

MELMERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Melmerby Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st May 2025 at Melmerby Village Hall.

Present: Cllr David Bardsley, Cllr Chris Jones, Cllr Gary Fletcher, Cllr Bill Burford, Cllr Dougie Bell and Claire Rankin, Parish Clerk.

Seven members of the public were present.

Cllr Michael Hanley and Cllr Mary Robinson, Westmorland and Furness Council were also present.

2025/007 **Election of Chair -RESOLVED** that David Bardsley was nominated by Bill Burford to stand as chair for the year 2025/26. This was seconded by Dougie Bell and all those present were in favour.

2025/008 **Election of Vice Chair – RESOLVED** that Chris Jones was nominated by David Bardsley to stand as chair for the year 2025/26. This was seconded by Dougie Bell and all those present were in favour.

2025/009 **Apologies for absence – RESOLVED** that there were no apologies for absence.

2025/010 **Declarations of Interest – RESOLVED** that there were no declarations of interest.

2025/011 **Minutes – RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting on 11th March 2025 and the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 23rd April 2025 were signed as a correct record.

2025/012 **Exclusion of Press and Public (Public bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960) - RESOLVED** that there were no items on the agenda that required this exclusion.

2025/013 **Public Participation - RESOLVED** that the Chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting for members of the public to speak and also asked members of the public to speak at the start of the relevant agenda item. No public participation items were raised.

2025/014 **Westmorland and Furness Council report – RESOLVED** that the update from Cllr Hanley and Cllr Robinson were received and noted.

Cllr Robinson reported that the Local Plan call for sites had been completed and 476 sites had been identified. The map was now live on the Westmorland and Furness Council website. There were sites identified in the local area including in Melmerby. This Local Plan project links well with the housing needs survey which is proposed through the Alston and Fellside Place Action Group. Cllr Robinson asked if the Parish Council would be willing to help with the distribution and collection of the housing survey forms in the parish and it was confirmed this support would be available.

Cllr Hanley reported that the main priorities for the overall Westmorland and Furness Council Plan were being developed and that parish councils should look at the WaFC priorities. It was noted that the new round of grant applications is now open for 2025/26.

The work with the boundary commission has now been completed and the only change for this area is that the ward will be renamed Alston Moor and Fellside.

It was also reported that Westmorland and Furness Council has won a number of awards including for children's services, net zero and winter gritting.

There is a new waste services trial currently underway in Ulverston.

A recent cabinet meeting was held in Alston. Following the meeting, parish councils were able to express views on matters of local concern. These included bus services, lack of cash machine in Alston and development potential at Grisedale Croft for affordable rental units.

2025/015 Annual Accounts – RESOLVED that the annual audited accounts were approved. All those present voted in favour. The Annual Internal Audit Report along with the Accounting Statement will be placed on the website.

2025/016 Audit – RESOLVED that the Certificate of Exemption be approved for submission to AGAR and the Annual Governance Statement be approved and placed on the website. The Certificate of Exemption applies to councils with less than £25,000 income.

2025/017 Horse Fair – RESOLVED that the link for the feedback form to be used to raise issues during the horse fair will be displayed on the noticeboard and on the village facebook page.

2025/018 Police Pledge – RESOLVED that the Melmerby Parish Council representative be changed from Cllr Chris Jones to Cllr Bill Burford.

2025/019 Playground Proposal – RESOLVED that the Parish Council becomes the accountable body for the playground project. It was reported that the landowner has confirmed that a 25 year agreement is acceptable as long as the equipment is maintained and insured correctly.

A huge credit was given to Bridget Renvoize, Sarah Hinkley and Rachel Simpson for their ongoing work with the playground project and the fundraising events.

The motion for the Parish Council to become the accountable body was proposed by Cllr Bill Burford, seconded by Cllr Chris Jones and all those present were in favour.

2025/020 Highways – RESOLVED that consideration be given to requesting a mirror on the side of the bus shelter to assist with crossing the A686 at the junction and near the bends. This is further needed due to the change in the bus route for the primary school bus. Another possibility would be the installation of a footway along the edge of the village green to assist crossing the A686 away from the junction. It was agreed that Laura McClellan from Highways would be approached to discuss possibilities.

2025/021 Finance – RESOLVED that the RFO report be accepted. All those present were in favour.

2025/022 Salary payments – RESOLVED that the clerk's salary payments would be made every month on the 20th of the month and reported bi-monthly at the Parish Council meetings.

2025/023 Correspondence – RESOLVED that the correspondence register be noted. At future meetings, the police report will be displayed.

2025/024 Date and time of next meeting – RESOLVED that the meeting schedule for 2025/26 will be:

16th July 2025, 24th September 2025, 26th November 2025, 28th January 2026 and 25th March 2026 (which will follow the Annual Parish Meeting). All meetings will be held at Melmerby Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.41 p.m.

DRAFT