

CUMMERSDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7 April 2025 at 7.00pm in Cummersdale Village Hall

Councillors present: Mr Keith McIntosh (Chairman), Mr Bryan Craig (Vice Chairman), Mr Trevor Allison (Part), Mr Tom Brown, Mrs Diane Chicken, Mr David Harrison, Mr Warren Kerr and Mr David Lowe

In attendance: 1 member of the public and Ms J Cornah Wade (Clerk)

Apologies: Mr Keith Nesworthy

1. To receive apologies for absence

The Council received Councillor Keith Nesworthy's apologies

2. Requests for Dispensations, Declarations of interest, gifts and hospitality

Nothing was declared

3. To facilitate public participation with regard to items on the agenda

1 member of the public was in attendance and addressed the Council regarding Cumbria in Bloom (14)

From the bottom of the Crescent to the Common there are overgrown trees, encroaching undergrowth and a fallen fence. Cumbria in Bloom stated that the fence should be removed last year. A further tree which fell during a storm was mostly dealt with by residents, but a large trunk and smaller sticks remain which are hindering the grass contractor. The road into Cummersdale Village is also unsightly.

The Council observed that any resultant chippings could be redistributed to the Copse and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Brown enquire if the grass contractor could attend to the concerns raised and to keep the member of the public informed of progress.

7.10 pm 1 member of the public left the meeting

4. Exclusion of Press & Public

None

5. Report from the Cumberland Councillor

a. Wigton Road – update on progress obtaining a replacement waste bin from Cumberland Council

Cllr Harrison reported that the existing dog waste bin appears to be attended to by Cumberland Council and is being emptied on a weekly basis.

b. Cummersdale Parish Boundary Review – to consider the previously circulated report
Councillor Allison presented a paper regarding the future status of Cummersdale Parish recommending that it retains its status as a rural parish. The Council **RESOLVED** to

support the retention of its rural parish status. Further discussion will be required following the outcome of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England review which is due to be completed in February 2026. The Council also noted that a discussion is due to take place with Mr Neil Cole (Head of Planning Policy, Cumberland Council) and lead officer for St Cuthbert’s Garden Village regarding the potential for integrating Cummersdale within the Garden Village plans.

7.22pm Cllr Allison left the meeting

7.23pm Cllr Lowe left the meeting

- 6. Minutes** – to confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 March previously circulated.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the Minutes from the meeting on 3 March be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

7. Finance

a. Bank Reconciliation

- i. The Council **RESOLVED** to receive and note the monthly reconciliations and balances to 31 March previously circulated:

Unity Trust Bank	
Instant Access account	£24,565.11
Current account	£439.88
<u>Total</u>	<u>£25,004.99</u>

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

The bank statements for March 2025 were reviewed and accepted

- b. Invoices for Payment** – to consider and approve invoices for payment itemised on the Payment Schedule

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the following payments totalling £255.98:

Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	Net payment	Payment inc VAT
231 DD	31.03.25	Monthly bank fee	Unity Trust	6.00	6.00
232	08.04.25	Expenses: postage	Clerk	8.50	8.50
233 SO	02.06.25	May Salary	Clerk	224.88	224.88
234 SO	02.06.25	May Expenses: work from home allowance	Clerk	14.00	14.00
235	24.03.25	January Employee Tax	HMRC	1.40	1.40
236	24.03.25	April Employee Tax	HMRC	1.20	1.20
TOTAL				255.98	255.98

- c. Receipts** – to acknowledge and receive the following receipt totalling £168.33

The Council received the following receipts totalling £168.33:

Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	Total
237	31.03.25	Quarterly Interest	Unity Trust	168.33

8. Planning

- a. Planning applications** – to consider all recent applications received from Cumberland Council (CC) detailed below and any other planning applications submitted and published on the CC planning portal (Cumberland.gov.uk) between the circulation of the agenda and the meeting:

No applications had been received

b. To note notices of decision

No notices of decision had been received

7.37pm Cllr Lowe returned to the meeting

- 9. St Cuthberts Garden Village** – to consider a response to the previously circulated Consultation Response Form
<https://www.stcuthbertsgv.co.uk/LOCAL-PLAN>

The Council considered the restrictions of the response form and **RESOLVED** that should the Councillors have any further representations to make that they submit them to the Clerk before the end of April for submission before the 6 May deadline.

- 10. Cumberland Council Housing Strategy Formal Stakeholder Consultation** – to consider submitting a response to the previously circulated survey, deadline 29 April

CC is developing its first Housing Strategy to tackle local housing issues with a plan to improve, expand, and transform the housing supply. The consultation is open to local residents, partners, and stakeholders and the final strategy is scheduled for presentation to the Council Executive in July 2025.

The Council **RESOLVED** that Cllr Brown submit a response on behalf of the Council.

- 11. Allotment** – Cllr Chicken and the Clerk to provide an update on progress collecting the 2025/26 rents and signed tenancy agreements

Of the 10 out of 11 tenanted plots 2 have returned signed tenancy agreements and 3 have paid their annual rent. The Council **RESOLVED** that Cllr Chicken send a reminder to all those with outstanding agreements and rents via WhatsApp and update on progress at the next meeting.

- 12. Community Governance Review (CGR): Cummersdale Parish boundary**

The Council noted that the Monitoring Officer for CC would not undertake a CGR until the Local Government Boundary Commission for England review is completed, February 2026.

- 13. Clerk salary** – to consider the Clerk’s request for a salary scale review

Following an appraisal undertaken by the Chairman the Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk's pay be backdated for 2024/25 to reflect an increase from salary to point (SCP) 11 to 12. The Council also **RESOLVED** that from 1 May 2025 the Clerk should progress to SCP 14.

14. Cumbria in Bloom

- a. Pride in Your Community 2025 competition** – to consider an entry for Cummersdale
The Council **RESOLVED** to enter the Cumbria County Flower Emblem award not Pride in Your Community as stated on the agenda. Cost for the entry £25.00 which included a free tree. Cllr Chicken chose an Elder which will be planted in the Copse
- b. Cumbria in Bloom 2025** – Cllr Chicken to confirm submission of two entries on behalf of the Copse and The Crescent
Cllr Chicken confirmed submission of an entry on behalf of the Copse and The Crescent will be included in the Flower Emblem award

- 15. Correspondence** – to note correspondence received not otherwise on the agenda where decisions are not required
The Council **RESOLVED** to note the correspondence

- 16. Items for information or next Agenda only** – all items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Friday 25 April

- a.** Cllr Chicken to present options and prices for a replacement allotment shed

- 17. Date of next meeting** – Annual Parish Meeting with Electors Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 7.00pm followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (not before 7.00pm) in Cummersdale Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

X

Cllr K McIntosh
Chairman

Date: 06.05.25