

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Grizebeck Community Centre

### 1. Apologies for Absence (received in writing):

Cllrs. J. Byrne, L. Walkden, M. Parkinson

### 2. Attendance

Cllrs R. Bennett, G. Grieve, V. Sarson, M. Irving, R. Saunders, D. Wilson, A. Pye  
Cllr. M. Brereton, Westmorland and Furness Council

### 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. G. Grieve Seconded: Cllr. V. Sarson Unanimously Agreed**

### 5. Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

### 6. Governance and Reports

a) **Chairman's Remarks** – Cllr. Bennett proposed Item 12 a) 1) be discussed after this item on the Agenda, as Cllr. Brereton was unable to attend for the full meeting. This was agreed.

b) **Vice-Chairman Remarks** – Cllr. Walkden was not in attendance at the meeting.

c) **Reports from the Westmorland and Furness Councillor** – Cllr. Brereton provided the following report:-

- Emergency Plan – He has forwarded the Parish Council's Emergency Plan to the relevant person at Westmorland and Furness and will feedback any comments they may have.
- Community Survey – Once the Parish Council survey is completed, he will pass the findings to Carol Last.
- Road signs – He has reported the road signs to Graeme Wheelhouse who acknowledged that they are aware of work that needs to be carried out in this area.
- Budget – Westmorland and Furness – The Council have lost a great deal of funding for the next financial year.
- Bin Collections, Westmorland and Furness – He acknowledged that bin collections are not satisfactory and there has been a lot of complaints across the Council's area about this.
- Combined Authority will begin to be set up next month, but Mayor not to be elected until 2027.

d) **Actions Arising from the previous Meeting**

- 1) The Clerk has raised, yet again, the need to repaint the give way signs on a road at Woodland.
- 2) Cllr. Byrne was to request an update from Helen Karasalan regarding additional road signage at Beckside. This had been done and the work has now been carried out.
- 3) The Clerk had requested an update from Libby Bateman, Hyperfast Networks, regarding the ill-placed siting of the pole on the A595. She has advised that she will chase a response.
- 4) The Clerk had sought agreement from Westmorland and Furness for further action on the 5 streetlights they are adopting back. She advised that as from the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025, the lights are no longer the responsibility of the Parish Council. Npower have now reissued an amended invoice for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, which reflects ownership transferred to Westmorland and Furness on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.
- 5) Cllr. Bennett will now write to Cllr. Thornton regarding cutting of the grass verges as no progress has been made with the matter through Graeme Wheelhouse.

***Action: Cllr. Bennett to write to Cllr. Thornton regarding the cutting of the grass verges***

- 6) Cllr. Bennett was to place a reminder of the availability of the CIL fund in the Kirkby Caller and will now do this.

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

- 7) The Clerk had informed Westmorland and Furness of the Parish Council Precept for 2026/27.
- 8) Cllr. Irving had carried out the quarterly check of the accounts.

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

- 1) Cllr. Brereton was to raise the continued issue with flooding at Gargreave with Highways and it was noted that work on the drains has now been carried out.

## 12. Planning

a) **Applications received**

- 1) 2026/0087/OPA – Land North-East of Kirkby-in-Furness – outline planning application for the residential development of up to 62 dwellings together with associated infrastructure, open space, landscaping and drainage works – This was discussed in great detail. The submissions made by local residents on the planning portal and the results received to-date on the community survey were acknowledged. It was noted that there is a great deal of opposition to the proposed development. The Parish Council voted unanimously to object to the development. A letter setting out the objections will be submitted to the Planning Authority, together with a comment regarding the community survey results.

## 7. Parish Initiatives and Infrastructure

### a) Traffic and Highways

- 1) **Speeding concerns throughout the Village** – Cllr. Bennett advised that Michelle Scorgham's office have yet to rearrange the date for a meeting. Cllr. Bennett to chase.

**Action: Cllr. Bennett to chase MPs office for date of meeting**

- 2) **Road Signage Improvement** – As noted above, the road markings that Westmorland and Furness said they would put in place are now complete at Beckside.

- 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** – It was noted that the temporary device placed on the A595 on the approach to Grizebeck from Broughton is no longer working. The Clerk to report this.

**Action: Clerk to report to Westmorland and Furness that the temporary speed indicator device on the A595 on the approach to Grizebeck from Broughton is no longer working**

- 4) **Car Park at Chapel**

Westmorland and Furness have advised that following an overwhelmingly positive response from residents to the Chapels parking area proposal, they have progressed the scheme to the next stage and that planning permission has now been granted by way of a non-material amendment.

- 5) **Portal Reports and progress**

It was reported that the speed indicator device on the A595, on the approach to the School from Grizebeck, is no longer working. The Clerk to report this on the portal.

**Action: Clerk to raise on the portal the speed indicator device on the A595, School Road, southbound.**

- 6) **Grizebeck Traffic Regulation Order – Statutory Consultation**

Notification of the above had been received from Westmorland and Furness. The proposals were discussed by the Council. It was agreed that most of the proposals were acceptable, however, the Parish Council does not support the proposed National Speed Limit (60mph) section on the new stretch of A595. It was felt that a maximum speed limit of 50mph would be more appropriate for this stretch taking into consideration the nearby junction activity at Chapels. It would also reflect the character of the route and be consistent with similar sections of the A595 in comparable semi-rural environments. A response reflecting this will be forwarded to Westmorland and Furness

**Action: Cllr. Bennett to prepare a response to the Grizebeck Traffic Regulation Order – statutory consultation and the Clerk to submit it**

### b) Parish Plan Updates

- 1) **Community Facilities – Grizebeck Community Centre** – Nothing to report.
- 2) **Resilience** – Nothing to report
- 3) **Planning** – Cllr. Sarson raised the possibility of the Parish Council having a Neighbourhood Plan, which could afford some protection against future development. It was agreed that this will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.
- 4) **Highways** – Cllr. Byrne was not in attendance at the meeting.

- 5) **Website and Social Media** – All running well.
- 6) **Footpaths and Cycleways** – Cllr. Bennett advised that the meetings of the group will resume next week, after the Winter break. It was reported that the stiles on the public footpath between Beckside and the A595 are not suitable for use by people with limited mobility. Cllr. Bennett to contact the Countryside Access Officer to advise of this to see if it is possible to replace these stiles with a more accessible option.
- 7) **Cumbria Constabulary Report** – Nothing to report
- 8) **Revision of Kirkby Ireleth Parish Plan** – Cllr. Bennett advised that to-date he has had just under 100 responses to the community survey. Uptake had initially been slow but increased following a reminder on social media and the Caller. The closing date of the survey is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Once the closing date is past he will prepare a summary of the findings.

**Action : Cllr. Bennett to prepare a summary of the findings of the Community survey**

## 8. Current Matters

- a) **Cutting back of hedges/verges (by Probation Service)**  
Cllr. Bennett informed that Probation have advised that they are willing to assist the work that we have requested on the hedges/verges.
- b) **Road/Wall subsidence – Marshside**  
Nothing to report.
- c) **Beckside – Road and footpath**  
As reported under Item 7. a) 2) on the Agenda the road markings have now been completed. This item will therefore be removed from the Agenda.
- d) **Soutergate car park boundary wall**  
Cllr. Grieve to chase Admiral Insurance for payment of the claim.  
**Action: Cllr. Grieve to chase Admiral Insurance for payment of the claim for the rebuilding of the wall at Soutergate**
- e) **Soutergate car park boulders at pedestrian entrance**  
Cllr. Bennett advised that Story's have now kindly placed boulders at the pedestrian entrance. Cllr. Bennett has written to Dave Newton of Story's, thanking him for this and for filling the potholes previously.
- f) **Telegraph Poles erected by Fibrus**  
It was noted that this had been discussed under Item 6. d) 3) on the Agenda.
- g) **Westmorland and Furness Lighting Policy**  
The Clerk advised that as from the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 the 5 streetlights are no longer the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Clerk informed that Npower have issued an amended invoice to reflect this. There is a £40.00 late payment charge in relation to the incorrect invoice but Npower are in the process of reversing this. This item will now be removed from the Agenda.
- h) **Grass verge cutting on School Road**  
It was noted that this was discussed under Item 6. d) 5) on the Agenda. A letter had also been received from a local resident, who is under the age of 18, offering to carry out the work. This was discussed. However, it was agreed that the Parish Council do not currently have the legal authority to permit, oversee or coordinate works on the verges, following notification of this from Highways. Also, as the individual is under 18, there is also a safeguarding and duty of care issues to consider.
- i) **Signage at Moorhouse, Beanthwaite Hill**  
Nothing further to report at this time.
- j) **Damaged grass verges – United Utilities**

United Utilities have now carried out repair work to the grass verges they damaged.

k) **New printer for the Parish Council**

This has now been purchased at a cost of £379.99.

l) **Sandbags**

Cllr. Bennett will chase a response from Westmorland and Furness regarding the provision of sandbags.

**Action: Cllr. Bennett to chase a response from Westmorland regarding providing of sandbags**

## 9. Statutory Requirements

a) **Councillor Vacancy**

Cllr. Rhodes had tendered her resignation. The Clerk had informed Westmorland and Furness who had issued a Vacancy Notice. The Vacancy will expire on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026, after which the Parish Council will be able to co-opt a member onto the Council. To-date no interest has been shown in the vacancy.

b) **Policies**

1) A revised website Accessibility statement was considered.

2) A revised Privacy/GPDR policy was considered

3) An IT/GPDR policy was considered

All the above were approved

**Propose: Cllr. Grieve**

**Seconder: Cllr. Sarson**

**Unanimously approved**

4) An updated version of the Access requests Policy which was initially prepared in 2018 will be on the Agenda for approval at the next meeting.

5) A Complaints policy will be on the Agenda for approval at the next meeting.

## 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. An Annual Report had been received from the Group which the Clerk will forward to Councillors.

**Action: Clerk to forward the Kirkby Charities Group Trust Fund Annual Report for 2025 to Councillors**

## 11. Finance and Accounts

a) **Recurring/Routine Payments**

The following payments were approved.

1) The Clerks salary of £309.78 and expenses of £396.87 for February 2026 (this includes £379.99 for the new printer).

2) The payment of £30.00 to the Community Centre for the hire of hall for the meeting.

3) The payment of £2.40 to Hudson Hill Consulting being the monthly payment for the Webroot Antivirus for February 2026.

4) The payment of £23.83 to Hudson Hill Consulting being the monthly payment for the Exchange online and Microsoft 365 Business subscriptions for February 2026.

5) The payment of £153.35 to Npower for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 was approved. This being the revised invoice from Npower to reflect the change of ownership of the lights from the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.

6) The payment of £12.00 to the Community Centre for the hire of the hall for the Finance Sub Committee Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026 was approved.

7) Unity Trust Bank – monthly bank charge - £7.00.

**Proposer:** Cllr. Grieve proposed making all the above payments

**Seconder:** Cllr. Saunders

**All Councillors were unanimously in favour**

b) **Exceptional Payments**

None.

c) **Community Infrastructure Levy**

It was noted that potholes have once again appeared in Soutergate car park. The possibility of using some of the CIL money to carry out a more permanent fix was discussed. Having to return the site back to its original condition in the event Holker terminated the lease was raised and it was felt that due to this, it is difficult to provide a more permanent solution to the ongoing issue of potholes.

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) **Quarterly Check of Accounts** – Cllr. Irving had carried out the quarterly check of the accounts and reported everything is in order.

## 12. Planning

a) **Applications received**

2) **7/2026/5037** – Beckstones Farm, Grizebeck – partial retrospect approval for development – The Parish Council agreed unanimously that there were no objections to this application.

b) **Planning Notifications**

1) 2025/2285/HOU – Barn Owls – Construction of a single storey rear extension – Approved with conditions.

c) **Enforcement**

None.

d) **Local Plan – Call for sites**

None

## 13. Correspondence

a) Communication from a future resident – regarding storing a caravan at Soutergate car park – This was discussed. It was noted that the car park is well used and that it does not have capacity to store vehicles. The Clerk to email the future resident to advise of this.

**Action: Clerk to respond to enquiry regarding storing of caravan on Soutergate car park**

## 14. Parish Councillors Reports

- Cllr. Irving provided a progress update on the work undertaken to-date on the A595 Grizebeck Improvement scheme.
- Cllr. Wilson informed that residents from Burlington Close have raised the issue with parking with him. This was discussed. The Parish Council believe that it is a private housing company who own the land but do not know which one. Cllr. Bennett will put a reminder in the Caller for residents to park considerately.

**15. Date of next Meeting:**

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Kirkby-in-Furness Community Centre, Beckside

**16. Close of Meeting**

Cllr. Bennett closed the meeting.

**Alison Field - Clerk of Kirkby Ireleth Parish Council**