

STANWIX RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Houghton

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Eight members of the public.

Before convening the meeting, the chairman reported the recent passing, at the age of 88, of late Cllr Alan Lightfoot. Cllr Lightfoot had served the community as Parish Councillor for a considerable length of time and had also chaired the Village Hall Committee for a number of years. The Chairman had attended a service of thanksgiving for Councillor Lightfoot on 13 January 2025.

Members offered their condolences to Cllr Lightfoot's family.

SR 503/01/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr's P Nedved and E Leitch. Apologies were also received from Cumberland Cllr J Mallinson and the Clerk, S Kyle.

SR 504/01/25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 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 505/01/25 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Nicholson noted an interest in item 510.1 – the treasurer of Houghton Village Hall being his spouse.

SR 506/01/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

506.1 Houghton in Bloom

A representative from Houghton in Bloom was in attendance to outline to members the work undertaken by the group and their concerns regarding future grant funding cuts which may threaten their operation. They highlighted reduced funding and difficulties recruiting new members, leaving the group reliant on two core individuals. To sustain their work on village beautification, they propose a funding partnership with the Parish Council and the Village Hall while also continuing small-scale fundraising efforts. The group were thanked for attending, with the issues to be considered in due course.

506.2 Members of the Public

A member of the public attended to reiterate concerns regarding the boulders on Houghton Village Green and proposed a potential solution by offering to plant trees along the Green, approaching their property. The resident was asked to confirm their proposal in writing for consideration at a future meeting.

Two residents voiced concerns for highway safety arising from obstruction of pavements by parked vehicles and also in some cases the resultant damage to verges.



506.3 Cumberland Cllr's

No Cumberland Cllr's were in attendance.

SR 507/01/25 PLANNING MATTERS

507.1 Resolved to Ratify Responses Submitted Prior to the Meeting:

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

507.2 Updates Regarding Ongoing Issues

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

The Chairman updated members, noting that two amended drawings and a Nutrient Neutrality Assessment and Mitigation Strategy were uploaded to the LPA website on 19th December; the application was now unlikely to be determined before May, or possibly June, 2025, The applicant is aware that, at this time, the Officer remains minded to recommend refusal.

SR 508/01/25 CLERK'S REPORT

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

Cumberland Bus Service Improvement Plan

A response was submitted to the above; a copy is available upon request.

Drainage

Works have been authorised by Rod Hind Drainage, including the investigations at Houghton and Brunstock and the rectification works at Linstock. There has been no progress as yet, likely due to workloads and weather.

Linstock Track Resurfacing

Quotations are being sought for the works.

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 Crosby has been completed. The bench in Linstock will be installed soon.

Traffic Data, Linstock

This request remains outstanding; the Clerk has contacted Cumberland Council again.

Tarraby Bench

A replacement bench has been installed via Top Notch contractors.

Play Inspections

The Annual Inspections have been carried out. A proper update on matters for action will be reported in due course.



SR 509/01/25 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

509.1 Speed Indication Device, Houghton

A report was circulated alongside the agenda and noted. In addition, Cllr Savory pointed out some disparity in vehicle numbers for the two directions (pro rata), with South to North approximately 415 000 vehicles per year, although North to South remains at 650 000 annually. Overall, there are over 1 million per year on Houghton Road. He also reported that the average speeds in both directions are below the speed limit and lower than before the speed device was installed. Cllr Savory also noted that average speeds are higher at the weekends than on weekdays and are higher North to South.

509.2 Speedwatch Update, Houghton

Cllr Savory reported that the Speedwatch team planned 5 one-hour observation sessions in December and carried out 2. Three had to be cancelled due to illness and bad weather. In the two sessions, 27 speeding vehicles were detected. Details were passed to Cumbria Constabulary for verification and subsequent letter despatch.

509.3 Houghton Grass Verges

Concerns regarding the damaged grass verges in Houghton had been received. Cllrs noted the poor weather and the potential for vehicle damage.

Resolved to liaise with Highways to find a potential solution.

509.4 Parking, Houghton Road North

An email had been received regarding concerns over vehicles parking on Houghton Road North to access the newly opened café.

Resolved to refer the issue to Highways for their consideration.

509.5 Claimed Footpath At Millcroft Parish Of Stanwix Rural Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order (No 5) 2024

Resolved to note the completion of the above, to take effect 17 January 2025. It was also noted that the Parish Council's application to modify the Definitive Map had been submitted in August 2020.

509.6 Cumberland Council (Footpath No 132015 Parish Of Stanwix Rural) Public Path Diversion And Definitive Map And Statement Modification Order 2024

Resolved to note the above diversion of the public footpath at Houghton House, Houghton.

SR 510/01/25 FINANCE MATTERS

510.1 Payments

Resolved to authorise the payment of invoices below:

Sarah Kyle	January Salary	£ 1,352.81
HMRC	PAYE January	£ 176.25
NEST	Pension January	£ 99.70
A Kyle	January Salary	£ 249.00
Unity Bank	Monthly charge	£ 6.00
Houghton Village Hall	Rental	£ 16.00
Information Commissioner	Data Protection	£ 35.00
Steve Splinter	Installation Fees	£ 140.00



Crosby Magazine	Publication Fees	£ 150.00
Susan's Farm	Grant	£ 400.00
Houghton Village Hall	Grant	£ 800.00
Play Inspection Company	Annual Inspection	£ 275.88

510.2 Bank Reconciliation

Resolved to note the bank reconciliation on 31st December 2024:

Balance at 01.04.2024	£54,817.42
Receipts to 31.12.24	£51,591.69
Expenditure to 31.12.24	£39,841.92
Cash book balance 31.12.24	£66,567.19


SR 511/01/25 COUNCILLOR MATTERS

Cllr A Bell reported damage to the front lawn of a resident in Linstock by contractors working in the area. The matter of the road width will be further considered, and the resident advised to contact the company directly to pursue reinstatement works.

SR 512/01/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on Wednesday 12th February at 7.30pm in Houghton Village Hall. Agenda items must be submitted by 3 February 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8:20 pm



12/2/2025