

MELMERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Melmerby Parish Council held on Wednesday 24th September 2025 at Melmerby Village Hall.

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

Two members of the public were present.

Cllr Michael Hanley, Westmorland and Furness Council was also present.

2025/038 **Apologies for absence – RESOLVED** that apologies were received from Cllr Gary Fletcher and Cllr Dougie Bell.

2025/039 **Declarations of Interest – RESOLVED** that there were no declarations of interest.

2025/040 **Minutes – RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting on 16th July 2025 were signed as a correct record.

2025/041 **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.

2025/042 **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.

2025/043 **Westmorland and Furness Council report – RESOLVED** that the update from Cllr Michael Hanley, Westmorland and Furness Council be noted.

Cllr Hanley reported that a decision regarding forming a Cumbria Combined Strategic Authority would be made by cabinet on 29th September. The proposal is that an authority would be formed with a mayor and two councillors from both Westmorland and Furness Council and Cumberland Council. Examples of services which would be operated by the combined authority include transport, health, skills and training. The Police and Crime Commissioner would not transfer to the combined authority until after the mayor was appointed in May 2027.

Cllr Hanley also reported that the Place Action Group had a very informative presentation from Jeremy Hewitson on housing (including affordable housing) in the WaFC area.

2025/044 **Playground Project – RESOLVED** that the update be noted and that professional support will be sought to comply with the requirements of the Biodiversity Net Gain element of the planning application. This action was proposed by Cllr Bardsley and seconded by Cllr Burford, all those present were in favour.

2025/045 **Housing Needs Survey – RESOLVED** that the update be noted and that the housing needs surveys will be delivered to all households in the village.

Cllr Bardsley reported that he had attended a meeting on 23rd September to receive the housing needs survey packs. The Housing Needs Survey has been delivered through the Place Action Group and will inform the WaFC Local Plan and the call for sites for housing development. The survey can

be completed online via a QR code or completed on paper and submitted. It was agreed that a collection box would be put in the Bakery and also the pub would be approached too. Surveys could also be returned to any parish councillor or could be collected on request.

In order to raise publicity about the survey and increase return rate, a poster would be put on the village noticeboard and a post on the village Facebook page.

All completed surveys need to be returned by 12th October 2025.

2025/046 **Defibrillator Update – RESOLVED** that it be noted that the Melmerby defibrillator is now registered on The Circuit which is accessible to the emergency services. It should also be noted that the defibrillator is now 8 years old and their usual lifespan is 10 years.

2025/047 **Waste Services – RESOLVED** to note that WaFC has agreed to harmonise waste services across the area which will mean fortnightly general waste collections and fortnightly recycling collections (alternate weeks). There will be one wheelie bin for general waste and two wheelie bins for recycling. There will be a phased introduction possibly starting in early 2026. There is currently no change to garden waste collections but consideration is being given to charging for this service. There are no plans at present for food waste collection. It was reported that “bring sites”, for example at the Village Hal, will continue to be operated.

2025/048 **Police report – RESOLVED** that the report be noted in particular the road traffic issues on Hartside which occurred over the August bank holiday weekend.

2025/049 **Highways – RESOLVED** that the pot hole on the road running adjacent to the village green and wall alongside the wood be reported and the blocked drains at the corners of the bridge near Bridge Terrace be reported.

It was also noted that Laura McClellan, WaFC Highways will visit the village on 8th October to meet with parish councillors regarding crossing the A686 especially at school drop off and pick up times.

It was also raised that the Fellrunner bus is dropping passengers off at the bend on the A686 (near New Inn). It was agreed this would be raised with the Fellrunner.

2025/050 **Progress list – RESOLVED** that the defibrillator item be updated and the highways item be updated following the meeting with Laura McClellan on 8th October.

2025/051 **Finance – RESOLVED** that the payments be made in line with the RFO report. This motion was proposed by Cllr Bardsley and seconded by Cllr Jones and all those present were in favour.

2025/052 **Correspondence – RESOLVED** that the correspondence register be noted.

2025/053 **Date and time of the next meeting.** The next meeting will take place on 26th November 2025, 7.30 p.m.at Melmerby Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.34 p.m.