Holme Low Parish Council

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

Present: Cllr. D. Findlay (DF)

Councillors

Cllrs. C. Edmunds (CE), J. Graham (JG), M. Orchard (MO), K. Orchard (KO) & R. Stephenson (RS).
Also present: Wendy Jameson – Parish Clerk (WEJ).

1.	**Apologies:** None	
2.	**Co-option** Ryan Stephenson was co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council.	
3.	**Declaration of Interest** None.	
4.	**Exclusion of Press and Public** There were no press or public present at the meeting.	
5.	**Minutes** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 8 July 2025 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Deputy Chairman.	
6.	**Matters Arising** None.	
7.	**Public Participation** There were no requests from any members of the public to speak at the meeting.	
8.	**Financial Report** The Clerk provided an up-to-date financial report which showed a balance of £27,527.94 in the Current Account and £295.96 in the Deposit Account on 14 October 2025.	
9.	**Requests for financial assistance** **RESOLVED** that a donation of £50 be provided to Citizen's Advice Allerdale.	
10.	**Payment of Accounts** Cheque payments to 14 October 2025 were approved for payment by the Parish Council.	
11.	**Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2025** On the basis of the review by the External Auditor, the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practise and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. Under other matters not affecting their opinion, they pointed out that the council's general reserves are higher than the generally accepted level for general reserves for smaller authorities, after adjusting for the Causewayhead Cemetery Building renovation. Also, the Annual Internal Audit Report was signed after Section 1 Governance Statement 2024/25 was approved. Noted by the Parish Council.	
12.	**Correspondence** a) CALC – Training Bulletin. b) Cumberland Council – Town & Parish Councils' Update 8 July – Request for Government to defer Cumbria Mayoral Election. c) CALC News – May & June 2025. d) Cumberland Council – Latest news – 4 August. e) Cumberland Council – Town & Parish Councils' Update 18 July – Devolution Update.	

f) Connecting Cumbria Newsletter July 2025.
g) Cumberland Council – Climate and Environment Newsletter – August 2025.
h) Connecting Cumbria Newsletter August 2025.
i) Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy Newsletter - Summer.
j) CALC – Training Bulletin – 27/08/2025.
k) CALC Updates – Schedule of upcoming training sessions and events for September and October 2025, including the CALC AGM and training on GDPR, social media, and the Code of Conduct – 03/09/2025.
l) ACT Update September 2025
m) CALC Updates - Training programme and AGM details – 10/09/2025.
n) CALC Updates - Training programme and AGM invitation – 17/09/2025.
o) Connecting Cumbria Newsletter – Special FAQ Edition.
p) CALC Updates – Training programme, AGM & more – 24/09/2025.
q) CALC Updates – Training programme, AGM & more – 01/10/2025.
r) Cumberland Libraries News – Autumn 2025.
s) Cumberland Council – Call for Sites (Local Plan) – key stage in the development of the new Local Plan as it will help to understand where land is actively available that could help meet the need for future development, and also opportunities and locations to protect sites that have local value. Process runs until 4 January 2026. Cumberland Council have three separate planning policies. The price of houses is too high for the younger generation to get onto the property ladder. The boundary needs to be extended to enable more affordable houses to be built.
t) Cumberland Council – Councillor Conduct: Respect, Social Media and Refresher Training.
u) NALC – Legal Bulletin – 20 August 2025.
v) CALC - Carbon Literacy Action Day (CLAD) 2025 is approaching and encourages councils to register their interest for the training day.
w) CALC - An Invitation to a special presentation by Alex Scott, Cumbria's Lord Lieutenant, on Thursday, September 8, 2025, to introduce the new Lieutenancy Strategy.
x) CALC - An important update drawing attention to New Assertion 10 in the 2025 Practitioners' Guide, which introduces a new council-owned requirement for the Annual Governance and Accountability Returns (AGAR). It highlights that the assertion focuses on digital and data protection responsibilities, including email management, website compliance, and personal data/GDPR.
y) Cumberland Council - Update on the first round of public consultation for the Cumberland Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation, which is seeking initial information on future policies and strategies.
z) CALC - Invitation to a virtual event regarding the idea of a permanent Citizens Assembly for Cumbria: learning from European experiences on September 10, 2025.
aa) CALC - NWS Wintering Bird Surveys being carried out along the West Cumbria coastline as part of the Geological Disposal Facility programme.
bb) CALC - Invitation to CALC's 2025 Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 4th October, with guest speakers, David Allen and Peter Allison.
cc) Details of the next Fells & Solway Community Panel meeting on 22 September 2025 at Allonby Village Hall.
dd) CALC - Information about a new online system for reporting environmental issues such as dog fouling, fly tipping, and littering to council teams.
ee) Citizens Advice Allerdale – Request for support to raise awareness of the issues they deal with by displaying a poster and including a short article.
ff) CALC - Slides from the Local Plan Briefing. A recording of the session will be made available on the CALC website.
gg) CALC – Information about the new Highways reporting system.
hh) Cumberland Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation asking if the council can help publicise the remaining roadshow events through social media or newsletters.
ii) Solway Coast National Landscape Parish Council open evening 21/23 October 2025.

	jj) Cumberland Council - Waste and recycling update detailing changes to kerbside collections in the former Allerdale and Copeland areas and announcing the expansion of the kerbside service. kk) NALC - Webinar on the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also commonly known as Martyn's Law – 21 October 1200-1315 hrs. ll) CALC EV Charging Infrastructure Event – Monday 20 October 2025 at 7pm via Teams. mm) CALC – An update on the Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Pledge to improve public confidence, requesting two representatives from each council attend twice-yearly virtual meetings with their local-based officers. Cllrs. C. Edmunds & K. Orchard to continue as the Parish Council's representatives. Confirmation to be sent to CALC. nn) Messages from a local resident regarding the provision of recycling bins in the parish. Parish Clerk to contact Cumberland Council to seek clarification and copy Cllr. Markley into the email.	**WEJ** **WEJ**
13.	**Planning Applications** None.	
14.	**Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies** **Sea Dyke Charity** – Next meeting is on 10 November. **Hellrigg Community Fund** – No meeting. **Longcake Educational Foundation** – No report. Email to be sent to ask if they require another representative from the Parish Council.	
15.	**Cumberland Council Report** No report and Cllr. Markley sent his apologies.	
16.	**Reports from Councillors** From 6am to 6.30am there are 12-18 vehicles travelling on the B5302 through Causewayhead at speed. Request to be sent to the Police to take action. Speed of vehicles along West Causewayhead Lane is also dangerous. It has a 60mph speed limit which is not suitable for the nature of the road. Pothole developing to the right of the entrance to West Silloth Motors which needs reporting. Cllr. M. Orchard to provide a photo of the pothole, so that it can be reported. Verge to the left of West Silloth Motors is sloping down towards the beck and has dropped by 18 inches. Probably cheaper to change the speed limit of the road that carry out ongoing repairs.	**WEJ** **WEJ** **MO** **WEJ**
17.	**Chairman's Announcement** The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.	
18.	**Date of next meeting** Parish Council meeting - Tuesday 13 January 2026 at 7.30pm in Silloth Community Hall.	
	RESOLVED *that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they were instructed to withdraw.*	
19.	**NJC Pay Agreement** The agreement reached by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 which equates to 3.2% per annum was noted and agreed by the Parish Council.	

Signed…….....…….. Date.....……