

STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 23 March 2026 in Stainton Institute at 7:30pm

(Held in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972)

Present: Councillors Julie Knowles (Chair), John Stott, Geoff Wilson and Ryan Whipp; the Clerk and 4 members of the public

1. Apologies were received from Cllr. Hilary Waterhouse and Westmorland and Furness Cllrs. Jonathan Brook and Doug Rathbone

2. Minutes: It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2025 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair

3. Presentation: Cllr. Stott presented a gift from the other Councillors to Cllr. Knowles in recognition of her service to the Parish Council of approximately 25 years

4. Chair's Report

Cllr. Julie Knowles presented her report with regard to the activities of the Parish Council during 2025/26. She thanked everyone for their support throughout the year including the Vice-Chair, the other parish councillors, her husband and the two W&FC councillors. She also thanked the Clerk for his service to the Council of almost 9 years and welcomed the new Clerk, who was in attendance

5. Westmorland & Furness Councillors' Report

W&FC Cllrs. Jonathan Brook and Doug Rathbone had sent a report, which was read out by the Chair. They apologised for their absence and referred to the government's devolution programme; the formation of the Cumbria Combined Authority prior to the Mayoral elections in May 2027; the decision making powers of the Mayor; the government's reduced financial settlement for the next three years and its effect on services; and asked parishioners to continue to use HIAMS (Highways Information Asset Management System) to report potholes and other road issues. They confirmed that they will continue to work with the Parish Council to obtain funding and to resolve issues arising

6. Report from Crosscrake School

No report had been forwarded

7. Report from Stainton Institute

Geoff Wilson, as chair of the Institute committee, read the report which had been given to the Institute's 2025 annual general meeting including the financial problems caused by an increase in costs and a reduction in funding and the thanks due to the committee and everyone who had supported the Institute in whatever way. It was hoped to pick out and repaint the building in the first six months of the year

8. Public Participation

Dog fouling was an issue and the posting of small notices was discussed

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm