WINSCALES PARISH COUNCIL

The General Meeting of the Winscales Parish Council was held on Monday 16th March 2026, at the Hunday Manor Hotel, at 6.30pm.

Parish Councillors present: Cllr Carole Armstrong, Cllr Peter Gaston, Cllr Hilary Harington, Cllr Michele Twiss (Vice Chair), Cllr Chris West (Chair).

Meeting Ref No: 060-Mar

Proper Officer: Angela Meek, Clerk & RFO

Minute Taker: Jaymie Meek

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence** - None received
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests** - *None to note*
3. **Resignations** - *None to note*
4. **Co-options** - *None to note*
5. **Policy and Procedures to consider**
   1) *Making Annual Governance Audit Regulator Digital - AGAR is to go digital to all parish councils going live in 2027. 100 parish councils have been selected to complete a pilot scheme for the accounts at the close of 2026. Training sessions will be held, the clerk and a newly appointed assistant Clerk will be attending the session.*
6. **Public Participation**
   a) *Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business (Limited to 15 Minutes) – no members of the public were present.*
7. **Minutes of the General Meeting held on 19 January 2026 referenced (059-JAN)**
   1) *Minutes were forwarded prior to the meeting for approval.*

      Proposed Cllr Gaston, Seconded Cllr West, all agreed they were of a true record. The clerk apologised for leaving the printed minutes on the printer.
   2) *There were no matters arising from said meeting held on 19 January 2026 meeting:*
   3) *The Chair will sign the January minutes at the AGM meeting held on 18 May 2026.*
8. **Financial Matters presented by the Responsible Financial Officer**
   a) *Bank Statements*

January:	*Start Balance*	*£9,671.63*
	Paid In	*£0.00*
	Paid Out	*£282.18*
	End Balance	*£9,389.45*

CLERK: Mrs Angela Meek, 0792 011 5050 – clerk@winscalesparishcouncil.org
10 Newlands Lane, Workington, Cumbria CA14 3NF

February	Start Balance	£9,389.45
	Paid In	£150.00
	Paid Out	£4.25
	End Balance	£9,535.20

b) Schedule of Payments/Receipts

1. Expenses for Room Hire costs (CN 129) £40.00
2. Compensation Payment from Lloyds Bank £150.00

Proposed Cllr Gaston, Seconded Cllr Twiss, all agreed.

c) Cheques were signed by Cllr West and Cllr Gaston.

d) Account Report Sheet and Balance were put before councillors for discussion and approval.

Proposed Councillor Harrington, Seconded Cllr Armstrong, all agreed they were of a true record and the Chair signed.

e) Other financial matters – as of 30 June 2025 the clerk lost the ability to go online to view the parish's accounts and from July-November has made several attempts at contacting the bank both online and at the Workington branch without success. Over the months of December, January and February the clerk has inundated Lloyds Bank telephone and online helpdesk in a quest to get the online review of the parish's' account open and in late February 2026 was able to view the accounts online for the first time since June 2025. A complaints Manager George has been exceptionally critical in resolving this issue. With numerous complaints noted on the system he awarded the clerk a compensation payment of £150.00 for the trouble. He informed the clerk that this was nothing to do with the parish's account itself. It is for perseverance and tenacity in driving this issue to a conclusion. The payment could be a cheque or payment into an account, the clerk asked for transparency reasons, she would prefer the payment to be put into the parish's account and for her to discuss with councillors. The clerk informed councillors that she had spent many hours over the last eight months either on the phone and going into the Workington branch to try to resolve the problem (some of which has been noted in earlier minutes) of which were not noted as part of her hours working for the parish council.
After much discussion councillors agreed unanimously that the compensation payment was nothing to do with the parish's account and thanked her for her time and patience.

9. Planning Applications/Decisions/Appeals

1) ***Planning Application - FUL/2025/0199***
Applicant: Andrew Fisher Walker Bros (Cockermouth) Ltd
Proposal: Erection of self-storage garages
Location: 11 Pittwood Road, Lillyhall Industrial Estate, Lillyhall, Workington CA14 4JP
As authorised by the above legislation Cumberland Council grant planning permission for this application subject to compliance with conditions and reasons:
Parish Councillors had no objection.

2) ***Planning application 2/2015/0502 & FUL/2025/0200*** *- Cumberland Lodge, park homes*
Applicant: G Palleta Trailwalk Ltd
Proposal: Change of use to provide Holiday Lodge Park
Location: Cumberland Lodge, Winscales, Workington, CA14 4JG
Parish Councillors have concerns with possible breaches to the application and have asked Cumberland Council to investigate.

CLERK: Mrs Angela Meek, 0792 011 5050 – clerk@winscalesparishcouncil.org
10 Newlands Lane, Workington, Cumbria CA14 3NF

3) Planning Application VAR/2026/0001

Applicant: Palmer - Proposal: Variation to approved application VAR/2022/0022 to remove conditions 2 and 3 (holiday let), High Mains, Winscales, Workington, CA14 4JG.
Parish Councillors have no objections.

10. Parish Matters

a) Defibrillator has been checked and is in working order – the battery and pads are only a year old.
b) Notice boards – painting will begin in the spring as it is too wet and damp.
c) Standing Order Booklet should be brought to the meetings, the clerk to look at downloading a copy from the CALC website.

11. Any Other Business

1) A Clerk/Assistant Clerk Role has been advertised on the Parish's website since 6th February 2026 and in Notice boards from 12 February 2026 – closing date is 12:00 noon on 30 March 2026 – to date one applicant has applied for the post
Councillors discussed the hours (3), Salary (14.82) and support and training for any applicant should this be required.

A date of 13 April 2026 at 6.30pm was agreed for further discussion and selected applications to be contacted for interviews – the clerk could not book the HMH as it was closed that week, so she will try to book the Golf Club for 6.30pm.

12. Agenda items to be received by the clerk by 11th May 2026.

13. Date of next meeting – (meeting dates for the diary)
(APM), (AGM) 18th May 2026 - (GM) 20th July 2016 - (GM) 21st September 2026
GM) 16 November 2026 – (GM) 18th January 2027 - (GM) 15th March 2027.

Meeting closed at 19:30

Ref:- 060-Mar

Signed..... (Chair)

CLERK: Mrs Angela Meek, 0792 011 5050 – clerk@winscalesparishcouncil.org
10 Newlands Lane, Workington, Cumbria CA14 3NF