

MELMERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Melmerby Parish Council held on Wednesday 20th May 2026 at Melmerby Village Hall.

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

One member of the public was present.

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

2026/009 **Election of Chair -RESOLVED** that Cllr Bardsley was nominated by Cllr Fletcher to stand as chair for the year 2026/27. This was seconded by Cllr Burford and all those present were in favour.

2026/010 **Election of Vice Chair – RESOLVED** that Cllr Burford was nominated by Cllr Bell to stand as chair for the year 2026/27. This was seconded by Cllr Fletcher and all those present were in favour.

2026/011 **Apologies for absence – RESOLVED** that apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jones.

Cllr Mary Robinson, Westmorland and Furness Council also sent her apologies.

2026/012 **Declarations of Interest – RESOLVED** that there were no declarations of interest.

2026/013 **Minutes – RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting on 25th March 2026 and the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 15th April 2026 were signed as a correct record.

2026/014 **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.

2026/015 **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.

Feedback was requested regarding whether the highways actions agreed with Laura McClellan had been completed or were in progress. The actions included providing a safe crossing over the A686 near the bus shelter and improving road markings. Cllr Michael Hanley, WaFC agreed to follow this up and liaise with the clerk.

2026/016 **Westmorland and Furness Council report – RESOLVED** that the update from Cllr Hanley was received and noted.

The Eden Locality Board is currently looking at the issue of empty homes which will also be discussed at the next Place Action Group. An update had been received on the A66 upgrade project which is due to be completed in 2030. Improved arrangements for the Appleby Horse Fair had also been agreed which included resident only parking in parts of Appleby and designated area for tethering horses (outside Appleby Library).

The Health and Wellbeing Board has launched the Connect to Work programme which is a 3 year scheme aiming to support 3,000 people move from long term health unemployment to work. The scheme is worth £1million.

Scrutiny Committee discussed enforcement actions for fly tipping, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and public drinking. Also, warm hubs are being developed which will offer qualifying households loft insulation, solar panels and heat pumps.

Full Council focussed on development of alternative provision to residential care homes. New regulations for taxi services were also agreed.

Cllr Hanley also reported that a Members Development Day had taken place where the need for change was emphasised in order address the £40 million shortfall in the WaFC budget. It was reported that there has been a restructure of senior management at WaFC.

2026/017 Annual accounts 2025/26 – RESOLVED that the audited accounts were approved and the AGAR submission can proceed. The audited accounts were proposed by Cllr Burford and seconded by Cllr Fletcher. All those present were in favour.

2026/018 Playground Project – RESOLVED that the playground update be noted. The planning application requirements had been submitted to WaFC but the planning department had been very slow to respond. Cllr Hanley, WaFC agreed to follow this up with the planners on behalf of the Parish Council. It was noted that there have been offers of local support to help with the groundworks for the project.

2026/019 Assertion 10 regulations – RESOLVED that the format for the email addresses would be name@melmerby-pc.gov.uk. The clerk agreed to contact Vision ICT to set up the new email addresses.

2026/020 Horse Fair 2026 – RESOLVED that it be noted that there had been very limited response from WaFC and Cumbria Police to requests for confirmation of the arrangements for the 2026 Horse Fair in Melmerby. The main concerns raised were the proximity of the caravans and vehicles to the edge of A686 road.

2026/021 Highways – RESOLVED that the improvements to the road surface on Gale Hall Lanning be noted and welcomed.

2026/022 Progress list – RESOLVED that the progress list be noted.

2026/023 Finance – RESOLVED that the payments listed in the RFO be agreed. This motion was proposed by Cllr Burford and seconded by Cllr Bell. All those present were in favour.

2026/024 Correspondence – RESOLVED that the correspondence register be noted.

2026/025 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 15th July 2026, 7.30 p.m. at Melmerby Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.21 p.m.