

MELMERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 25th March 2026, 7.30 p.m. at Melmerby Village Hall.

David Bardsley, Chris Jones, Gary Fletcher and Dougie Bell (all Melmerby Parish Councillors) were in attendance. Claire Rankin, Parish Clerk was also in attendance.

Five members of the public were present. Cllr Michael Hanley, Westmorland and Furness Council was also present. Bill Burford (Melmerby Parish Councillor) sent his apologies.

Welcome and Introductions

David Bardsley welcomed all those present to the Annual Parish Meeting for Melmerby.

David outlined some of the activities the Parish Council had been involved in during the last year. These included:

- Registering the village defibrillator on the national database
- Reporting highways issues
- Working with officers from WaFC and Cumbria Police regarding the Appleby Horse Fair
- Becoming the accountable body for the playground project
- Responding to the Community Policing survey
- Expressing interest in the CALC internal audit service
- Responding to the Community Governance Review
- Attending the Place Action Group meetings

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th March 2024

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th March 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by David Bardsley, Chairman of Melmerby Parish Council.

Appleby Horse Fair

It was reported that the arrangements in 2025 were much more positive than in 2024. Contact had been made with the officers regarding the 2026 Horse Fair.

Playground

It had been a busy year in terms of the playground project. Special thanks were given to Sarah, Rachel and Bridget for their hard work particularly in terms of local fundraising. So far £9067 had been raised towards the playground project.

In May 2025, the Parish Council agreed to become the accountable body for the playground project. In order to apply for the planning permission, a Biodiversity Net Gain report needed to be commissioned. This work has been completed and the planning application for the playground has been submitted.

Matters of Interest

A member of the public raised a concern about flytipping at the recycling centre at Melmerby Village Hall. The issue was reported to WaFC on 4th February but the contractors had not collected the items. It was agreed this was an issue for the Village Hall Committee and would be followed up with a complaint.

It was raised that WaFC had launched additional support through the Household Support Fund due to the increase in heating oil costs. The scheme is only available until 31st March 2026 when it will be replaced by a different support programme from WaFC.

It was reported that from 1st April 2026, there would be a change to garden waste collections with a new paid subscription service starting from June 2026. Normal collections will be made until end of June. The new charges of £60 per garden waste bin are due to budget restrictions.

The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

DRAFT