PONSONBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 20th January 2026

Presenter

Scott Robertson (Chairman)

Councillors

Vice-chair Robert Jones, Cllr Alan Rigg (AR), Cllr Tyson Norman (TN) and Cllr Jane Wheatley

77/25	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Received from Cllr Liz Dias (LD) and public participant, Pip Roberts	
78/25	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None	
79/25	**MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING : HELD ON 9th December 2025** The previous minutes were approved	
80/25	**PROGRESS REPORTS** **GDF – ongoing** There are no further updates at this time **HIGHWAYS – ongoing** After recent heavy rainfall, severe flooding occurred at New Mill. It has since become evident that this issue has persisted for some time. The flooding resulted from several factors: an overflowing mill pond, insufficient drainage capacity, and the sheer volume of water. We need to ensure that Highways are aware of all the issues surrounding this to find a solution. The following items are to be reported to Cumberland/National Highways Flooding at Ponsonby Road End continues to be a problem. There is a broken drain pipe in the flower bed opposite the Stanley Arms Tarmac is lifting around drains North of the village (National Highways) Flat Brow to Stakes Bridge – drain pots are blocked and dangerous pot holes Running water during periods of rain past the Garage toward Long Walks – investigation into drainage solution requested. Mr Stubbings is continuing to have dialogue with National Highways however there continues to not be a resolution. Clerk to email National Highways raising further concerns. **PARISH COUNCIL FORUM – ongoing** There are no further updates at this time. **St. BRIDGETS CHURCH CLOSURE – ongoing** There are no further updates at this time. Clerk to contact Parochial Council to enquire as to what action is being taken to fix the railings following the recent incident. **NDA - ongoing** There are no further updates. **Heart of the Community fund and outdoor spaces** The Parish Council are now in receipt of the first release of funds for *phase 2; Riverside garden.* Works 4 you have been instructed to complete these works. The repainting of the village hall is to commence when the weather improves. The A3 scanner and laptop can now be purchased. The Parish Council would like to express their thanks to Works 4 you who attended this evening's meeting. We greatly appreciate their vision and insight on this project, and we're enthusiastic about driving it forward.	**HW** **HW** **HW**

	Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust (Sustrans) – ongoing There are no further updates on this item. **Industrial Action at Sellafield - ongoing** This to due to end as of 23/01/2026. There are no further planned strikes at this time. **Assertion 10** It has been agreed for the Chairman to liaise with a web development company to ensure that we are compliant with Assertion 10. Microsoft Family is to be purchased to allow for additional email addresses and cloud storage space for Parish documents. **Boundary Commission Proposals** There is to be a review of boundaries in Cumberland. This is unlikely to affect our area.	**SR**
81/25	**APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT** None	
82/25	**FINANCIAL RECORDS** The balances as held on 19th January 2026 were £47356.62 with a further £2500 in the amenities account The following invoices have been/are to be paid: 1) Clerk Services – December 2025 - £172.34 2) Robinson +Co - £84.00 3) Works for You – 50% deposit for works - £21897.00 4) Cumberland Council – Playground Inspections - £427.98 5) Mill Garage and Machinery – Rock Salt - £21.60 6) Mr R Jones – Garden Planters - £20.98 7) Village Hall Hire – October and November 2025 - £72.00	
83/25	**SCHEDULE OF CORRESPONDENCE, NOTICES AND PUBLICATIONS** **Sellafield – downgrading of hazardous materials.** Sellafield Ltd has returned to Lower Tier COMAH status, following the reduction of the amount of nitric acid needed for our operations and removing large quantities of other toxic substances. **Pioneer Park** No further updates have been received regarding Pioneer Park. Cllr Jones has reached out to Beckermet with Thornhill PC who are keen to opt for a dual Parish working arrangement.	
84/25	**PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**	
85/25	**COUNCILLOR MATTERS** **Refuse collection** There continues to be problems with refuse collection from Ponsonby. Cllr Wheatley has raised this with Cumberland Council and is awaiting a response. **Councillor Resignation** The Parish Council accept the resignation of Cllr James Stanley. We sincerely thank Cllr Stanley for their dedicated service and valuable contributions during their time as councillor, and we wish them the very best for the future.	
86/25	**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** The proposed and agreed date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 7pm.**	