

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 18th June 2026 at 7.00 pm at Woodland Parish Room, Woodland

1. Apologies for Absence (received in writing):

Cllr. Brereton

2. Attendance

Cllrs R. Bennett, M. Irving, D. Wilson, J. Byrne, V. Sarson, R. Saunders, A. Pye,
M. Parkinson, J. Field, 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. Pye

Seconded: Cllr. Sarson

Unanimously Agreed

5. Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

6. Governance and Reports

a) **Chairman's Remarks** – Cllr. Bennet advised that he has received a formal resignation letter from Gary Grieve, to take immediate effect. It was noted and agreed that Gary Grieve will continue to deal with banking matters associated with both the Parish Council and CGP accounts to ensure a smooth transition, until such a time that relevant authorisations have been amended.

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

c) Reports from the Westmorland and Furness Councillor

Cllr. Brereton was not in attendance at the meeting. He had however, provided a written report on Highway's work carried out in the area which he had received from Graeme Wheelhouse, including the replacement of the Stop Sign at Four Lane Ends. He had noted that the 30 mph signs at the junction were not included in the update and advised that he has asked Graeme Wheelhouse about this. The Clerk will forward the report to Councillors for information.

Action: Clerk to forward the progress report from Graeme Wheelhouse to Councillors
Action: Cllr. Brereton to chase response from Graeme Wheelhouse regarding the 30 mph signs on Askew Gate Brow

d) Actions Arising from the previous Meeting

- 1) Cllr. Bennett had contacted the Duddon Valley GP Practice Manager to enquire about the possibility/viability of an outreach clinic at Kirkby, especially in relation to a dispensary facility and had received a response. – See Agenda Item 8. h).
- 2) Cllr. Bennett was to consider if there are transport options for people who would not be able to travel to Broughton or Askam surgeries. See Agenda Item 8. h) below.

It was noted that the next item had been grouped with Item 2) on the Agenda but will be listed as item 3), which will mean that the following item numbers under this section will not correspond with the Agenda numbering.

- 3) Cllr. Bennett had written to Cllr. Thornton regarding the two 30mph signs which have been knocked down at Four Lane Ends.
- 4) Cllr. Brereton wrote to Highways regarding lack of progress on highways faults as discussed under Item 6. c) above.
- 5) Cllr. Bennett submitted a Section 96 notice to Westmorland and Furness and awaits a response.
- 6) The Clerk contacted the MPs office for copy of the promotion photographs taken at the meeting with the Parish Council and these have now been received and will be placed on the Parish Council website.
- 7) Cllr. Bennett responded to Westmorland and Furness regarding the proposed car park at Chapels and received clarification of a number of points set out in the draft Head of Terms and Lease. - See Agenda Item 7. a) 3) iv. below.
- 8) The Clerk contacted Zurich insurance regarding Public Liability cover the proposed car park at Chapels. – See Agenda Item 7. a) 3) iv. below.
- 9) Cllrs. Bennett and Sarson have discussed the preparation of a Parish Plan.
- 10) Cllr. Bennett had contacted Hudson Hill regarding changing the domain name to the Parish Council. As the domain is currently in the name of Mr. Grieve, he will need to correspond with Hudson Hill to carry out the transfer. Cllr. Bennett to contact Mr. Grieve about this.

Action: Cllr. Bennett to contact Mr. Grieve regarding changing the domain name to the Parish Council.

- 11) Cllr. Bennett had written to Peter Thornton with regard to the road/wall subsidence at Marshside and awaits a response.
- 12) The Clerk had contacted Fibrus for an update on ill placed pole on School road. They had advised that they have reviewed the concerns but the pole will remain in place as all statutory, safety, technical and compliance standards and requirements have been met.
- 13) Cllr. Bennett had contacted Story's and asked if they would kindly fill in potholes at Soutergate car park. They have agreed to do this.
- 14) Cllr. Bennett had contacted Hudson Hill and ask for a full quote for additional email addresses. – See Item 9. a) below.

e) Deferred and/or Ongoing Actions Review

- 1) Cllr. Walkden was to forward photographs of the flooding at Gargreave to the Clerk. As there have been no issues recently with flooding it was agreed not to carry out this action at this time.

- 2) The Clerk had contacted BT about the removal of the telephone kiosk on Askew Gate Brow. See Agenda Item 8. f) below.

7. Parish Initiatives and Infrastructure

a) Traffic and Highways

- 1) ***Speeding concerns throughout the Village*** – Cllr. Bennett to chase the Michelle Scrogham, MP's office to see if any progress on the speeding issues raised at the meeting with her.
Action: Cllr. Bennett to chase MP's office on progress with speeding issues raised at the meeting with the MP
- 2) ***A595 road Signage Improvement*** – Nothing further to report.
- 3) ***A595 Grizebeck Improvement Scheme***
An invitation has been received from Westmorland and Furness for two Councillors to attend an official opening event on 16th July. Cllrs. Bennett and Irving will be attending.
 - i. ***Milestones*** – Nothing to report at this time.
 - ii. ***Victorian Signposts*** – Nothing further to report.
 - iii. ***Speed Indicator Devices – A5092*** – Nothing to report at this time.
- 4) ***Car Park at Chapels***
Cllr. Bennett advised of the further correspondence with Westmorland and Furness on this, noting in particular that the Parish Council have requested a 3 month get out clause be added to the lease. He informed that Westmorland and Furness have offered to pay a set amount to the Parish Council towards future maintenance costs. He informed that he has advised Westmorland and Furness that the Parish Council had agreed to the car park in principle at their last meeting. He advised that this should now be formally approved and asked for a Proposer.
Proposer: Cllr. Wilson
Seconded: Cllr. Parkinson
Unanimously Agreed
The Clerk informed that Zurich Insurance had confirmed that the car park will be covered under public liability on the existing policy. However, this does not cover any maintenance costs which the Council may incur, which would attract a higher premium.
- 5) ***Portal Reports and progress***
Cllr. Parkinson raised the road markings at the Junction, further down from the Parish Rooms at Woodland. The Clerk advised this has been reported numerous times most recently last year. Cllr. Bennett to raise this with Cllr. Thornton. The Clerk will forward the details of the portal reference to Cllr. Bennett.
Action Clerk to forward to Cllr. Bennett Woodland road signs portal reference.
Action: Cllr. Bennett to raise the lack of progress on Woodland road signs with Cllr. Thornton

b) Parish Plan Updates

- 1) ***Community Facilities***
Grizebeck – Cllr. Irving informed that Committee are holding a tea party for the residents who have been affected by the work on the Improvement Scheme.
Kirkby-in-Furness Community Centre – Cllr. Field informed that Gala is being held 27th June 2026. The Committee are at the present time looking at the

feasibility/practicability of having an IN-POST locker on the grounds. He also informed that a robot mower has now been purchased and is in use with good results.

- 2) **Resilience** – Nothing to report.
- 3) **Planning** – Cllr. Bennett and Sarson have discussed the preparation of a Parish Plan with regard to housing and proposed to the Council that a Parish Plan be prepared and Westmorland and Furness and the Lake District National Park Authority consulted. Cllr. Bennett suggested that in the first instance it would be advisable to draft the housing element of the Plan. This was agreed. Cllr. Sarson informed that he intends to attend a Teams Meeting on the 6-week Local Plan Scoping Consultation to be held by Westmorland and Furness Council.
- 4) **Highways** – Nothing further
- 5) **Website and Social Media** – All running well.
- 6) **Footpaths and Cycleways** Cllr. Field reported the following:-
 - Footpath Sandside to Herschell Terrace – He has reviewed the past correspondence between the Resident who reported the issue, Westmorland and Furness and the Parish Council. He will write to Westmorland and Furness to report that the footpath has become an issue again.
Action: Cllr. Field to write to Westmorland and Furness regarding issues on footpath between Sandside and Herschell Terrace
 - The kissing gate from the Moor footpath on to the A5092 – Westmorland and Furness have contacted the Owner about this.
 - Boardwalks on the Moor – He has received no update on this.
 - Lawnmower – The Footpaths group have indicated they will have the mower. Transfer from Mr. Metcalfe to the Group will take place at a future date.
- 7) **Cumbria Constabulary Report** – Nothing to report.
- 8) **Revision of Kirkby Ireleth Parish Plan** – As reported above, it was agreed that the Parish Council have a Parish Plan in place with a draft housing element of the Plan to be prepared in the first instance. This was discussed. Cllr. Parkinson will contact Burlington School to ascertain the current number on roll, what their current capacity is and also whether it is feasible for them to increase their capacity.

8. Current Matters

- a) **Cutting back of hedges/verges (by Probation Service)**
Cllr. Walkden informed that at the current time the Probation are not in a position to carry out the work due to personnel issues. However, it is hoped that once these have been resolved they will be able to assist. Therefore this item will remain on the Agenda.
- b) **Road/Wall subsidence – Marshside**
It was noted that this was reported under Item 6. d) 10) on the Agenda.
- c) **Telegraph Poles erected by Fibrus**
It was noted that this was reported under Item 6 d) 11) on the Agenda. This item will now be removed from the Agenda.
- d) **Grass verge cutting on School Road**
As noted under Item 6 d) 4) on the Agenda a response is awaited from Westmorland and Furness on the Section 96 application. In the meantime Greaves Trees Services have carried out the first cut of the grass verges. The Clerk advised that following the application to CGP

for the cost of the grass cutting, £2000 has been received into the Parish Council account for the work.

e) **Signage at Moorhouse, Beanthwaite Hill**

Cllr. Saunders informed that the work has been carried out and that 4 new signs and the wall has been rebuilt at Beanthwaite. This item will now be removed from the Agenda.

f) **Telephone Box – Askew Gate Brow**

The Clerk had contacted BT who advised the box has been adopted by Grizebeck Community Hall, however, it is presumed that BT are mistaken and that the Committee have not adopted this box but the one at Grizebeck. The Clerk has sought clarification from Grizebeck Community Hall Committee on this.

g) **Natterjack Toad signage**

Cllr. Parkinson provided an update and advised the matter is progressing.

h) **Closure of Kirkby-in-Furness GP surgery**

Cllr. Bennett provided an overall assessment of the Practice's response to his letter. He reported that the practice sees limited scope for retaining formal clinical services within Kirkby following closure of the surgery premises. However, the Practice remains open to discussing feasible measures that would help support patients, particularly vulnerable residents, and appear to be most receptive to community-led support arrangements rather than the establishment of new clinical facilities. They have advised that they are currently carrying out a survey and will share the results with the Parish Council.

i) **Tree Felling on School Road**

Four trees had been felled on School Road and no notification had been given to the Parish Council. A member of the public had raised this with the Parish Council. Cllr. Sarson had contacted Highways seeking an explanation but has had no response to-date. Cllr. Bennett will contact Cllr. Thornton for an explanation and ask if they intend to replace them. Cllr. Pye will make enquires with the Contractor who cut down the trees and ask why this has been done. He will also contact Holker, to see if they would be agreeable for the trees to be replaced, as the trees border their land at Low Hall Farm.

Action: Cllr. Bennett to contact Cllr. Thornton regarding felling of the trees on School Road

Action: Cllr. Pye to contact the Contractor used to fell the trees to ask why the work had been carried out and Holker Estates to ascertain whether they would be agreeable for the trees to be replaced

9. Statutory Requirements

a) **Councillor email addresses**

A full quote has been received from Hudson Hill for the additional six Councillor email addresses. The cost is £35.21 per month. In addition they have quoted a one off cost of £144.00 for consultancy fees. Cllr. Bennett to contact Hudson Hill querying the consultancy fee.

Action: Cllr. Bennett to contact Hudson Hill querying Consultancy fee on the quote they have provided

10. Village Trusts and Associated Matters

a) **CGP Kirkby Ireleth Parish Council Trust Fund**

A meeting of the Trust Fund will take place after the Parish Council meeting.

b) **Kirkby Charities Group Trust Fund**

1) To receive an update

Nothing to report.

2) To review Parish Council Representatives

Cllr. Byrne is a Parish Council representative on the Trust Fund and following the resignation of Mr. Grieve, a second representative needs to be elected. Cllr. Sarson offered to carry out the role.

Proposer: Cllr. Wilson proposed Cllr. Sarson

Seconded: Cllr. Parkinson

Unanimously Agreed.

11. Finance and Accounts

a) Recurring/Routine Payments

The following payments were either approved or payment deferred

- 1) The Clerks salary of £328.13 and expenses of £16.88 for May 2026 – Approved
- 2) The payment of £15.00 to the Woodland Rooms for the hire of hall for the meeting - Approved
- 3) The payment of £2.40 to Hudson Hill Consulting being the monthly payment for the Webroot Antivirus for June 2026 - Approved
- 4) The payment of £23.83 to Hudson Hill Consulting being the monthly payment for the Exchange online and Microsoft 365 Business subscriptions for June 2026 - Approved
- 5) The monthly payment to Hudson Hill of £35.21 for additional email addresses and one off Consultancy fee of £144 – Payment deferred.
- 6) The payment of £2400 to Greaves Tree Services being the annual fee for the cutting of the grass verges. This was Approved. However, it was noted that the Section 96 application in respect of the work has not yet been approved and therefore the Clerk is to write to Greaves Tree Services and ask if it would be acceptable to them to pay for the cuts as they work is carried out until the Section 96 application has been approved.

Action: Clerk to write to Greaves Tree Services and ask if it would be acceptable to pay for cutting of the grass verges as the work is carried out.

- 7) The payment of the standing order/direct debit of £11.00 being the monthly contract fee for the Parish Council's mobile phone – Payment deferred
- 8) Unity Trust Bank – monthly bank charge - £7.00 - approved

Proposer: Cllr. V. Sarson

Seconder: Cllr. D. Wilson

All Councillors were unanimously in favour

b) Exceptional Payments

None.

c) Community Infrastructure Levy

Nothing to report

d) Finance Subcommittee / Review of Accounts

- 1) **Review of Accounts** – The monthly financial sheet had been forwarded to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

12. Planning

a) Applications received

None

b) Planning Notifications

- 1) 7/2026/5095 – Knittleton Barn, Subberthwaite, Grizebeck - Granted

c) Enforcement

None.

d) Local Plan – Call for sites

Nothing to report.

13. Correspondence

None.

14. Parish Councillors Reports

None.

15. Date of the APM Meeting with AGM to follow:

Date: 16th July 2026

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Kirkby-in-Furness Community Centre, Beckside

16. Close of Meeting

Cllr. Bennett closed the meeting.

Alison Field – Clerk to the Kirkby Ireleth Parish Council