

PONSONBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 9th December 2025

Presenter

Scott Robertson (Chairman)

Councillors

Vice-chair Robert Jone, Cllr Alan Rigg (AR), and Cllr Tyson Norman (TN)

67/25	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Received from Cllr Jane Wheatley, Cllr Liz Dias (LD)</p>	
68/25	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None</p>	
69/25	<p>MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL: HELD ON 11th November 2025 The previous minutes were approved</p>	
70/25	<p>PROGRESS REPORTS</p> <p>GDF – ongoing Parish Councils have provided GDF with feedback following the impact grants are having on their administration workload. There has been limited engagement with local businesses and GDF are being encouraged to have more correspondence with them. Timescales for grant decisions are increasing. There are no further updates regarding the general development/</p> <p>HIGHWAYS – ongoing During the meeting with National Highways, further discussion was had regarding the continual flooding and ongoing drain blockages.</p> <p>Two cameras have been installed on the village approach A595 South as part of the safety review.</p> <p>An email has been sent to a contact a Cumberland Council outlaying our concerns regarding speeding vehicles through the village, the possibility of average speed cameras, the moving of the 30mph limit further along Abbey Road and to explore the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing.</p> <p>Concern continues regarding the drain capacity from Ponsonby to Calderbridge along the A595. These are continually being blocked with debris. Clerk to send a summary to Highways explaining our concerns.</p> <p>PARISH COUNCIL FORUM – ongoing The latest forum was held on 27th November 2025. BEPPS2 laydown area has been approved. The possibility of further boreholes has been discussed. Factory sewer repairs are due to commence in 2026. It is anticipated that the permissive footpath over the river Calder will be closed for approximately 5 months. Further collaboration with Cumberland Council has been requested, specifically surrounding the local plan.</p> <p>St. BRIDGETS CHURCH CLOSURE – ongoing There are no further updates however there is growing concern regarding the condition of the building. Request to be made for the site to be secured.</p> <p>NDA - ongoing There are no further updates.</p>	HW

	<p>Heart of the Community fund and outdoor spaces Confirmation has been received that we can extend the deadline for Phase 1 to 31st March 2026 to allow for the painting to be completed. We are awaiting the outcome of the application for Phase 2. The final playground invoice has been paid following defect rectification.</p> <p>Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust (Sustrans) – ongoing We are awaiting a final outcome for the grant application submitted in relation to the feasibility study for the multi-use pathway.</p> <p>Industrial Action at Sellafield - ongoing There are no further updates other than this is continuing.</p> <p>Assertion 10 Following further review, it is evident that additional IT and GDPR policies must be adopted to ensure full compliance. It was agreed that Chairman Robertson will take the necessary steps, including the possible transition to a new website host. It is anticipated that the costs associated with achieving compliance will be in the region of £1,000.</p> <p>Precept It has been agreed for the Precept to remain at £6000 for the financial year 2026-2027.</p>	
71/25	<p>APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>04/25/2409/0F1 – Prior notification of Demolition to Quality Assurance building - Sellafield There are no objections to this</p> <p>04/25/2410/0F1 – Prior notification of Demolition to Computer Acc. Building – Sellafield There are no objections to this</p> <p>04/25/2408/DOC – Partial discharge of Condition 2 of planning application: 4/08/2298/0 Application notification is yet to be received. There are concerns regarding this. Response to be sent to Cumberland outlining the points raised.</p>	HW
72/25	<p>FINANCIAL RECORDS The balances as held on 1st December 2025 were £13913.89 with a further £2500 in the amenities account</p> <p>The following invoices have been/are to be paid:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clerk Services – November 2025: £179.07 2) Village Hall Hire: October and November 2025: £48 3) Mr A McCully: Flags - £26.99 (paid 21/11/2025) 4) Playdale – invoice 62991 - £9355.69 (paid 1/12/2025) 5) ICO Fee: £52.00 	
73/25	<p>SCHEDULE OF CORRESPONDENCE, NOTICES AND PUBLICATIONS</p> <p>Waste Collection A formal complaint has been submitted to Cumberland Council regarding the lack of waste collections around the Parish. We are awaiting a reply.</p> <p>Pioneer Park A letter has been received regarding Pioneer Park and the proposal for a data centre and Small Modular Reactor Plant. Requests have been received for dialogue to be opened and input into the master plan. There are concerns regarding a property valuation scheme and what is being done to consider this. Vice Chair to reply on this point</p>	RJ
74/25	<p>PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <p>None</p>	

75/25	COUNCILLOR MATTERS Stanley Arms There is ongoing concern surrounding proposals for development of the building. This continues to be monitored	
76/25	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The proposed and agreed date of the next meeting is Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 7pm.	