

PONSONBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting 1st September 2026

Presenter: Scott Robertson (Chairman)

Councillors; Robert Jones (RJ) and Alan Rigg (AR)

Also Present - Hannah Webb (Clerk)

41/26	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Cllr Tyson Norman (TN) and Jane Wheatley (JW) The Parish Council acknowledges that Cllr Tyson is currently unable to attend meetings due to ongoing illness, and their absence has been formally approved.	
42/26	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None	
43/26	MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14th July 2026 The previous minutes were approved with a minor amendment to the wording in 38/26	
44/26	PROGRESS REPORTS GDF – ongoing There are no further updates in relation to the outcome of the decision to be made by the Government. It is hoped that there will be a swift decision following the summer recess. HIGHWAYS – ongoing A further email has been sent to National Highways from Chairman Robertson raising ongoing concerns on the A595 heading north from Calderbridge. The vegetation remains overgrown and the central barriers are broken by Jacksons Timber – this has already been reported to Cumberland Highways and is to be reported again. Cumberland Council attended to drill holes in the sandstone wall next to the riverside garden. It is understood this was for drainage holes. No contractors have returned to site – Clerk to query ongoing actions with Cumberland Highways. PARISH COUNCIL FORUM – ongoing An email has been sent with proposed dates. Clarification of an understanding of the purpose of the meetings has been requested. St. BRIDGETS CHURCH CLOSURE – ongoing Email from Rev. Dorling to confirm that the replacement railings are with a fabricator. The Church and the Churchyard are to remain closed until the restoration has been completed. NDA A chase email is to be sent regarding the request for parking consideration. Walk, wheel, cycle trust (formerly Sustrans) There have been meetings between WWCT and NDA. WWCT are to return to the area to complete further surveys.	
45/26	Applications for Development None received	
46/26	FINANCIAL RECORDS The balances as held 8 th July 2026 was £11172.74 with a further £2500 in the amenities account. This has increased following a VAT refund. It has been agreed for the Clerk to receive a pay adjustment in line with the recommended NJC pay bands. This is to be backdated to April 2026.	

	The proposed financial regulations have been approved. The Parish Council is required to comply with the items shown in bold and will use the full policy as guidance. The following invoices have been agreed for payment: <table><tr><th>Ref</th><th>Payee</th><th>Description</th><th>Amount (£)</th></tr><tr><td>001</td><td>Clerk</td><td>Services for August 2026</td><td>£149.70</td></tr><tr><td>002</td><td>HugoFox Limited</td><td>website hosting and Councillor email addresses – recurring cost</td><td>£25.00</td></tr><tr><td>003</td><td>Village Hall Committee</td><td>Hall Hire – July 2026</td><td>£24.00</td></tr><tr><td>004</td><td>Local Contractor - Agricultural Services</td><td>Works completed in August 2026</td><td>£TBC – awaiting invoice</td></tr></table>			Ref	Payee	Description	Amount (£)	001	Clerk	Services for August 2026	£149.70	002	HugoFox Limited	website hosting and Councillor email addresses – recurring cost	£25.00	003	Village Hall Committee	Hall Hire – July 2026	£24.00	004	Local Contractor - Agricultural Services	Works completed in August 2026	£TBC – awaiting invoice	
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47/26	SCHEDULE OF CORRESPONDENCE, NOTICES AND PUBLICATIONS Pioneer Park The Master Plan was due to be produced by the end of September. There has been little public engagement. RJ attended a session in Whitehaven to discuss in principle the SMR's and data centre. The Clerk is to write to BEC Pioneer Park Team to outline that the Parish will be significantly affected by the proposed development.																							
48/26	PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION None																							
49/26	COUNCILLOR MATTERS Beaver release project Cllr Wheatley met with the team from Forestry England to discuss the release of beavers in the area. There has been little liaising with the local farming community. This will directly impact them. Bins Cllr Wheatley is to meet with a representative from Cumberland Council to discuss the provision for refuse collection within Ponsonby.																							
50/26	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The proposed and agreed date of the next meeting is Tuesday 13th October 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall																							