

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Barbon Parish Council held at Barbon Village Hall on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Charles Howarth (Chairman), Craig Barlow, Jacquie Huddleston and Chris Lee, five members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Neil Udale.

**26/14 Election of Chairman:**

Councillor Charles Howarth was elected Chairman for 2026-27. He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**26/15 Appointment of Vice-Chairman:**

Councillor Jacquie Huddleston was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2026-27.

**26/16 Requests for Dispensations:** None.

**26/17 Declarations of Interest:**

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

**26/18 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**26/19 Reports from Westmorland & Furness Councillors:**

None, but the Clerk will circulate the report he received for Kirkby Lonsdale.

**26/20 Finance:**

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

Barbon Village Hall	£2,000	Grant from the Precept for ongoing maintenance.
Barbon Village Hall	£400 and £200	respectively to provide emergency fund (catering) and for emergency box eg high vis vests, torches etc.
CALC	£165.82	Annual subscription
Zurich Municipal	£229.39	Annual insurance premium
A2A Advertising Limited	£480.00	New website
K M Price	£135.20	Quarterly expenses, including use of home office and travel
K M Price	£37.35	Reimbursement for bank errors (Councillor Huddleston will visit the bank with a letter to correct these).

- b. The Interim Accounts for 2025-26 were noted.
- c. The Council reviewed the effectiveness of the system of internal audit and resolved that the present controls in place are perfectly adequate for an operation of this size.
- d. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the Certificate of Exemption, the Accounting Statements and the Annual Governance Statement on behalf of the Council. The Clerk explained the significance of each document.

#### **26/21 'Assertion 10 – Digital and Data Compliance':**

The new website has now been set up and Andrew from A2A has visited Barbon to take photographs for it. Councillors now have new email addresses, ending in 'gov.uk'. Any problems should be referred to Andrew, who is happy to assist Councillors get used to the new system.

There is a need for someone to update the website regularly with minutes and agendas, etc. Some names were mentioned and enquiries will be made, before reporting back to the next meeting. Such a person could either be a volunteer and receive an honorarium for the work.

**26/22 Planning:** None.

#### **26/23 Parish Plan/Resilience Plan**

There is a need to register the Council's Plan as a 'HUB' and Councillor Huddleston will deal with this. The possible second defibrillator is 'on hold' at present and Councillor Huddleston will make a grant application for it.

#### **26/24 Waste bin:**

Both Councillors and the Clerk have been following this up with Westmorland & Furness Council but it appears that the officer who was dealing with it has now left the Authority. The Clerk now has another contact there and expects to receive a reply very soon.

#### **26/25 Blocked drains and potholes:**

These continue to be monitored and are reported regularly. Residents are encouraged to report them too.

#### **26/26 Litter management:**

There is a litter problem in the village. A suggestion was made that a 'litter pick' could be organised once or twice each year. It is believed that protective clothing and equipment can be supplied by 'Westmorland & Furness Council'. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

**26/27 Correspondence:** None.

**26/28 Date and place of the next meetings:**

The following dates were agreed:

*Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July*

*Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September*

*Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December (Precept Meeting)*

All at Barbon Village Hall at 7pm.

*The meeting closed at 8.30pm*

*Signed::*

*Dated:*