

GREYSOUTHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of the Parish Council in the Village Hall On Monday 19th 2025 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr J West (Chair), Cllr H Davies, Cllr L Clark, Cllr D Watson, Cllr E Roberts, Cllr A Procter, Cllr V Roberts

Also Present: Councillor Andrew Semple, Cumberland Council

Clerk: Susan Stuart

Members of the Public: None

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Meeting starts 19.00

018/25 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies have been received Cllrs J Postlethwaite and J Forster

019/25 **Minutes of meeting held 20th May 2024.** Cllr Clark proposed, Cllr Davies seconded accepting these minutes as a true record. The minutes were signed, all in agreement. It was agreed that this year's minutes would be incorporated into the minutes with the Annual Council Meeting.

020/25 **Annual Report by Chair of the Parish Council**

- Cllr West spoke about the past year, including discussion about the funding and installation of the playground equipment.
- Cllr West spoke about councillors who had left through the year, but also welcomed Cllr Roberts and Cllr Forster. The former Clerk, Barbara Lamb, retired in January after many years of service, with new Clerk, Susan Stuart, taking over from her.
- A new noticeboard was installed at the end of last year.
- The new website was built and up and running by February.
- Four picnic benches were purchased with the last of the grant money.
- Cllr West thanks Cllr Roberts for installing the gates.
- Cllr West thanked everyone for their help and support through the last year.

021/25 **Annual Report from Cumberland Councillor Andrew Semple**

- Cllr Semple spoke about his first year as the Chair of the Council. This is a position that needs to be elected by your own political group, followed by election by councillors. This has been a steep learning curve.
- When Cumberland was formed it was decided not to have a Mayoral Chair, which would normally change every year, but Cumberland are trying to focus on consistency at the moment, so Cllr Semple will continue to be Chair of the Council this year. Cllr Semple spoke about the great privilege of having this role.
- Cllr Semple has also joined the Audit Committee. Recruitment has now finished for financial positions to work through the inspection results received last year.
- Children's Services continue to be a massive financial burden on Cumberland Council, but money needs to be spent on this to improve services.
- This year's inspection has changed from Inadequate to Good, which is a great step in the right direction for Cumberland Council.
- This year will be the last Annual Meeting before Cumberland has a mayor, although there will be a cross-over year from one system to the other.

022/25 **Open Forum at Chair's Discretion.** Nothing.

Meeting ends at 19.23

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting starts 19.23

023/25 Election of Chair and Vice Chair, signing of Acceptance of Office

Jennifer West was nominated for Chair by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Watson, all in favour; Lisa Clark was nominated for Vice Chair by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Davies, all in favour. Acceptance of office forms were filled out by Cllrs West and Clark.

024/25 Apologies for absence

Apologies have been received Cllrs J Postlethwaite and J Forster.

025/25 Minutes of meeting dates 28th April 2025

The minutes of the 28th of April 2025 were agreed and signed, proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Clark, all in agreement.

026/25 Matters arising from the April Minutes None

027/25 Declaration of interests None

028/25 Public Participation – none present.

029/25 Report from Cumberland Councillor, Andrew Semple:

- Cllr Semple started by speaking about the changes to bin collections. From the 26th of May, the Allerdale area general waste will now be collected every two weeks; it is possible to get a bigger bin from Cumberland Council to accommodate this. Plastic and glass recycling will continue to be collected every two weeks. Cardboard and paper recycling will change in September to fortnightly collections.
- The Community Panels will be keeping the same budgets for this year. The Lakes to Sea Community Panel will remain at £60,000 for the year. There was £7,000 left over from last year's budget, it was decided to fund some smaller organisations, such as the Brownies, as well as giving some money to village halls in the area.

030/25 Confirmation of policies and procedures. It was agreed by all members to undertake a review of all policies and procedures, to be discussed at the next meeting.

031/25 Proposed meeting dates for 2025/2026

16th June 2025; 21st July 2025; 15th September 2025; 20th October 2025; 17th November 2025; 19th January 2026; 16th February 2026; 16th March 2026; 20th April 2026; 18 May 2026

032/25 Allotments. All renewal letters for allotments, garden plots and garages have now gone out, including the updated tenant agreements for same. The annual allotment inspection will take place on 16th June 2025, after the next Parish Council meeting.

033/25 Greysouthen Gossip update.

- The first edition has gone out and some of the physical copies have also been taken.
- Cllr Roberts spoke about the social media course attended
- It was agreed to look at establishing a social media policy for the Parish Council

034/25 Playing Field update

- The representative from Wicksteed had come on the day of the meeting to look at the roundabout and slide. The swings have now had the pins put in place and have been tightened.

- Wicksteed don't think the damage to the slide will affect the slide, in terms of safety or rusting over the years.
- Cllr Watson to check if TN Maintenance have left the tightening bolts at the school.
- The bin is still overflowing at the playground, it is locked and councillors are unable to remove the litter. The Clerk has reported this to Cumberland Council.
- The monthly inspections will be carried out by Open Spaces at Cumberland Council, starting in May 2025 at a cost of £50 plus VAT; as well as an annual inspection carried out later in the year, although there is no confirmation of the cost for this yet.
- It was agreed that a No Fouling sign could be made for the playground
- There has been no update on the drainage situation

035/25 **Climate Change**

- Cllr Procter spoke about the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy, who are currently holding a consultation. This can be seen at Keswick or Maryport libraries for the next month.

036/25 **Financial Issues**

- The following payments were approved:

Reference	Payee	Details	Amount
FP	Susan Stuart	Salary	256.96
FP	Susan Stuart	Postage and Printer Ink	53.04
FP	HMRC	PAYE	64.24
FP	TN Maintenance Services	Playground Inspection (Paid by Clerk)	35.00
CHQ	Unity Bank	New Account Deposit	500.00
FP	CALC	Social Media Training Course	20.00
CHQ	Village Hall	Donation	1000.00
		Total	1929.24

- The bank statement as at 31st April was £34,063, with a starting balance of £13,099.
- The precept has been received from Cumberland Council £20,900.
- A cheque is required for Unity Bank to transfer the account over, this was on the payment list.
- Faster Payment forms were given to Cllr West for approved payments.
- Cllr Davies proposed acceptance of payments for approval and Cllr Clark seconded this.

037/25 **Planning**

- Reference No: FUL/2025/0053 - Installation of photovoltaic panels and roof lights. Installation of wall mounted air source heat pumps and minor amendments to doors and windows where noted. Location: Jospeh Harris Memorial Hall of Greysouthen, Main Street, Greysouthen - No objections noted.
- Application No: HOU/2025/0074 - Opening of window in front elevation to form french doors and closing of glazed panel/doors in rear elevation to form windows. Location: Hunters House, Main Street, Greysouthen, Cockermouth, CA13 0UL – this has now been granted by Cumberland Council

038/25 **Correspondence**

- An email was received from a resident about build up of stones in the beck. Previously this was removed by a working party of members in the village. Cllr Procter agreed to deal with this.

039/25 **Councillor Matters**

- There have been no further instances of fouling in the playpark.
- Clerk to check with CALC about the legalities of age restriction in the playpark.

040/25 **Reports on meetings attended** None

041/25 **Confirmation of date and time of next meeting.** Monday 16th of June 2025 at 7.15pm.

Meeting ended 20.16

Signed as a true and correct record

Date