Holme Low Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall

Present: Cllr. J. Graham (JG)

Councillors

Cllrs. M. Cornforth (MC), C. Edmunds (CE), D. Findlay (DF) & M. Orchard (MO).
Also present: Wendy Jameson – Parish Clerk (WEJ) & 2 members of the public.

1.	**Apologies:** Cllr. K. Orchard.	
2.	**Declaration of Interest** None.	
3.	**Exclusion of Press and Public** The Press and Public are to be excluded from item 18 on the agenda.	
4.	**Minutes** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 8 October 2024 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
5.	**Matters Arising** Sign at the end of West Causewayhead lane has been removed – Email to be sent to Cumberland Highways to enquire about it.	**WEJ**
6.	**Public Participation** A local resident attended the Parish Council meeting to ask why the residents of the Lido Village at Barracks Bridge only have one refuse bin and are not provided with bins for paper, recycling and garden waste. Everything is put into one bin, or residents must use the recycling centre in Silloth, and yet residents at Meadow View Park and Barracks Bridge have four bins per household. Also, Orchard House has a full quota of bins and yet the neighbouring property at New Orchard Holme was given two general waste bins with no recycling/cardboard/green waste bins. Letter to be sent to Cumberland Council to obtain an explanation.	**WEJ**
7.	**Financial Report** The Clerk provided an up-to-date financial report which showed a balance of £30,304.24 in the Current Account and £284.74 in the Deposit Account on 14 January 2025. Grants have been received for the cemetery building: - £10k Robin Rigg Community Fund, £1k Cumberland Council and £1k Silloth Community Shop. Also awaiting the outcome for applications submitted to Hellrigg Community Fund and Lottery Awards for All.	
8.	**Requests for financial assistance** A request was received from the Great North Air Ambulance, and it was agreed that a donation of £100 be provided.	
9.	**Payment of Accounts** Cheque payments to 14 January 2025 were approved for payment by the Parish Council.	
10.	**Budget 2025/26** The Clerk produced some draft figures based on previous year's accounts and the current year's spending. It was agreed to raise a precept of £7,500 for 2025/26 which would provide funding of £4,500 towards the Cemetery building project. This will result in a charge of approx. £53.73 on a band D property which is a slight reduction on last year's figure due to a change in the Council Tax base figure. Budget request of £7,500 for 2025/26 to be submitted to Cumberland Council. It was questioned how many houses there are in Holme Low Parish. Information to be obtained.	**WEJ**

11.	**Correspondence** a) CALC – Training Bulletin. b) Cumberland Council - autumn Environment and Climate Newsletter. c) Connecting Cumbria Newsletter – October 2024. d) CALC - Training Bulletin e) ACT Newsletter – November 2024. f) Cumberland Council – Help this winter leaflet. g) Connecting Cumbria Newsletter – November 2024. h) Cumbria Local Nature Partnership News. i) CALC News – September & October 2024. j) Cumberland Council - December Environment and Climate Newsletter. k) Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2024. l) Connecting Cumbria Newsletter – December 2024. m) Cumberland Library News. n) Tidelines – Newsletter for the Solway Firth Partnership – Winter 2024. o) CALC - Membership Survey and CALC Training survey. The aim of these surveys is to ensure that the support / training they offer meets the changing challenges that parish and town councils face. p) CALC AGM 12 October – Agenda and supporting paperwork. q) Cumberland Council – Planned Road closure – B5300 Blitterlees, Silloth to commence 21st October for a period of 5 days. r) Cumberland Highways – Enq. ref: EI/220985 Re: Overhanging hedges are obstructing the highway – Safety Inspection team have raised a report, and any appropriate action will be completed in due course. s) Cumberland Highways – Enq. ref: EI/220986 Re: Road surface around the corner at The Windmill, Causewayhead is deteriorating and breaking up. Safety Inspection team have raised a report, and any appropriate action will be completed in due course. t) Cumberland Highways – Enq. Ref: EI/220988 Re: Scaffolding at the Windmill, Causewayhead which encroaches on to the highway. Report has been closed. u) Cumberland Highways – Enq. Ref: EI/220989 Re: Stones/Cobbles put along the roadside at The Windmill, Causewayhead encroach on to the highway – Team inspected the location, and the stones are not encroaching onto the public highway, therefore no action is required. v) Cumberland Council – Longwood Garden Centre - COM/2023/0081 Alleged unauthorised development. Matter was investigated and there was no evidence of any breach of planning control, no evidence that the property is being used as a residential dwelling or change of use to retail. w) Fells and Solway Community Panel are holding a network event around their priority of highways, transport and environment on Thursday 14th November in Kirkbampton Village Hall, CA5 6HX from 12 noon to 2.30 pm. x) CALC – Information from NALC regarding the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024/25 y) NALC – Legal Bulletin – 4 November 2024. z) NALC - Update from NALC regarding the Employers NI following announcements in the Autumn budget. aa) Fells & Solway Community Panel Meeting – Next meeting will take place on 9 December 2024 at Caldbeck. bb) Cumberland Council - Have your say on the council's 2025/26 budget. cc) Cumberland Council - Have your say on proposed changes to waste services, our budget and more. dd) Local Government Boundary Review – Consultation on ward boundaries for Cumberland Council has begun. Consultation will close on 24 February 2025.	

	ee) Cumberland Council – Shaping the future of bus services in Cumberland survey. Comments to be submitted by 31 January 2025. All Aboard: Cumberland Council's new bus timetables hit the road—share your thoughts for the ride ahead! | Cumberland Council	
12.	**Planning Applications** None.	
13.	**Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies** **Sea Dyke Charity** – No meeting but there will be one coming up soon. **Hellrigg Community Fund** – There is a meeting on Thursday 16 January. **Longcake Educational Foundation** – There is a meeting in February. Cllr. Cornforth put them in touch with the Scouts group in Silloth regarding funding.	
14.	**Cumberland Council Report** No report.	
15.	**Reports from Councillors** Sign at West Causewayhead Lane – Cumberland Highways to be contacted. Speed sign near the cemetery – It was suggested that the solar panel be removed. Speed monitor strips – It was requested that speed monitoring strips be put along West Causewayhead Lane and along stretch of road to Barracks Bridge to record the speed of vehicles. Request that Police also do more checks. A copy of the last data received to be circulated to members of the Council. Barracks Bridge to Silloth – Gutters along the side of the road need swept out as they are full of debris which is stopping the water from getting into the gullies. The grids are full and when it rains the water is not getting into the culverts. Cumberland Highways to be notified.	**WEJ** **WEJ** **WEJ**
16.	**Chairman's Announcement** The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for all the work done by the Clerk. It was good to see members of the public at the meeting. The Chairman asked if it was known how long he had been Chairman of the Parish Council. After checking the Council's cash book, which was signed by the Chairman every year, it would appear Cllr. Graham has been Chairman since May 1989 i.e. 36 years.	
17.	**Date of next Parish Council meeting** Tuesday 8 April 2025 at 7.30pm in Silloth Community Hall.	
18.	**2024/25 National Salary Award** The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed the new pay scales for 2024/25 which are to be implemented from 1 April 2024. The Parish Council agreed to increase the Parish Clerk's hourly rate by £1.00 per hour, to be backdated to 1 April 2024, to reflect the extra work involved in obtaining funding for the Causewayhead cemetery building.	

Signed……..... Date.....