

MELMERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Melmerby Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th July 2026 at Melmerby Village Hall.

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

2026/032 **Apologies for absence – RESOLVED** that apologies for absence were received from Cllr David Bardsley.

2026/033 **Declarations of Interest – RESOLVED** that there were no declarations of interest.

2026/034 **Minutes – RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting on 20th May were signed as a correct record. The minutes from the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 4th June 2026 were signed as a correct record.

It should be noted that a resident had queried the detail in the minutes from the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on 4th June. The Parish Council were happy that the minutes correctly reflected the discussions at the meeting and were a true record.

2026/035 **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.

2026/036 **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.

A resident raised that a copy of the information boards (as sited at the sheepfold) were kept at the Sawmill and were available to display by the village if desired.

2026/037 **Westmorland and Furness Council Report – RESOLVED** that Cllr Michael Hanley and Cllr Mary Robinson were not present at the meeting.

2026/038 **Horse Fair feedback – RESOLVED** that the feedback be forwarded to Westmorland and Furness Council.

It was felt that the 2026 Horse Fair arrangements had been quite smooth but that the portable toilets had stayed in the village longer than was needed. Additional refuse bags or a mini skip to collect rubbish would be beneficial. As in previous years, the parking of caravans and vehicles very near to the edge of the main A686 road was a concern as was the heavy concentration of vehicles at the southern end of the green.

A resident raised the issue of monetary collections which have taken place from the travellers after previous horse fairs. It was queried where this money goes and how it is spent. In addition, money was charged to park on the village green during the Tour of Britain cycle race back in 2015 and again it was queried how these funds had been spent.

2026/039 Playground Project – RESOLVED that the update be noted.

Cllr Burford thanked the community for the range and volume of comments made following the submission of the planning application for the playground. The application was currently with the planning department and the Parish Council is working with WaFC and the Rowleys as landowners of the village green.

The Parish Council, the playground project leaders and the Parish Clerk were thanked for their work in trying to move the playground project forward.

A resident raised concerns that the playground project leaders had been bullied and ridiculed for their work on the project and their publicity and fundraising materials had been torn down and destroyed at times. The Parish Council thanked the resident for raising this awareness and did not condone any behaviour of this kind.

2026/040 Website change – RESOLVED it was noted that the Parish Council website address has changed to www.melmerby-pc.gov.uk to comply with Assertion 10 regulations.

2026/041 Local Plan scoping consultation -RESOLVED that the consultation be noted.

The Local Plan sets out the vision, policies and framework for development across the WaFC area over the next 15 years. The consultation runs from 1st July – 11th August 2026. There is an online Placemaker survey for local residents to complete. The link to the survey is below:

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/localplan>

2026/042 Highways – RESOLVED that the issue be reported.

There is a pothole at the side of the highway near Pear Tree House. It was agreed this would be reported.

2026/043 Finance – RESOLVED that the payments outlined in the RFO be paid. The payments were proposed by Cllr Burford and seconded by Cllr Fletcher and all those present were in favour.

2026/044 Correspondence – RESOLVED that the correspondence register be noted.

2026/045 Date and time of next meeting. The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 23rd September 2026, 7.30 p.m. at Melmerby Village Hall.