

**Holme Low Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall**

**Present:** Cllr. J. Graham (JG)

**Councillors**

Cllrs. C. Edmunds (CE), D. Findlay (DF) & K. Orchard (KO).

Also present: Wendy Jameson – Parish Clerk (WEJ) & 4 members of the public.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr. M. Orchard. <b>Absent:</b> Cllr. G. Betsworth.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b> None.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Exclusion of Press and Public</b> It was agreed that the Press and Public be excluded from item 18 on the agenda.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Minutes</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting held on the 10 October 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> Another date is needed for a meeting with Cumbria Highways to discuss the damage to the verge at the bottom of Kingside Hill. The Council has no money to do any repairs at the moment.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Public Participation</b> There are two potholes and a crack in the concrete at the entrance to the Lido Village, at the corner of Barracks Bridge, between the road and the gate. The old wall is where the boundary is for the Lido Village and what belongs to Cove. The issue will be reported to Cumbria Highways. The chevrons sign has also been damaged which warns motorists of the sharp bend which will also be reported to Cumbria Highways.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Financial Report</b> The Clerk provided an up-to-date financial report which showed a balance of £26,445.09 in the Current Account and £270.11 in the Deposit Account on 9 January 2024. This includes the following funding for the cemetery building: - £10k Lottery Community Fund, £10k Hellrigg Community Fund & £1k Cumbria County Council. The Parish Council has also just received notification that it has been awarded £10k from the Robin Rigg Community Fund.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Requests for financial assistance</b> Another request has been received from the Great North Air Ambulance. A donation of £100 has already been made in this financial year and it was agreed to leave this for the time being.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Payment of Accounts</b> Cheque payments to 9 January 2024 were approved for payment by the Parish Council.	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Budget 2024/25</b> The Clerk produced some draft figures based on previous year's accounts and the current year's spending. It was agreed to raise a precept of £7,500 for 2024/25 which would provide an additional £1,500 towards the Cemetery building project. This would result in a charge of approx. £55 on a band D property which is what it was before the boundary change took place.	

<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Cumbria Police, Fire &amp; Crime Commissioner - Autumn Newsletter 2023.</li> <li>b) Hyperfast GB Newsletter - October 2023.</li> <li>c) Connecting Cumbria Newsletter October 2023.</li> <li>d) Cumberland Council - 20.10.23 Partnership Information, LGR and Coronavirus.</li> <li>e) Tidelines – Newsletter of the Solway Firth Partnership – Issue 59 Winter 2023.</li> <li>f) Cumberland Council - 03.11.23 Partnership Information LGR and Coronavirus.</li> <li>g) Environment Agency – Nuclear Regulation News – Regulatory scrutiny for geological disposal – Annual report published.</li> <li>h) Connecting Cumbria Newsletter November 2023.</li> <li>i) Cumberland Council - 27.11.23 Partnership Information, LGR and Coronavirus.</li> <li>j) CALC News – September October 2023.</li> <li>k) Clerks &amp; Councils Direct – November 2023.</li> <li>l) Hyperfast GB Newsletter - December 2023.</li> <li>m) Civility &amp; Respect Project – December 2023 Newsletter.</li> <li>n) Cumberland Council - 18.12.23 Partnership Information, LGR and Coronavirus.</li> <li>o) Connecting Cumbria Newsletter December 2023.</li> <li>p) CALC News – November December 2023.</li> <li>q) Cumberland Council – Enq. Ref: EI/162169 – The Council intend to add 40mph roundels to the B5302 at Causewayhead in the future which will be subject to funding and programming but estimate this will take place during the next financial year.</li> <li>r) Environment Agency – Re: Condition of becks. Email with links to maintenance programmes and how to report issues.</li> <li>s) NALC - legal update for October 2023.</li> <li>t) CALC - Information regarding a Public Consultation Survey from the Cumbria Constabulary &amp; the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.</li> <li>u) CALC – Copy of pay agreement for 2023/24.</li> <li>v) CALC – Copy of the draft minutes from the AGM held in September.</li> <li>w) Cumberland Council – Enq. Ref: EI/170506 – Pothole of West Causewayhead Lane does not meet the investigatory levels and therefore no works are required at this time, but it will continue to be monitored.</li> <li>x) CALC – Feedback received from Moore (external auditors) following this year’s audits.</li> <li>y) Cumbria Police – Re: Fraud Prevention – Offer to come and do a fraud prevention talk.</li> <li>z) Cumberland Council – Enq. Ref: EI/162172 – Overgrown hedge adjacent to cemetery does not meet the investigatory levels and therefore no works are required at this time, but it will continue to be monitored.</li> <li>aa) Cumberland Council – Enq. Ref: EI/165708 – The team have inspected the reported hedges at The Windmill, Causewayhead and these have now been cut back.</li> <li>bb) NALC - December legal bulletin update.</li> <li>cc) Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) - Council tax precept consultation - public feedback requested on the budget proposal for Cumbria Constabulary 2024-2025.</li> <li>dd) Cumberland Council - Cumberland budget consultation.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
<p><b>13.</b></p>	<p><b>Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies</b></p> <p><b>Hellrigg Community Fund</b> – There was a meeting in December and a grant was provided to Silloth-on-Solway Festivals towards a new music event on the Green. An application from Silloth-on-Solway Sports Association was turned down.</p> <p><b>Sea Dyke Charity</b> – The trust has agreed to provide funding towards a new shed at Swinsty Farm. The tenant is struggling to get a price for a new shed. A meeting is to be arranged shortly.</p>	

	<b>Longcake Educational Foundation</b> – No report.	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Cumberland Council Report</b> No report.	
<b>15.</b>	<b>Reports from Councillors</b> Email to be sent to the Planning Department regarding the former garden centre which has a large number of vehicles outside and someone appears to be living there.	
<b>16.</b>	<b>Chairman’s Announcement</b> The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for all the work done by the Clerk.	
<b>17.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b> Parish Council meeting - Tuesday 9 April 2024 at 7.30pm in Silloth Community Hall.	
<b>18.</b>	<b>2023/24 National Salary Award</b> The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed the new pay scales for 2023/24 which are to be implemented from 1 April 2023. The Parish Council agreed to increase the Parish Clerk’s hourly rate by £1.50 per hour which is also to be backdated to 1 April 2023.	

Signed.....

Date.....