

BLINDBOTHEL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Blindbothel Parish Council held at Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton on Monday 3 March 2025 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Cllrs. A. Baker, R. Bell, J. Clark, P. Jenkinson (Chair) and S. Riley.
Also present: J. Perry, Cumberland Councillor and J. Rae (Clerk).

18/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

19/25 MINUTES 27 JANUARY 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2025 were signed as a correct record.

20/25 REPORTS

Cumbria Police - The newsletter for the Cockermouth/Keswick area had been circulated by email.

Cumberland Councillor – Cllr J. Perry reported on the following:

- Cumberland Council had submitted a response to the Boundary Commission Review. There could potentially be some splitting of Bothel and Wharrels. The Boundary Commission's proposals will be ready for comment 1st July - 8th September;
- The Government has launched a public consultation in areas chosen for the Devolution Priority Programme. The consultation will seek views on a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined Authority for the local government areas of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness. The full consultation document can be found on the GOV.UK page;
- Changes to the waste and recycling collections.
- Cllr Perry also mentioned the report Who Pays for the Lake District published by the Friends of the Lake District with specific reference to housing and the number of second homes and holiday lets in parishes in the Lake District.

21/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A. Baker declared an interest in matters relating to Yew Tree Hall.

22/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were in attendance.

23/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING ON 27 JANUARY 2025

None.

24/25 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been received and circulated by email:

Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Pledge – On 16th January 2025 Cumbria Constabulary launched its Neighbourhood Policing Pledge that committed the Constabulary to the provision of ten individual priority areas to further support communities and the Constabulary in the delivery of Neighbourhood Policing. The second Pledge relates to the provision of visible and accessible Neighbourhood Policing Teams that are committed to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and to improve public confidence. One aspect of this will be the requirement for local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to engage better with local council representatives. Specifically, the Pledge commits the Constabulary to twice yearly virtual meetings within each NPT locality with parish and town councils.
Cllr P. Jenkinson agreed to represent the Parish Council.

CALC – Devolution Update – The Government launched a public consultation on Monday 17 February in areas chosen for the Devolution Priority Programme. The consultation will seek views on a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined Authority for the local government areas of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness. The full consultation document can be found on the GOV.UK page <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cumbria-devolution>

The cut-off date for the consultation is 11:59pm on 13 April 2025. To take part and have your say, please visit: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/lggc/cumbria-devolution-consultation>.

Cumberland Council – Waste Matters - Following a comprehensive review of the current arrangements, Cumberland Council will soon introduce the following:
Garden Waste collections - From week commencing Monday 31 March 2025 all householders with garden waste bins will continue to have one bin collected for free. There will be a yearly charge of £40 per additional bin that residents request to be collected. This is consistent with the approach in the former Copeland area. Residents will be able to make a payment for extra bins or by contacting the Council from week commencing 10 March. Collections are fortnightly between March and November each year.
Waste and recycling collections: former Allerdale area - Collections will be the same as the Carlisle and Copeland areas. Waste collections will be fortnightly from May 2025. Cardboard/paper collections will increase from monthly to fortnightly from September 2025. Householders will be given the opportunity to request a free replacement 180 litre bin (most residents have a 120-litre bin). Requests can be made on the website or by contacting Customer Services from April.

Connecting Cumbria Newsletter

CALC News

CALC - New Flood Warning Service Testing

CALC - Royal Garden Parties 2025

CALC - Moving over to a .gov.uk domain: New guidance on GOV.UK now live

CALC – Scam Leaflet

CALC - Planning Policy Event - Tuesday 18th February

Cumberland Council Newsletters

CALC – Letter from LDNPA

LDNPA Members Newsletter

25/25 ANNUAL INSURANCE

Members noted that the renewal invitation had been received from Zurich Insurance at an annual premium of £214.00. RESOLVED to renew the policy with Zurich Insurance with effect from 1 April.

26/25 ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(a) The financial statement had been circulated with the agenda.

Balance at 28 February 2025	£4,040.03
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(b) Payment of Accounts

Clerk's account Quarter 4	£610.50
HMRC PAYE Quarter 4	£127.20
Yew Tree Hall Management Committee – Room Hire	£ 36.00
Melbreak Communities – Contribution towards website	£ 50.00
Zurich Municipal Annual Insurance (due 1.4.25)	£214.00

(c) Appointment of Internal Auditor

Members RESOLVED to appoint Mr. T. Gear as the internal auditor for financial year 2024-25.

(d) Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit and Review of the Risk Management Policy

Members noted and approved the contents of the review of the effectiveness of the internal audit and reviewed the Risk Management Policy.

27/25 PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Applications received since the last meeting: None

(b) Decisions:

7/2024/2248 – Rake Barn, Southwaite CA13 0RF
Array of ground mounter photovoltaic panels

GRANTED

For information

Town and Country Planning (Enforcement) (Written representations procedure) (England) Regulations 2002
Enforcement notice appeal - Site: How Farm, The Howe, Mosser, Cockermouth, CA13 0RA
Two appeals have been lodged against the enforcement notice recently issued to rectify the alleged breach of planning control relating to the making of a material change of use of the Land from use as two dwellings (How Farm and The Barn) to use as three separate dwellings (How Farm, The Barn and The End). An Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State will now determine the appeal.

28/25 ROADS AND HIGHWAY MATTERS

Members noted that the sign for Mosser had still not been installed.
No other issues were reported

29/25 BROADBAND

Cllr A. Baker previously advised that he had received a response from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, the Government department responsible for project gigabit (Fibrus) about the premises not included in the list to be connected. The response effectively said it is Fibrus's responsibility and also stated the Government will seek to connect through alternative interventions if no connection is offered by a commercial provider. The DSIT also advised that if anyone does not receive at least 10Mb download speed and 1Mb upload speed now, they can contact BT for an upgrade. There were no further updates to report

30/25 EMPTYING OF LITTER BIN

Cllr A. Baker reported that the litter bin situated near the noticeboard at Lorton Bridge had not been emptied for several weeks. Cllr J. Perry agreed to report this to Cumberland Council.

31/25 VACANCY

Members noted that a verbal expression of interest had been received.

32/25 PARISH MATTERS/ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Willow Establishment Project - Cllr S. Riley raised a query whether there had been any maintenance/harvesting requirements put on the landowner of the willow plantation at Rogerscale. The first crop was harvested around 2018 but has not been touched since and the willow is now extremely tall. Cllr P. Jenkinson agreed to enquire with the landowner as what the future plans are for the willow.

No additional items to be added to the agenda.

33/25 DATE OF MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL YEAR

Members noted the dates of the meetings for the next Council year:

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 12th May 2025 – 6.45pm – Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton

Bi Monthly Meetings 7th July, 1st September, 3rd November 2025
5th January and 2nd March 2026 – Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton at 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Signed.....Chairman Date.....