Broughton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Broughton Parish Council held in Christchurch, Great Broughton, on Tuesday 16th Sept 2025 at 18:00

**Present:** Nigel Clubley (Chair), Steve Hannah, Annette Chatten, Paul Chatten, Mary Bradley, Bill Smith, Martin Harris (Cumberland Councillor)

**Apologies:** Russ Cockburn (Personal commitments), Nicky Cockburn (Personal Commitments), Sue Hannah (Personal commitments)

With 6 Councillors present the meeting was quorate.

# 128/25 Apologies and reasons for absence

# *Apologies:*

**Resolved** by all present that the apologies listed above be noted as received.

**129/25 Requests for dispensations and declarations of interest**

None

# 130/25 Exclusion of Press & Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

None

**131/25 Minutes of the meetings held on the 15th July 2025**

All members of the council had received a copy of the minutes in advance of the meeting.

**Resolved** by all present that the minutes of the 15th July 2025 meeting be signed as a true and accurate record by the Chair.

**Action: Clerk to upload the completed minutes to the website.**

**132/25 Chairman’s Announcements**

* It was noted that there has been a couple of accidents on the A66 in the vicinity of the Parish over the last 8 weeks, which highlight safety concerns on the stretch of the road. Broughton Parish Councils thoughts are with the families of those who have lost loved ones in these accidents.

**133/25 Public Participation**

None

**134/25 Reports from visiting councillors & Police**

# *Cumberland Council*

Cumberland Councillor Martin Harris had provided a written report via email this was noted as received.

# 135/25 Clerks report

# The Clerks report had been circulated to all in advance of the meeting, and this was noted as received.

# *Dog Fouling*

# Resolved by all present that this matter be deferred until the October 2025 meeting when Cllr S Hannah is present.

# Action: Clerk to agenda this for the October 2025 meeting.

# *Local Council Awards*

# Cllr M Bradley noted that there are Local Council Awards open and they are looking for councils that have undertaken innovative projects. These to be re-considered in 2026.

# 136/25 Community Resilience/Emergency Plan

# Cllr N Clubley had circulated a draft version via email to all.

# Thanks were noted to all councillors who had contributed to this draft.

# A brief update was provided by Cllr N Clubley, there are some sections that need to be finalised including the Risk Assessment and then corresponding appendix which provides a bit more detail behind each issue and looks at what can be done in advance to prepare for an issue, what occurs during the immediate issue and then what could be done in the aftermath.

# An agreement needs to be made as to who the response group is locally, and where the emergency assistance centre would be (e.g. Church or Village Hall).

# Action: Cllr N Clubley to speak to the Church about this.

# It was noted that Brigham Parish Council have just completed their emergency plan which could be complimentary to Broughton Parish Council.

# A suggestion was made that the Broughton Parish Council should refer to the Broughton Primary School Emergency Plan which will be in place as a statutory requirement.

# 137/25 Play-area

# *General Play area Matters*

# The Clerk shared with all a quote for the picnic bench to go on the concrete pad that has been installed, and some areas of ground have been levelled and the grass seed is starting to grow, it appears that the drainage is also working.

# There is a button swing off the carousel and is with Steve and Kompan who are going to replace the entire unit. This is in progress.

# Resolved by all present that the quote of £835.20 be approved and the Clerk to order this item and include Cllr Steve Hannah’s contact details for delivery.

# Action: Clerk to take this forward in partnership with Cllr Steve Hannah.

# It was noted that the repaired stop the ball net has been damaged again, which is incredibly disappointing given the costs involved.

# Action: Clerk to report this to the Police again to flag potential anti-social behaviour.

# 138/25 Allotments

# *To consider and discuss any actions required relating to Broughton Allotments*

# The Clerk confirmed that Allotment Invoices have been issued for the 25-26 and circa 40% have been paid at the point of the meeting.

# Cllr M Bradley noted that there is almost no one on the waiting list so we need to encourage people to join, as we are likely to have a number of vacant plots in the coming months. There are currently 3 sitting vacant and a couple of others that have historic issues that still need resolved.

# Asbestos has now been removed from one of the other challenging plots, a skip now needs to be organised to deal with ongoing legacy waste from 3 plots on Nook. Cllr M Bradley to lead on organising skips to deal with this, but it was noted that this is a significant burden as skips have to be monitored to prevent unauthorised waste being added.

# Thanks were noted to Mary Bradley for all her work on the allotments.

# 139/25 Parish Maintenance and Highways

# Broughton Parish Council noted serious concern about the lack of lengthsman agreement from Cumberland Council.

# *Broughton/Brigham Roundabout*

Cllr N Clubley and Cllr M Bradley had a positive meeting with MP M Campbell Savours and Broughton Parish Council have offered any support that they can provide to help his lobbying on this.

**Action: Cllr N Clubley to email MP Campbell Savours to suggest a public meeting being organised to discuss this matter.**

It was noted that Highways England have now re-taken possession of the piece of land at Broughton A66 junction. Thanks were noted to Highways England for their communication on this matter.

1. *Cumberland Council Highways Matters*

All on HIMS awaiting action.

* There is a need for Double Yellow Lines around the corner by ‘the Entrance’ in Little Broughton which is now being used as an air b & b. This has been put on the HIMS system, but no response has been received, and this is felt to be an emergency issue.
* It was noted that the 30mph sign remains missing despite 3 years of this being pursued by Broughton Parish Council
* Bus Services- There is a temporary solution in place at the moment, and the new routes are out for tender and it depends if someone applies for the tender. The funding is also only secured for two years via the Bus Service Improvement Programme (if someone applies for the tender). It was noted that there is a real challenge for bus services with the majority of people using buses having bus passes which only have a small return. There is also an issue with lack of staff to drive buses.

1. *Millennium Gardens*

Concerns have once again been raised about the condition of Millennium Gardens. This land is owned by Cumberland Council (formally Cumbria County Council) but is looking untidy and uncared for.

It was noted that the Parish Council have no responsibility for this area of land and cannot undertake any work on a Cumberland Council asset without a formal agreement in place to do so. Requests for a lengthsman agreement/parish maintenance agreement have been made repeatedly to Cumberland Council since LGR but this agreement has not materialised.

The Clerk also raised concern that due to the location of this area of land and its location on a junction, on a hill and on a blind bend the risks/liabilities may be significant.

**Resolved** that until a lengthsman agreement is received from Cumberland Council no action can be taken.

1. *Access path behind Moorfield Bank*

A resident has raised concern about the path behind the bungalows on Moorfield Bank. Cumberland Council footpaths have confirmed that they can only do the ‘standard level of vegetation maintenance on the public right of way’. And that anything over and above that Cumberland Council have stated would need to be done by homeowners or the Parish Council.

One of the issues is that the ownership of this footpath is not clear so there is no clear responsibility for the maintenance. The Parish Council have spoken with Allerdale Borough Council/Home Housing/Home owners in the past and no progress has been made due to lack of ownership information.

**Resolved** by all present that the Parish Council are not able to take this forward as it is not land that the Parish Council owns, nor could take responsibility for.

1. *Additional grass cutting*

**Resolved** by all present that the path round Bulling Meadow be cut twice a year (May & August) to keep it accessible.

**Action: Clerk to request a quote from John Dobie for this works twice a year.**

There is also a problem with the footpath from Broughton High Bridge up to Broughton which is impassable. This is a public right of way and is not being maintained by Cumberland Council, and also provides a safe access to the village without going on the road.

**Action: Clerk to raise this on HIMS.**

# 140/25 Correspondence

1. Cumberland Council- Call for Sites (Local Plan)

The Call for Sites is open until **Sunday 4th January 2026**, and further information, including guidance and submission forms, is available on the Cumberland Council website at:

<https://consult.cumberland.gov.uk/cumberland-local-plan-call-for-sites>

The Clerk confirmed that she has submitted a nomination for Soddy Gap, Bulling Meadow & Welfare Field as a green field/open space, and the two allotment sites (as such)

**Action: Clerk to nominate cricket field.**

1. Grants for supporting local climate action

It was noted that Cumberland Council has grants of up to £20,000 available for not for profit organisations to tackle environmental challenges at a local level, the applications are open for submission until the 17th December 2025.

**Resolved** by all present that sadly the vast majority of actions that the Parish Council want to take are linked to the lengthsman agreement which as discussed elsewhere in the minutes has still not materialised from Cumberland Council.

**141/25 Planning Applications**

None

# 142/25 Planning Decisions

**Resolved** by all present that the below planning decision be noted as received.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref | Location | Proposal | Decision |
| HOU/2025/0013 | Cardrona, Moor Road | Proposed Two Storey Domestic extension & internal alterations | Approved with conditions |

**143/25 Finance & Accounts**

### Payment of Accounts

**Resolved** by all present that the below accounts be paid via BACS authorised by 2 authorised signatories:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **From** | **Reason** | **Amount** | **Approve/Ratify** |
| Becx Carter | Salary (August) | £431.48 | Ratify |
| HMRC | PAYE | £307.60 | Ratify |
| Jackson Hetherington | Grass Cutting (August) | £305.00 | Ratify |
| Maryport Ground Works | Deposit for Playground Works | £750.14 | Ratify |
| Maryport Grounds Works | Balance for Playground works | £1,125.21 | Ratify |
| Jackson Hetherington | Grass Cutting (Sept) | £305.00 | Approve |
| Sue & Steve Hannah | Reimbursement for play area padlock | £26.99 | Approve |
| Becx Carter | Salary (Sept) | £385.69 | Approve |
| HMRC | PAYE (Sept) | £275.20 | Approve |
| John Dobie | Strimming Bulling Meadow | £280 | Ratify |
| West Coast Thermal | Asbestos Clearance | £774.00 | Approve |
| Cumbria Pest Services | Mink Control | £156.00 | Approve |
| Marmax | Picnic Bench | £835.20 | Approve |

**Action: Clerk to pay these accounts.**

#### To consider and approve the Bank Reconciliation and Spend Against budget report

**Resolved** by all present that these reports be approved as a true and accurate record.

1. *To approve & ratify the Clerks Statutory payrise and associated SO updates*

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerks Statutory payrise be ratified along with the associated Standing Order Updates.

1. *To adopt the updated Standing Orders*

**Resolved** by all present that the updated Standing Orders as circulated with the meeting papers be adopted with immediate effect.

**Action: Clerk to update the website.**

**144/25 Date & Time of Next meeting.**

**Resolved** by all that the meeting dates for Broughton Parish Council going forward be set as (all at 18:00 all in Christchurch):

14th October 2025

18th November 2025

13th January 2026

Meeting closed 19:30

Signed……………………………………………. (Chair) Dated………………………………………………..