

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Barbon Parish Council held at Barbon Village Hall on Thursday 22nd May 2025 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Charles Howarth (Chairman), Chris Brown and Jacquie Huddleston, six members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Udale and from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hazel Hodgson.

25/25 Election of Chairman:

Charles Howarth was elected Chairman for 2025-26. He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

25/26 Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

It was resolved to leave this post vacant until the Council is back to full strength.

25/27 Requests for Dispensations: None.

25/28 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest made in respect of any matters on the agenda.

25/29 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2025, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

25/30 Co-option of a new Councillor:

Chris Lee was unanimously co-opted as a Parish Councillor. As Councillor Chris Brown is retiring at the close this meeting, that still leaves the Council with one vacancy. An expression of interest has been received in this position and it will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

25/31 Reports:

An email from Westmorland & Furness Councillor, Hazel Hodgson had been circulated to all Councillors.

25/32 Finance:

a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

Lune Valley Landscapes & Ground Maintenance Limited		
	£50.00	Weed spraying
Zurich Municipal	£217.13	Insurance premium

b. The Interim Accounts for 2024-25 were noted.

- c. The effectiveness of the system of internal audit was reviewed and was considered perfectly adequate for a Council of this size.
- d. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the Certificate of Exemption, the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statement. The Clerk explained the importance of each document.
- e. It was resolved to add the name of Councillor Jacquie Huddleston to the bank mandate and to remove that of Councillor Chris Brown, who agreed to deal with the bank in order to put the changes in place.

25/33 Planning: None.

25/34 Parish Plan/Resilience Plan:

Councillor Huddleston gave a full report on this project. There has been good support from residents and a large number of names are now on the provisional plan. Discussion centre around representation from other groups in the parish, such as the Village Hall and the necessity of having suitable people to call on were there to be any Health & Safety or Safeguarding issues in the future. It was reported that there is now only one First Responder in the parish and the possibility of finding others to fulfil this role and to be supplied with portable defibrillators, was discussed. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

25/35 Other issues:

- a. The Clerk agreed to contact Andrew Vickers at Westmorland & Furness Council, to arrange for a second litter bin to be reinstated; the Village Hall committee has agreed that it can be placed against the car park wall providing it is emptied on a fortnightly basis.
- b. Solar panels have now been installed at the Village Hall and the Council was thanked for their support for this.
- c. Councillor Brown hopes the Newsletter will continue, if someone can be found to up[date it, even if only as 'events information'. She will liaise with Merlin Hibbs and keep the Clerk informed.

25/36 Benches/seats in the parish:

This is progressing and a full report will be given in time for the next meeting (Councillor Udale).

25/37 Correspondence: None.

25/38 Date and place of the next meeting:

Monday 8th September 2025 at 7pm at Barbon Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.