

STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 26th January 2026 at 7.30pm in Crosscrake Hub

Present: Chair Julie Knowles, Vice-Chair John Stott, Cllrs. Geoff Wilson, Hilary Waterhouse and Ryan Whipp; Westmorland & Furness (W&F) Cllr. Doug Rathbone; the Clerk and one member of the public

Cllr. Stott took the Chair as Cllr. Knowles stated that she was unable to do so effectively

Cllrs. Knowles and Stott both declared their intention to resign as Councillors at the March meeting

1.26 APOLOGIES: W&F Cllr. Jonathan Brook

2.26 MINUTES: **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2025 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair

3.26 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION: None

4.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

5.26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: A complaint had been received by a parishioner concerning a slurry tanker depositing content on the road and on her property. The Chair had made enquiries and found that an apology had been made although the other side of the story was completely different. The Chair agreed to reply to the complaint by telephone

6.26 REPORTS:

a) Cumbria Police: The Neighbourhood Policing Team updates for November 2025 and January 2026 (emailed to Cllrs.11/12/25 and 21/1/26 respectively) and the Rural Crime Team 2025 Roundup (emailed to Cllrs.21/1/26) were noted

b) Westmorland and Furness Councillors: Cllr. Rathbone stated that the Cumbria Combined Authority process, leading to the future appointment of a mayor, had started as had a new consultation on the the Community Governance Review. It was noted that the surrounding Parish Councils had all requested that the current situation remain unaltered. He also reported on less funding from the government, which meant that cuts were needed in the W&F budget, and the Call for Sites for development

7.26 HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS:

a) It was reported that the large potholes on the road from Lane End Farm had been listed for attention. Several potholes from the Church to Barrows Green and outside Greenways were to be reported

b) It was noted that the school warning light at the Sedgwick end was not working

c) The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting a reply from W&FC Complaints Dept. regarding whether the ford was a Highways asset or not

d) W&FC Cllr. Brook had forwarded on 25/11/25 the email from the Countryside Access Officer regarding proposed surface improvements along the Towpath Trail and these were discussed

8.26 TREES & WOODS: There was nothing to report regarding the condition of the trees and woods. A request had been received to purchase from the Council a small piece of land near Underhelm Wood and it was agreed that the Council were open to selling the land and that the Chair would ask the prospective purchaser to make the necessary enquiries as to permitted use

9.26 PLANNING:

a) It was noted that the following planning application had been **submitted** to W&FC and circulated to the members of the Council since the last meeting:

2025/2210/FPA Helmdene, Oxenholme

Retrospective variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) and removal of condition 5 (ancillary to the residential use of the dwelling known as Helmdene) attached to planning permission SL/2020/0700 (Replacement of existing buildings and associated structures with a single storey pitched roofed shed/garage)

The Council had **no comments** on this application

b) It was noted that no planning applications have been notified as **approved** by W&FC since the last meeting

10.26 LITTER PICK: It was agreed that this should take place on Saturday 28th March 2026

11.26 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: It was agreed that the meeting would be on Monday 23rd March 2026 prior to the next Council meeting

12.26 FINANCE:

a) It was noted that there has been no receipts between meetings

b) The following payments were **approved**:

M R Richardson - Clerk's November, December & January Salary £1,244.71 less PAYE £249.00

plus expenses £85.67 (broadband/telephone/use of home as office/photocopies/postage),

and motor expenses £25.20 (56 miles @45p)

£1,106.58

HMRC – PAYE re M R Richardson

£249.00

Crosscrake Hub – Hire of hall

£20.00

c) The Clerk reported on progress with implementing the requirements of Assertion 10 (digital and data protection responsibilities) and the IT Policy was **agreed**

d) The Chair and Vice-Chair reported that the Clerk's annual appraisal had been carried out and that the Council were more than happy with the professional way in which he performed his work

e) The Clerk submitted his resignation with effect from 30th April 2026 due to his ill-health

f) The budget 2026/27 was finalised and the Clerk was **authorised** to request the parish precept for 2026/27

STAINTON PARISH COUNCIL

- g) The Clerk reported that the reconciled bank balance at 31st December 2025 was £9,118.48. The Chair was authorised to counter-sign the bank statement

13.26 CONSULTATION & FUNDING REQUESTS: None

14.16 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: None

15.26 CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence received and not included as an item on this agenda was noted:

- i. CALC – Adapting W&F to the impacts of climate change – engagement session on 7/1/26 (emailed to Cllrs.11/12/25)
- ii. W&FC – £50,000 Nature Recovery Fund launched to protect wildlife and habitats (emailed to Cllrs.11/12/25)
- iii. W&FC to ask government for greater street works powers (emailed to Cllrs.11/12/25)
- iv. W&FC – Welcome of confirmation of funding for Cumbria Combined Authority (emailed to Cllrs.11/11/25)
- v. W&FC invites residents to join climate adaptive conversations (emailed to Cllrs.11/12/25)
- vi. CALC – Protect where we play – request for support (emailed to Cllrs.15/12/25)
- vii. CALC – Equality and diversity training (emailed to Cllrs.16/12/25)
- viii. W&FC – M6 Junctions 36-39 north bound and south bound closures 17/12/25 and 22/12/25 (emailed to Cllrs.16/12/25)
- ix. W&FC secures £3.5M funding for action travel schemes to create even more dedicated walking, wheeling and cycling centres (emailed to Cllrs.16/12/25)
- x. W&FC – Publication of the Call for Sites 2024 Assessment Outcomes Report (emailed to Cllrs.21/1/26)
- xi. W&FC – South Lakeland Town & Parish newsletter (emailed to Cllrs.21/1/26)
- xii. W&FC – Agenda for 22/1/26 includes a report on the Community Governance Review draft recommendations (emailed to Cllrs.21/1/26)
- xiii. CALC – Local councils and climate action training session 24/3/26 (emailed to Cllrs.21/1/26)
- xiv. CALC – Cumbria Local Nature Partnership news (emailed to Cllrs.21/1/26)
- xv. W&FC commits to TUC's Dying to Work Charter (emailed to Cllrs.21/1/26)
- xvi. CALC News November & December 2025 (emailed to Cllrs.21/1/26)
- xvii. CALC - Cumbria Community Transport conference 10/3/26 (emailed to Cllrs.26/1/26)

16.26 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES TO BE RAISED AT NEXT MEETING (*No discussions must take place on these matters but will be placed on the next Agenda*): None

17.26 TO NOTE ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (*No discussions or action permitted*): None

18.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 23rd March 2026 in Stainton Institute and will follow the Annual Parish Meeting which starts at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

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