

Stainton Parish Council

Clerk: Christine Davidson clerk@stainton-pc.gov.uk
www.stainton-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting on Monday 18th May 2026 at Stainton Institute

Present: Councillors Geoff Wilson, Hilary Waterhouse, Ryan Whipp

Clerk: Christine Davidson, Malcolm Richardson

Doug Rathbone - District Council

3 Members of the Public

To be presented for acceptance at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 20th July 2026

38.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

39.26 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR 2026/27

Resolved: In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, the Council elected Cllr Wilson as Chair for the Annual Meeting only.

As no councillor wished to serve as Chair for the full municipal year, the Council further resolved that the chairing of ordinary meetings will be undertaken on a rotating basis, with a Chair elected at the start of each meeting pursuant to Schedule 12, paragraph 7(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, which permits the council to elect a Chair "at any meeting" if the office is vacant.

40.26 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR 2026/27

Resolved: The Council agreed not to appoint a Vice-Chair, noting that this is not a statutory requirement.

41.26 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23RD MARCH 2026

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2026 were a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

42.26 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None

43.26 APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK

Resolved: Following satisfactory responses to councillors' questions regarding the terms and conditions of employment, the Council approved the appointment of the new Clerk.

The employment contract was duly signed by both parties.

44.26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Former councillors expressed concerns about how their resignations and related matters had been recorded at an earlier meeting. The Council noted the comments but made no further discussion, as Public Participation is not part of the formal meeting.

45.26 REPORTS

a) Police reports previously circulated.

b) Cllr Rathbone updated the councillors on various District matters including the restructure, waste services.

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46.26 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- a) the road from Canal bridge 172 at Stainton through to the Westmorland Agricultural Society HQ is in dire need of repair and resurfacing due to the many deep potholes and poor road surface.
- b) No further update on the Ford issues – new Clerk to look at previous correspondence
- c) No updates.
- d) CRT have done some severe tow path edge cutting down to the water margin resulting in destruction of habitat for wildlife and nesting water fowl. This is very disappointing and local people have raised their concerns. Clerk to contact the Canal and Rivers Trust.

47.26 TREES AND WOODS

- a) No update
- b) Clerk to contact potential purchaser and proceed with the sale of the land as agreed.

48.26 PLANNING

- a) Applications since last meeting: 2026/0255/HOU Barn Cottage, Stainton – following discussions it was agreed that comments would be made on this application regarding size.
- b) None
- c) None

49.26 LITTER PICK

Litter pick carried out on 28th March 2026 was a great success and will be repeated next year.

50.26 FINANCE

- a) Note receipt of Precept from W & F Council £6,805.00
- b) No other receipts
- c) Approve schedule of payments for May 2026

M Richardson, Salary Feb-April and expenses	£1106.99
HMRC	£212.20
CALC Annual Subscription 2026/27	£180.95
J Airey – Internal Audit	£93.00
Zurich Insurance	£386.78
Stainton Institute – Hire of Hall	£20.00

- d) None
- e) Councillors reviewed the sums insured under the insurance policy for 2026/27
- f) Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2026 were approved

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- g) Internal Audit report for the year ended 31st March 2026 was reviewed and accepted
- h) Certificate of Exemption from Limited Assurance Review was completed
- i) Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 (Section 1) was approved and Signed
- j) Accounting Statements 2025/26 (Section 2) was approved and signed
- k) Dates were confirmed for the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights (3rd June to 14th July)
- l) Bank reconciliation for the period ended 30th April 2026 was noted and counter signed by Chair.

51.26 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following policies were reviewed and approved:

Standing Orders
Financial Regulations
Complaints Procedure
Press/Media Policy
Code of Conduct
Procedure for handling requests under Freedom of Information Act 2000

52.26 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Not required

53.26 CONSULTATION & FUNDING REQUESTS

None

54.26 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

55.26 CORRESPONDENCE

Note Correspondence received and not included as part of an agenda item.
CALC & WFC updates

56.26 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES TO BE RAISED

None

57.26 NOTE ANY ITEMS FO INFORMATION

Clerk to submit Notice of Casual Vacancies to Westmorland and Furness Council so a statutory notice can be published.

58.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 20th July 2026 at 7.30pm in the Stainton Institute.

Chairman:.....

Date.....