

MELMERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Melmerby Parish Council held on Wednesday 23rd September 2026 at Melmerby Village Hall.

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

Cllr Mary Robinson, Westmorland and Furness Council was also present.

2026/046 **Apologies for absence – RESOLVED** that apologies for absence were received from Cllr Gary Fletcher. Apologies were also received from Cllr Michael Hanley, Westmorland and Furness Council.

2026/047 **Declarations of Interest – RESOLVED** that there were no declarations of interest.

2026/048 **Minutes – RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting on 15th July were signed as a correct record.

2026/049 **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.

2026/050 **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. There were no items raised from members of the public.

2026/051 **Westmorland and Furness Council Report – RESOLVED** that the report from Cllr Mary Robinson was noted.

Cllr Robinson reported that the planning committees for the former Eden, Barrow and South Lakeland areas have now been combined to the single committee with 13 members. Under the new National Scheme of Delegation, most planning applications will be delegated to officers. Cllr Robinson emphasised the importance of Neighbourhood Plans which can be adopted as supplementary planning guidance and are a useful tool for parishes to undertake as planning officers must consider them when making recommendations.

Cllr Robinson also highlighted the financial deficit position within Westmorland and Furness Council and reported that the first stage of the management restructuring has been completed but there would still need to be savings found.

The Place Action Groups have been allocated continued funding and project grant decisions will still be considered at the November and January meetings.

2026/052 **Community Governance Review & Polling Stations Review – RESOLVED** that the update be noted. It was reported that as a result of the Community Governance Review there were no changes in the area. In terms of the polling stations, the review has not yet been concluded but it is likely there will be no change to the arrangements in Melmerby.

2026/053 **Playground Project** – **RESOLVED** that the update be noted. The current situation with the playground project is that the planning application is still with the planning authority and the deadline for a decision has been extended to November 2026 due to ongoing discussions.

2026/054 **Website and Councillor Email Changes** – **RESOLVED** that the new website and email format changes be noted.

The new website address is www.melmerby-pc.gov.uk.

The email for the clerk is clerk@melmerby-pc.gov.uk

And the parish councillor's emails are:

david.bardsley@melmerby-pc.gov.uk

bill.burford@melmerby-pc.gov.uk

chris.jones@melmerby-pc.gov.uk

gary.fletcher@melmerby-pc.gov.uk

dougie.bell@melmerby-pc.gov.uk

2026/055 **RoSPA Inspection** – **RESOLVED** that the inspection report be noted and any minor actions attended to.

2026/056 **National Scheme of Delegation** – **RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

Cllr Bardsley reported on the meeting he had attended with Cllr Jones regarding the National Scheme of Delegation for planning applications due to come into force on 31st October 2026.

Under the new scheme there will be no option to "call in" planning applications to committee and an objection from the Parish Council will no longer trigger a "call in" of an application. The vast majority of planning applications will be determined through officer delegation. The weekly list issued to Parish Councils will continue and Parish Councils and individuals can still submit comments, objections and support for planning applications which the planning officers will be obliged to consider.

There will be two schedules of applications. Schedule 1 will be minor applications, permissions in principle and for developments of 1-9 houses. Schedule 2 applications are major developments.

2026/057 **Highways** – **RESOLVED** that there were no highways issues to raise.

2026/058 **Progress list** -**RESOLVED** that the update be noted and a chasing email sent to Laura McClellan regarding the A686 crossing.

2026/059 **Finance** – **RESOLVED** that the new national payscale and associated back pay be accepted. This was proposed by Cllr Bardsley and seconded by Cllr Burford. All those present were in favour.

The items listed in the RFO were accepted for payment. This was proposed by Cllr Bardsley and seconded by Cllr Bell. All those present were in favour.

2026/060 **Correspondence** – **RESOLVED** that the correspondence be noted.

2026/061 **Date and Time of Next Meeting** – The next meeting will take place on 25th November 2026 at 7.30 p.m. at Melmerby Village Hall.

The dates for the other Parish Council meetings in 2026/27 are:

27th January 2027 and 24th March 2027 (which will follow the Annual Parish Meeting).

All meetings will take place at 7.30 p.m. at Melmerby Village Hall.

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