

Minutes of a meeting of Barbon Parish Council held at Barbon Village Hall on Monday 1st December 2025 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Charles Howarth (Chairman), Chris Lee and Neil Udale, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hazel Hodgson, 12 members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Jacquie Huddleston.

25/51 Public participation:

- a. A planning application was not on the agenda (S/04/30A - Barbon Smithy House, Barbon), so it could not be considered. Councillors will visit the site and the Clerk will be advised accordingly.
- b. The emergency/resilience Plan has been approved by the Village Hall committee. The Hall is to become a 'warm space'. Publicity is being circulated.
- c. The Village Hall committee has agreed to the siting of a second defibrillator, in front of the Hall. Quotations have been received for around £1,000, to cover everything, plus the ongoing maintenance. The Hall committee would like to manage this project. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

25/52 Requests for Dispensations: None.

25/53 Declarations of Interest:

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

25/54 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2025, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

25/55 Co-option of a new Councillor:

Three applications had been received and a paper ballot was held. Councillor Hodgson announced the results – Craig Barlow was co-opted and he then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

25/56 Report from Westmorland & Furness Councillor:

Councillor Hodgson mentioned the following:

- a. The second 20 mph consultation is now underway and the Council, as well as residents, should submit their responses.
- b. The emergency/resilience Plan contact at Westmorland & Furness Council is Angela Jones.

- c. She will continue to press for the 'slow' signs in Barbon that have been requested.
- d. Safety on the A683, especially in the Casterton lanes area, is a priority at present.
- e. Grants are available for Nature Recovery, as are grants for solar panels.

25/57 Finance:

- a. *It was resolved to pay the following accounts:*

Barbon Village Hall	£12.00	Hire of hall (plus previous invoices outstanding)
William H Hartley	£45.00	Maintenance
K M Price	£139.95	Quarterly expenses to 30 th September, Including use of home office and travel.

- b. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved that this Council makes a Precept upon Westmorland & Furness Council in the sum of £8,000 for the financial year 2026-27.
- d. It was reported that the Council's new banking mandate is now in place, Councillors Huddleston and Lee, and the Clerk are the authorised signatories, any two to sign.
- e. Barbon Charities: The information passed on to the Council at the last meeting needs to be investigated further. The Charity Commission could be approached for help in closing the Charities down, as the income produced each year is negligible.

25/58 'Assertion 10 – Digital & Data Compliance':

This document, from CALC, had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chairman agreed to speak to Merlin Hibbs who has run the 'blogsite' for many years as it appears a new website will be required for the Council to become compliant. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

25/59 Planning: None.

25/60 Benches/seats in the parish:

Councillor Udale will order these seats as agreed at the last meeting. He will also arrange with Craig Bradshaw to carry out some general maintenance in the village as well as remove the old seats. Any families with a 'plaque' on an old seat will be given the opportunity to pay for the plaque to be transferred, assuming relatives can be contacted.

25/61 Correspondence: None.

25/62 Date and place of the next meeting and to consider provisional dales for meetings during 2026:

Thursday 19th February

Thursday 14th May – Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Council Meeting

Monday 6th July

All at 7pm

The following provisional dates will be confirmed at the next meeting:

Monday 7th September

Monday 7th December

(Please note that agenda items should be submitted to the Clerk no later than 14 days prior to the next meeting)

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed:

Dated: