

**CLAIFE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Held at &**

**The Braithwaite Hall, Far Sawrey at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

**Attendees;** Cllrs A Brodie (Chair), S Hilton (Vice Chair) M Stanton, S Denyer, J Whitworth, D Knight, Caroline Sharp Worth (Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer), Laura Lee NT and one member of the public

**34/2025 Apologies**

Cllr. Pender

**35/2025 Declarations of Interest and Requests for dispensations** to speak or vote on any item on the agenda by elected or co-opted members.

**None Received.**

**36/2025 Minutes**

**Resolved** Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2025 as a true record.

**37/2025 Public participation.**

**a) Reports:**

i Police; No reports received

ii Unitary Councillor; No reports received. Cllr. Brodie explained the proposed changes in the new boundaries for Parish Councils. Claife will still be grouped with Hawkshead, but no longer with Coniston. Changes are necessary from a population perspective, to group smaller rural communities into fewer areas.

iii National Trust; Laura Lee, General Manager reported on 3 topics. **Resolved.**

a) Moss Eccles Tarn: seepage repair works and enhancements to Main Dam and Saddle Dam are due to commence later in the year, following a statutory request from the Environment Agency, since The Reservoirs Act changed. Discussed affect of any significant flood on Over Beck. Awaiting planning permission for works from the LDNPA. The dam is being constantly monitored by the NT to fully understand the extent of the seepage. The works aim to preserve the visitor experience wherever possible. To put on the website, village noticeboards and the Esthwaite Link, to update residents.

b) Discussions with United Utilities and flooding issues. UU are still looking at the two fields opposite Hill Top and trying to separate rain water from the combined sewage system as much as possible, to reduce the outflows into Cunsey Beck. A percolation system being considered. NT are still working with UU to finalise a plan. UU currently doing work on phosphate stripping at the pumping station. Cllr Brodie described the extent of flooding in the area and downstream issues, affecting houses, paths, roads and becks and the effect on Wilfin Beck. Laura explained that NT surveyed every beck and river that crossed their land last year. NT hydrologist and ecologist have agreed with the mapping of the water flow. They have asked UU to expand their review further downstream than just Wilfin Beck to ensure that the wider implications are assessed in conjunction. South Cumbria Rivers Trust are doing a water fly check in the summer which will create a benchmark for the state of the ecology of the stream. Claife Parish Council have been monitoring 6 points all the way down the beck, every month.

c) Harrowslack Area Action Plan being done for the first time, by the Strategic Visitor Management Group (SVMG). One key aim is to help with anti-social behaviour. NT are working on the final plan for the site. Public Space Protection Orders are out for consultation with the council and NT, to give police more authority to tackle anti-social behaviour including instant fixed penalty notices.

d) NT in contact with Highways Authority regarding double yellow lines on tarmacked areas of Red Nab road from B5285 to cattle grid on close to Strawberry Gardens. The aim is to stop unauthorised parking which blocks the road and prevents passage of Emergency vehicles. The consultation process takes approximately 12 months.

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b) **Representations from members of the public** None received

### **38/2025 Councillor matters**

Cllr Brodie reported that a parishioner had expressed concern about the speed limit (60mph) on the B5285 beside the Parish Council open access land on Esthwaite. The lack of "pedestrians on road" alerts for drivers between Hawkshead and High Crag, Near Sawrey, was agreed to be a cause for concern. **Resolved** to raise with Cllr Pender and Westmorland and Furness Highways

### **39/2025 Highways and gritting**

- a) Hawkshead pilot gritting proposal. Cllr Brodie confirmed that W&F council have plans in place for Claife and Hawkshead next winter, including training for the gritters. She will continue to update on progress. **Resolved.**
- b) Clerk reported that the Highways Surface Dressing meeting planned for April 22nd to be rearranged, **Resolved** Cllr Knight to attend meeting and to raise concerns about speed of response to pothole reporting and repair methods used which are soon eroded by water ingress.
- c) Lakeland Trails event on 12th April. No issues reported. **Resolved.**

### **40/2025 Management of Parish Council land and assets**

- i) Damage on Lakebank Esthwaite land caused by unauthorised vehicle has been repaired to a very satisfactory level. Photos of repairs shared by Cllr Brodie. The path edge has been remarked to try to deter others to drive over it again. Thinning of trees has now been completed **Resolved.**
- ii) Ash landing; tree felling is likely to be completed in the Autumn. Brambles extending into road. **Resolved** Cllrs Brodie and Hilton to remove brambles.
- iii) Tarn Hill footpath signage. NT have ordered sign. Relocation of PC Near Sawrey noticeboard may be required if Hill Top plans for new car parking and pedestrian access go ahead. Cllr Brodie reported that NT staff had agreed to fund a new Parish Council Notice Board as part of the new pedestrian entrance at Hill Top. **Resolved.**
- iv) Cllr Brodie confirmed that the Memorial Trees will be assessed by an arborist in the Autumn. **Resolved.**

### **41/2025 Registration of Parish Council land.**

No further update. Ongoing.

**42/2025 Defibrillator Update** Cllr Hilton confirmed that the Near and Far Sawrey defibrillators are connected to a working landline. Neither are cellular. However the Near Sawrey defibrillator's in-built connection to emergency services number is out of order. Cllr Hilton has put a notice to this effect within the phone box and reported the problem to Community Heartbeat. If they supply him with a replacement he will fit it. There is currently no line rental on non-cellular lines but free use of will be withdrawn when copper network is turned off. **Resolved.**

### **43/2025 Attendance on CALC training courses**

Clerk attended Clerk I and II training.

Cllr Knight attended Effective Councillor modules I and II.

Two courses approved for Clerk: Finance and End of Year Accounts, both in April. **Resolved.**

### **44/2025 Planning Applications**

a) To note planning applications with provision for consultation: -

- i) T/2025/0055 Tower Bank House, Near Sawrey, Ambleside, LA22 0LF Fell 1 conifer (T2). Cut down to stump on multi-stemmed non-native broadleaf (T1). **No objections.**
- ii) 7/2023/5255 Pearsall House, The Ferry Landing, Far Sawrey, LA22 0LP. Conversion and change

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of use to hotel with associated landscaping. New wastewater treatment scheme proposal. Deadline extended to 16 April 2025. **Objected.** The application cannot be supported until a satisfactory solution is found regarding foul water disposal and qualified with a firm date for the necessary works to be completed.

iii) T/2025/0059 Woodleigh, Near Sawrey, Ambleside, LA22 0LB. Fell 1 small cherry (T1). Crown reduce 1 small cherry by 2m (T2). **No Objections**

b) To note planning decisions made since the last meeting:-

Planning decision 7/2024/5550. Bryers Cottage, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, LA22 0LW. Erection of dwelling and associated infrastructure following demolition of existing dwelling. **Granted.**

**45/2025 Advance Notice of Election of Parish member to Lake District National Park Authority.** Nomination to be considered at the AGM in May. Deadline for nominations, 28<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Stanton and Knight expressed interest. **Resolved.**

**46/2025 Consultation on Mayor for Cumbria.** Councillors informed. Closing date was April 13<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Denyer attended a virtual meeting and Cllr Knight watched it. Cllrs impression was that if parish councils were opposed, it would not make any difference to Unitary Authorities plans to support creation of a Mayor for Cumbria. The meeting was vague and offered no specifics and the driving force is access to additional funding. **Resolved.**

**47/2025 Consultation launched by Westmorland and Furness Council** to help shape proposals for waste and recycling. 24 April at 6.45pm – Virtual meeting with CALC. Cllr Hilton, Whitworth and Stanton to attend. **Resolved.**

**48/2025 To note new additions to website.** Travel Actively Cumbria Website link. New Clerk / RFO and changed correspondence address amended. Road closures and traffic information One.Network. Wray Castle Restoration Project link added. **Resolved.**

**49/2025 A permanent Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer has been appointed.** Caroline Sharp Worth started on April 1st. **Resolved.**

#### **50/2025 Financial Matters**

a) To note the Year End bank balance on March 31st 2025 was £23,032.61. Opening balance for the Financial Year was £17,737.02. Note Tree Felling invoice to be paid from March for £5100 (see below). **Resolved.**

b) Approval to setup monthly Direct Debit to HMRC for National Insurance and PAYE, saving postage and delay. Amounts calculated automatically on PAYE software each month, in line with tax regulations and as per proforma see point h). **Resolved.**

**a)** To authorise the following payments: -

i) Community Heartbeat emergency phone annual cellular rental node 3301 Near Sawrey tel box, if confirmed, net amount £60.00 Vat £12.00 Total £72.00 **Not a cellular connection so no payment to be made. Resolved.**

ii) CALC Training course 3 x £20: Finance for RFO. Awaiting invoice.

iii) GDPR subscription fee £52 When due. **Resolved.**

iii) Tree felling invoice from March £4250 + VAT of £850 = £5100 **Resolved.**

iv) Clerk & RFO wage, see h) also: **Resolved.**

chq to Clerk for £888.68 to be dated 21 April (mileage £45.45, payroll £843.23 net), corresponding HMRC NI & PAYE £140.06 (chq to "HM Revenue & Customs only" if too late for DD)

v) CALC subscription for the year due 31 August £173.62 (It was £165.28 LYR). **Resolved.**

**d)** Cumberland bank account – change of account to allow for Business Internet Banking discussion – £3/month fee. Clerk to look at any further costs involved, if approved. Will allow Parish Council to invest the credit balance in an account which can sit alongside it and be interchangeable, earning 2.95% interest and instant access (£590 on £20,000). **Resolved.**

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e) Approval for RFO to be named on the bank account, no payment authorisation, just administrative. Two signatories required on form and needs adding to minutes and returning with minutes to bank. **Resolved.**

f) HMRC Payroll Year End completed online 5 April. **Resolved.**

g) HMRC VAT reclaim completed for Financial Year 2024/25. £994. To update when credited to bank. **Resolved.**

h) To consider adoption of proforma payment schedule of Clerk and RFO salary to enable monthly payroll. Circulated to Councillors. **Resolved.**

**51/2025** Dates of future meetings to be agreed. **Resolved.**

AGM to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm followed by PC meeting at High Wray Village Hall.

**24<sup>th</sup> June** Parish Council Meeting Braithwaite Hall

**5<sup>th</sup> August** Parish Council Meeting High Wray Village Hall

**16<sup>th</sup> September** Parish Council Meeting Braithwaite Hall

**28<sup>th</sup> October** Parish Council Meeting High Wray Village Hall

**16<sup>th</sup> December** Parish Council Meeting Braithwaite Hall

**10<sup>th</sup> February** Parish Council Meeting High Wray Village Hall

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