

HOLME ABBEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10 February 2026 at 7.00pm in Abbeytown Community Sports Pavilion

Councillors present: Mrs Z Horsley (Vice Chairwoman), Mr R Bowness, Mrs F McIntyre & P Robinson

In attendance: Cumberland Councillor Mr A Markley (to 7.32pm), 3 members of the public & Ms J Cornah Wade (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs A McIntyre (Chairwoman) & Mrs A Beverley

1. **Apologies for absence** - to receive apologies
Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs A McIntyre & Mrs A Beverley
2. **Requests for Dispensations, Declarations of interest, gifts and hospitality** – to receive any requests for Dispensations, Declarations of Interest from Councillors relating to items on the Agenda, in accordance with the Council’s code of conduct
Nothing was declared.
3. **Public participation with regard to items on the agenda**
3 members of the public attended the meeting and raised the following concerns:
 - a. Concern was raised regarding a drain within the Barley Meadows development which overflows during heavy rain into an adjacent garden, including wastewater. The Council asked the Clerk to contact the developer, Gleeson Homes, to request that the issue is addressed
 - b. Concerns were raised about the lack of street lighting provision in Abbots Close on the footpath leading to Friars Garth, and also at The Glebe.
 - c. A further concern was reported regarding an increase in dog fouling across the community, with a possible link to poor lighting enabling dog walkers to go unrecognised. The Council considered items **b** and **c** together and asked the Clerk to contact the developer of both estates, Home Group, to request that the lighting concerns are addressed and to highlight the possible connection to the increase in dog fouling. The Council also reiterated that members of the public can report dog fouling directly to Cumberland Council.
4. **Report from the Cumberland Councillor** – for information only
The Cumberland Councillor provided the following update:
Cumberland as a “Place of Sanctuary”.
Cumberland Council had previously agreed to join the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network, with the wider aims of promoting safety, welcome and support for people seeking sanctuary.
Pothole Repairs
It was reported that Cumberland Council had carried out 8,473 pothole repairs, with an indicative cost of approximately £75 per repair. The nationally reported average cost of repairing a pothole is around £155.
Bus Service
It was hoped that the Sunday bus service requested by Cllr Markley would resume
Budget
Grant funding is expected to remain static, although it was hoped that the Community Panels would continue to provide grants in 2026/27. Council Tax will increase by 5%.
Devolution Update
The Devolution Priority Programme is progressing, with a Mayor expected to be in place for 2027.

Merger of Local Police Forces

An update was provided on the possibility of Government proposals to merge local police forces into larger regional entities. It was noted that Cumbria covers a large rural area with a relatively small and dispersed population, and that this context formed part of the discussion around the proposed merger.

At the Vice-Chairwoman’s discretion, as per Standing Orders 1.a, agenda item 15 (Commemorative Plaque for Agricultural Machinery Display) was considered prior to agenda item 5 (Minutes) to enable CC Cllr Markley to participate in the discussion.

5. Minutes – to confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 2 December

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Vice-Chairwoman

6. Update on progress from the Minutes – the Clerk/Chairwoman to report on progress of outstanding items which do not require further decision

a. RAISE/Cumbria Community Forest

The deadline to submit the final proposal for Abbeytown together with relevant permissions is 1 June 2026.

7. Finance

a. Bank Reconciliation

i. The Council **RESOLVED** to receive and note the monthly reconciliation and balances to 30 November, 31 December and 31 January:

	30 November	31 December	31 January
Unity Trust Bank			
Instant Access account	£26,766.83	£26,949.27	£27,078.05
Current account	£4,134.66	£1,485.41	£1,038.85
Petty Cash	£121.00	£121.00	£121.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>£31,022.49</u>	<u>£28,555.68</u>	<u>£28,237.90</u>

ii. Bank Statements – to acknowledge scrutiny and acceptance of the previously circulated bank statements

The Council received the bank statements.

b. Invoices for Payment – to consider and approve invoices totalling £733.93 for payment itemised on the payment schedule and confirm payments already made totalling £224.70

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments totalling £733.93:

Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	Net payment	Payment inc VAT
357 SO	01.03.26	February Salary	Clerk	249.65	249.65
358 SO	01.03.26	February wfh	Clerk	26.00	26.00
361 BP	11.02.26	Expenses: postage	Clerk	0.87	0.87
362 BP	11.02.26	Office supplies: ink & USBs	Viking	151.46	181.76
2026/27					
359 SO	01.04.26	March Salary	Clerk	249.65	249.65
360 SO	01.04.26	March wfh	Clerk	26.00	26.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree to confirm the following payments totalling £224.70 already made by the Clerk in consultation with the Chair of the Council in accordance with Financial Regulations 5.15 (ii) and by the Clerk 6.9 (i):

Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	Net payment	Payment inc VAT
336	28.11.25	Internal transfer	Deposit	-2000.00	-2000.00
337	28.11.25	Internal transfer	Current	2000.00	2000.00
338	27.11.25	Internal transfer	Deposit	-2000.00	-2000.00
339	27.11.25	Internal transfer	Current	2000.00	2000.00
340	28.11.25	Salary correction	Clerk	-12.45	-12.45
341	19.11.25	Office supplies reimbursement	Cummersdale Parish Council	48.65	48.65
344 BP	12.12.25	Trade waste: sports pavilion bin	Cumberland Council	30.00	30.00
345 BP	12.12.25	Annual fire inspection	Beacon Fire	39.46	47.35
346 BP	12.12.25	Defibrillator pad	Clerk/Defib 4 Life	105.00	126.00
349	24.12.25	Salary correction	Clerk	-12.45	-12.45
356 BP	21.01.26	Trade waste: sports pavilion bin July - September	Cumberland Council	70.0	70.00

Standing Orders and Direct Debits

Voucher	Date cleared	Description	Supplier	Net payment	Payment inc VAT
343 DD	08.12.25	Water: 16.08.25-15.11.25	Waterplus	94.00	94.00
347 DD	15.12.25	Electricity: 04.11.25 - 30.11.25	Smartest	102.53	107.66
348 DD	16.12.25	Electricity: 28.10.25 - 04.11.25 FINAL	EON Next	207.97	249.57
351 DR	31.12.25	Manual credit handling fee	Unity Trust	0.60	0.60
352 DD	31.12.25	Monthly fee November	Unity Trust	6.00	6.00
353 DD	31.01.26	Monthly fee December	Unity Trust	6.00	6.00
354 DD	19.01.26	Electricity: 01.12.25 – 31.12.25	Smartest	90.39	94.91
TOTAL				507.49	558.74

- c. **Receipts** – to acknowledge and receive the following receipts totalling £299.37

The Council received the following receipts totalling £299.37

Voucher	Date	Ref.	Description	Supplier / customer	Total
342	15.12.25	Cash	Allotment Rent	Plots 19 & 21	10.00
350	31.12.25	Credit	Quarterly interest	Unity Trust	160.59
355	27.01.26	Credit	VAT reclaim Q3	HMRC	128.78

- d. **Section 137 Expenditure Limit**

The Council noted that the Section 137 expenditure limit for 2026/27 has increased to £11.60 per elector, rising from £11.10 in 2025/26.

e. Banking Provider

The Council noted the increase in Unity Trust Bank fees effective from 1 February 2026, as set out below. Councillors considered the option of moving to an alternative provider but **RESOLVED** to continue banking with Unity Trust Bank

	Current Price	New price
Monthly Account fee	£6.00 per month	£7.00 per month
Cash deposits (per £100* and NatWest)	60p (Post Office) 50p (NatWest)	70p (Post Office)
Cheque deposits	30p each	40p each

8. Governance

a. Councillor vacancy

The Council noted the casual vacancy arising on the Council. Councillors considered the process and timetable for co-option and agreed that the Clerk would advertise the vacancy, with a deadline of 3 April for applications, to be considered at the meeting on 14 April 2026

9. Cumbria in Bloom (CiB) 2026 – to consider entries for the proposed categories and preparations for the 2026 competition.

The Council noted that entries had not yet opened. It was **RESOLVED** to enter Abbeytown for the County Flower Award. Preparations for the 2026 competition will be considered at future meetings.

10. Planning

a. Planning Applications - to consider all recent applications received from Cumberland Council detailed below and any other planning applications submitted between the circulation of this agenda and the meeting

- i. 2/25/9001** at land adjacent to Goodyhills, Mawbray CA15 6QX for ‘new sand quarry with access improvements to the C2019 and B5301 road.’

The Council considered the application and **RESOLVED** that there were no comments or objections to the proposal.

b. To note responses made between meetings using the Scheme of Delegation

- i. FUL/2025/0203** at West Border Farm, Wigton, CA7 4PT for ‘retrospective application for the reconstruction of three barns for use as Holiday Accommodation.’

The Council noted that there was no comment or objection to the proposal.

c. To note notices of decision – to note any notices of decision received.

- i. FUL/2025/0082** at The Forge, Abbeytown, Wigton CA7 4SE ‘for conversion of joiners workshop into dwelling.’

Planning permission granted - 29 January

11. HM Land Registry – Notice of Application for Adverse Possession (Title CU346610)

The Council noted receipt of a Notice of Application for Adverse Possession relating to Title CU346610. It was further noted that no objection was submitted by the deadline of 22 December 2025.

8.02pm 1 member of the public left

12. Events & Communications Working Group

Cllr F McIntyre provided an update on planning for the Easter Egg Hunt, which will be delivered jointly with the Eco Church. The event is scheduled for Saturday 4 April at 2.00pm and will include

refreshments. Councillors noted that the budget of £200.00, authorised at the previous meeting, will cover the cost of Easter eggs, catering and craft materials. The event risk assessment was reviewed and approved.

Cllr F McIntyre also advised that a community litter pick is planned for Saturday 28 February, starting at 2.00pm at the Church and concluding there with pizzas.

13. Allotment

a. Rent 2026/27 – Setting of Annual Charges

The Council considered the allotment rent for 2026/27, noting that tenants had been advised last year that an increase was likely and that annual tenancy agreements are due to be issued on 1 April. The Council **RESOLVED** that the allotment rent for 2026/27 be set at £10.00 per plot. The Clerk will issue the annual tenancy agreements ahead of the new tenancy period commencing on 1 April 2026

b. Plot Maintenance Review

The Council reviewed the condition of the allotment plots and noted that several had not been maintained during the current tenancy period, contrary to the requirements of the tenancy agreement. The Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk issue end-of-tenancy notices to the relevant plot holders, without the option to renew for 2026/27.

c. Replacement Fence & Gates

The Council considered the quotation of £1,920.00 (inc. VAT) from W. Paisley Fencing for the removal of the existing fence and the installation of new fencing and gates. Councillors noted that, despite efforts by Cllr A McIntyre to obtain additional quotations, only one had been received. The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from W. Paisley Fencing and authorised Cllr A McIntyre to instruct the contractor to proceed with the work.

14. Defibrillator Provision – Approval of Grant Application

The Council considered a proposal to install a third community defibrillator in the High Laws area in response to identified response-time limitations, and to determine whether to approve the submission of a grant application to support the project. The Council **RESOLVED** to defer consideration until the next meeting.

15. Commemorative Plaque for Agricultural Machinery Display

Councillors considered options for the design and wording of a commemorative plaque to accompany the agricultural machinery display. It was agreed that the Clerk draft an inscription recognising the donation of the machinery by the Markley family, noting that the equipment was manufactured by Thomas Reay Ltd of Abbeytown. Councillors noted that the longer-term intention is for the display to form part of a proposed 'Heritage Walk' for Abbeytown.

The Council further agreed that the Clerk obtain quotations for a post-mounted bronze plaque to be installed adjacent to the display.

Both the draft inscription and the quotations will be presented for consideration and approval at the next meeting.

16. Section 106 Funds – Consideration of Remaining Allocation

The Council noted the requirement to consider options for the use of the remaining £4,074.99 of Section 106 funds and to identify potential community improvements or upgrades that meet the terms of the agreement. The Council **RESOLVED** to defer the item until the next meeting.

17. **Correspondence** – to note correspondence received not otherwise on the agenda where decisions are not required
Nothing additional had been received
18. **Items for information or next Agenda only** – all items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Friday 3 April.
19. **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 14 April at 7.00pm in the Community Sports Pavilion

Meeting closed 8.45pm

X

Signed

Date: 14.04.26