested an update regarding maintenance works on the track in Linstock. This will be attended to as soon as possible.

Cllr Nedved reported that the grit boxes were all full, courtesy of Cumberland Council. He also welcomed the new café business in Houghton.

SR 502/12/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on Wednesday 15th January at 7.30pm in Houghton Village Hall. Agenda items must be submitted by 6th January 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.18 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by the date '15/01/2025' written in a similar style.