

Kirkby Ireleth Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr. R. Bennett, Bridge End Cottage Soutergate Kirkby-in-Furness Cumbria LA17 7TW

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 15th January 2026 at Kirkby-in-Furness Community Centre, Beckside

1. Apologies for Absence (received in writing):

Cllrs. S. Rhodes, A. Pye

2. Attendance

Cllrs R. Bennett, G. Grieve, V. Sarson, M. Irving, J. Byrne, R. Saunders, D. Wilson, M. Parkinson, L. Walkden

3. Declarations and Dispensations

a) Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

b) Declaration of Interests

Cllr. M. Irving 7. a) 3)

4. Minutes from the previous meeting

The Minutes from the last meeting were approved and signed.

Proposer: Cllr. V. Sarson Seconder: Cllr. D. Wilson Unanimously Agreed

5. Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

6. Governance and Reports

a) **Chairman's Remarks** – Cllr. Bennett advised that he will make any comments under the relevant items on the Agenda.

b) **Vice-Chairman Remarks** – Cllr. Walkden advised that she will make any comments under the relevant items on the Agenda.

c) **Reports from the Westmorland and Furness Councillor** – Cllr. Brereton was not in attendance at the meeting.

d) Actions Arising from the previous Meeting

- 1) Cllr. Bennett wrote to Cllr. Thornton regarding the flooding at Gargreave.
- 2) Cllr. Bennett uploaded the Community Survey to Facebook and website and provided the Clerk with a QR code to place on the Noticeboards. He informed that the survey will be promoted in the Caller in January (no Caller in December) and the closing date for responses will be the end of February 2026.
- 3) The Clerk placed the QR codes on the Noticeboards and provided the Community Centres with hard copies. She has contacted Woodland and asked if they require hard copies of the Survey and awaits a response.
- 4) Cllr. Bennett wrote to Cllr. Thornton regarding the ongoing Highways issues in the Parish.

- 5) The Clerk had checked the Parish Council account on the portal and advised that the only defect reports she can view are those reported through the account.
- 6) Cllr. Bennett has contacted Westmorland and Furness seeking clarification on the supply of sandbags. This item is to be added to the Agenda under Current Matters.
- 7) Cllr. Bennett has uploaded Emergency Plan to the website.
- 8) Cllr. Grieve has contacted Dave Newton, Story's, to ask if they could place boulders by the pedestrian entrance at Soutergate car park. He has responded and will meet with Cllr. Bennett at the site at a date to be arranged.

e) **Deferred and/or Ongoing Actions Review**

- 1) Cllr. Brereton was to raise the continued issue with flooding at Gargreave with Highways but was not in attendance at the meeting to provide an update on this. It was noted that, due to his lack of attendance at recent meetings, Cllr. Bennett has now raised this issue direct with Cllr. Thornton.
- 2) Cllr. Bennett to review the Parish Plan – This is on hold until the outcome of the Community survey has been considered. This deferred action will be removed from this item as it is covered under Item 7 b) 8) on the Agenda.

7. Parish Initiatives and Infrastructure

a) **Traffic and Highways**

- 1) **Speeding concerns throughout the Village** – Cllr. Byrne informed that Helen Karasalan has requested further action from Cumbria Constabulary with regard to mobile speed vans. Also, she is waiting for Helen to get back to her to arrange a meeting about the ongoing speed issues. Cllr. Bennett informed that he will also raise the ongoing issues with Michelle Scrogam, MP when they meet.
- 2) **Road Signage Improvement** – Nothing further to report.
- 3) **A595 Grizebeck Improvement Scheme**
 - i. **Milestones** – Nothing to report at this time.
 - ii. **Victorian Signposts** – Nothing further to report.
 - iii. **Speed Indicator Devices – A5092** – This item will stay on the Agenda until the works have been completed.
 - iv. **Car Park at Chapels** – This will remain on the Agenda.
- 4) **Portal Reports and progress**
See Item 6. d) 5) above. It was noted that the repainting of the give way signs at a junction in Woodland has still not been carried out despite this initially being raised a number of years ago and numerous times since. The Clerk to raise this again. It was also noted that Westmorland and Furness have been graded red, the lowest rating, for repairing potholes, under a new system published by the government.

Action: Clerk to raise the painting of the give way signs on road at Woodland

b) **Parish Plan Updates**

- 1) **Community Facilities – Grizebeck Community Centre** – Nothing to report.
- 2) **Resilience & Emergency Plan** – Nothing to report – Now the Emergency Plan has been updated and approved this item will revert back to “Resilience” only.
- 3) **Planning** – Cllr. Sarson provided an update on the call for sites. He also reported that the National Park are also preparing a Local Plan.
- 4) **Highways** – Already been discussed as set out above.

- 5) **Website and Social Media** – Cllr. Bennett informed that the hosting of the website is now transferred to Hudson Hill.
- 6) **Footpaths and Cycleways** – Nothing to report
- 7) **Cumbria Constabulary Report** – Nothing to report
- 8) **Revision of Kirkby Ireleth Parish Plan** – It was noted that this has been discussed under Item 6 e) 2) on the Agenda.

8. Current Matters

- a) **Cutting back of hedges/verges (by Probation Service)**
Cllr. Walkden continues to try to make contact with Probation with regard to the above.
- b) **Road/Wall subsidence – Marshside**
Nothing to report.
- c) **Beckside – Road and footpath**
It was noted that the additional road signage work has not yet been carried out. Cllr. Byrne to request update from Helen Karasalan.
Action: Cllr. Byrne to request update from Helen Karasalan regarding additional road signage at Beckside
- d) **Soutergate car park boundary wall**
Cllr. Grieve has chased Admiral Insurance for payment of the claim.
- e) **Telegraph Poles erected by Fibrus**
The Clerk to request an update from Libby Bateman, Hyperfast Networks.
Action: Clerk to request an update from Libby Bateman, Hyperfast Networks, regarding the ill-placed siting of the pole on the A595
- f) **Westmorland and Furness Lighting Policy**
AMF informed that Westmorland and Furness have now advised that as from the return of the signed legal agreement, they are responsible for running and maintenance of the 5 streetlights, even though they are yet to sign the agreement. The Clerk has contacted Npower with regard to this and the recent invoice which covers the period 1st September to 31st December 2025. They have advised that the Clerk needs to contact Electricity Northwest and ask for the UMSO to be updated to show Ownership from the 2nd December 2025, who will then inform Npower. Npower will then reissue the invoice to the Parish Council accordingly and from that date forward bill Westmorland and Furness. The Clerk to advise Westmorland and Furness of this and seek confirmation of their agreement.
Action: The Clerk to seek agreement from Westmorland and Furness regarding next action with regard to 5 streetlights they are adopting back
- g) **Grass verge cutting on School Road**
Cllr. Grieve has chased Graeme Wheelhouse with regard to this and awaits a response. If no response is received Cllr. Bennett will raise with Cllr. Thornton
Action: Cllr. Bennett will raise cutting of grass verges with Cllr. Thornton after the next meeting if no response is received from Graeme Wheelhouse before then
- h) **Signage at Moorhouse, Beanthwaite Hill**
Nothing further to report at this time.
- i) **Damaged grass verges – United Utilities**
Cllr. Walkden has contacted United Utilities with regard to the above. They advised that a job has been raised for them to reinstate the damaged grass verges.
- j) **New printer for the Parish Council**
The Clerk is in the process of identifying a suitable printer. This was discussed. It was agreed to set a financial ceiling of £600 on the cost of a new printer.
Proposer: Cllr. Wilson Seconded: Cllr. Parkinson Unanimously Agreed

9. Statutory Requirements

None.

10. Village Trusts and Associated Matters

a) CGP Kirkby Ireleth Parish Council Trust Fund

A meeting will be held after the Parish Council Meeting.

b) Kirkby Charities Group Trust Fund

Cllr. Grieve provided a report.

11. Finance and Accounts

a) Recurring/Routine Payments

The following payments were approved.

- 1) The Clerks salary of £281.98 and expenses of £16.88 for January 2026
- 2) The Payment of £2.40 to HMRC for PAYE for January 2026.
- 3) The payment of £24.00 to the Community Centre for the hire of hall for the meeting.
- 4) The payment of £2.40 to Hudson Hill Consulting being the monthly payment for the Webroot Antivirus for January 2026.
- 5) The payment of £23.83 to Hudson Hill Consulting being the monthly payment for the Exchange online and Microsoft 365 Business subscriptions for January 2026.
- 6) The payment of £238.98 to Npower for the period 1st October 2025 to December 2025 – It was noted that this had been discussed under Item 8(f) on the Agenda and any amended invoice will be less than this amount.
- 7) The payment of £45.00 each to 4 residents in relation to the Parish Council's contributions to electricity for streetlights on their properties was approved. It was noted that this amount will be increased to £50.00 for the next financial year.
- 8) Unity Trust Bank – monthly bank charge - £7.00.

Proposer: Cllr. Byrne proposed making all the above payments

Seconder: Cllr. Grieve

All Councillors were unanimously in favour

b) Exceptional Payments

None.

c) Community Infrastructure Levy

Cllr. Bennett will place a reminder of the CIL fund in the Kirkby Caller.

Action: Cllr. Bennett will place a reminder of the availability of the CIL fund in the Kirkby Caller

d) Finance Subcommittee / Review of Accounts

- 1) **Review of Accounts** – The monthly financial sheet had been forwarded to all Councillors prior to the meeting.
 - 2) Cllr. Bennett provided a report on behalf of the Finance Subcommittee regarding the proposed Budget and the Precept for the financial year 2026/27. A draft copy of the report had been forwarded to all Councillors prior to the meeting.
 - i. **Approval of the Budget for 2026/27**
Proposer: Cllr. Grieve Seconder: Cllr. Sarson Unanimously Agreed
 - ii. **Approval of the Precept for 2026/27**
Proposer: Cllr. Parkinson Seconder: Cllr. Sarson Unanimously Agreed
- Action: The Clerk to inform Westmorland and Furness of Parish Council Precept for 2026/27.**

- 3) Quarterly Check of Accounts – Cllr. Irving is to carry out the quarterly check of the accounts and report back at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr. Irving is to carry out the quarterly check of the accounts and report back at the next meeting

12. Planning

a) **Applications received**

None.

b) **Planning Notifications**

- 1) 2025/2025/HOU Ghyll End Farm – Erection of rear porch – Approved with conditions.

c) **Enforcement**

None.

d) **Local Plan – Call for sites**

This has been discussed at Item 7 b) 3) on the Agenda.

e) **Proposed development by Holker**

Nothing to report at this time.

13. Correspondence

- a) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine

14. Parish Councillors Reports

None.

15. Date of next Meeting:

Date: 19th February 2026

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Grizebeck Community Centre.

16. Close of Meeting

Cllr. Bennett closed the meeting.

Alison Field - Clerk of Kirkby Ireleth Parish Council