

# PONSONBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Presenter**

Scott Robertson (Chairman)

**Councillors**

Cllr Alan Rigg (AR), Cllr Liz Dias (LD) and Cllr Tyson Norman (TN)

57/25	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Received from Cllr Jane Wheatley</p>	
58/25	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> None</p>	
59/25	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL: HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b> The previous minutes were approved</p>	
60/25	<p><b>PROGRESS REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>GDF – ongoing</b> The next hearing date for GDF grants is 22<sup>nd</sup> November – it is hoped that the Sustrans request for funds for the feasibility study will be granted. We are waiting for further updates to be distributed.</p> <p><b>HIGHWAYS – ongoing</b> A meeting is to take place with National Highways 21<sup>st</sup> November regarding the ongoing concerns north of the village along the A595.</p> <p>Following the recent flooding, the on-site response from Cumberland Highways was notable.</p> <p>There continues to be gravel and blocked drains at Ponsonby Road end. Clerk to report this and request all drains are jetted from Ponsonby to Calderbridge.</p> <p>Chairman Roberston recently attended a meeting with Josh MacAlister MP where concerns were raised regarding excessive speed and the lack of a pedestrian crossing in Calderbridge. Contact is to be submitted to Cumberland Council regarding these issues to request for long term solutions to be considered on these items.</p> <p>Clerk to make further contact with Cumbria Constabulary regarding speed deterrents within the village.</p> <p><b>CRIME STATISTICS –Resolved</b> There has been little change to this item for a long period of time. All Councillors in agreement for this to be removed from the agenda at this time.</p> <p><b>PARISH COUNCIL FORUM – ongoing</b> There has been no meeting in the recent months however there are plans for a meeting to take place later in November. Representative from PC to attend where possible.</p> <p><b>St. BRIDGETS CHURCH CLOSURE – ongoing</b> There are no further updates</p> <p><b>NDA - ongoing</b> Agreed that notes can be distributed and Clerk is to contact NDA to request further information in relation to “virtual leaseholds” and leasehold property and land.</p> <p><b>Heart of the Community fund and outdoor spaces</b> Further quotes have been received from Works 4you in relation to the Mill Wheel. All in</p>	<p>HW</p> <p>HW</p>

	<p>agreement that this particular item needs a contingency budget due to the historic nature of this item and fragility. Clerk to submit application to Cumberland with a view for works to start in the new year.</p> <p>The new play area has been installed however some snagging items have been found on the post installation inspection. All agreed that the invoice will not be paid until the defects have been remedied.</p> <p><b>Sustrans – ongoing</b> As above, the outcome of a grant application is pending. Sustrans has now rebranded to <i>Walk Wheel Cycle Trust</i>”.</p> <p><b>Industrial Action at Sellafield - ongoing</b> Following contact from Cumbria Constabulary, an impact statement has been submitted. This has highlighted concerns received from residents along with outlining the affects the strikes are having on the village.</p> <p><b>Assertion 10</b> There is uncertainty surrounding the best way to progress to ensure that the PC is compliant with Assertion 10. Clerk to obtain further information from CALC regarding this. There is concern that there will be a large financial implication surrounding this.</p>	
<b>61/25</b>	<p><b>APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT</b> No applications have been received</p>	
<b>62/25</b>	<p><b>FINANCIAL RECORDS</b> The balances as held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 were £24554.81 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"> <li>1) Clerk Services – October 2025 - £188.24</li> <li>2) Mr &amp; Mrs G Hogg – phase 3 payment: £2900</li> <li>3) Stewart Kenyon – Grass cutting - £570</li> <li>4) Playdale – invoice 56418 - £9355.69</li> <li>5) Village Hall hire – October 2025 – awaiting invoice – to be paid when received</li> <li>6) Christmas lights – awaiting invoice – to be paid when received</li> </ol>	
<b>63/25</b>	<p><b>SCHEDULE OF CORRESPONDENCE, NOTICES AND PUBLICATIONS</b></p> <p><b>Internal audit – CALC</b> Expressions of interest for an audit service have been requested by CALC – response to be sent confirming the PC may be interested in this service.</p>	
<b>64/25</b>	<p><b>PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b></p> <p><b>Growing Well</b> The Parish Council warmly welcomed Hannah Wright, Site Manager at Growing Well. This is a registered mental health charity promoting rehabilitation through a variety of activities. They operate a market garden on a 1.6acre site in Egremont. Seasonal vegetables are then sold into the community through subscription boxes. Anyone can self refer, or be referred to the programme which can provide assistance for up to 1 year. Transport is available to and from the site. Following a GDF grant, low-income, or struggling families are able have access to a free vegetable box. Digital communications are to be distributed via the Community WhatsApp group.</p>	
<b>65/25</b>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR MATTERS</b></p> <p><b>Community WhatsApp Group</b> A new community WhatsApp Group has been set up and appears to be working well.</p>	

	<p>A joining link can be sent to residents requiring access.</p> <p><b>Grit Bin</b> The Parish Council are enquiries with Cumberland Highways regarding the purchase of road salt for the bin.</p> <p><b>Refuse collections</b> There have been ongoing issues surrounding the lack of refuse collections in the village. Vice-chair Jones has submitted a complaint to Cumberland Council regarding this. Bins continue to be sporadically emptied in Ponsonby. A smaller refuse collector has now been deployed to Ponsonby to navigate the narrow lanes.</p> <p><b>Parking</b> There is ongoing concern surrounding parked cars at Pelham House. This has been raised within our impact statement to Cumbria Police.</p> <p><b>Collapsed fencing/stile</b> There is a collapsed gate in the field at the end of the lane by Mill Garage. This is to be reported to Lake District National Park. Additionally, there is a stile opposite the village hall which requires repair – to be reported to Cumberland Highways.</p> <p><b>Stanley Arms</b> There is ongoing concern surrounding proposals for development of the building. Clerk to enquire with relevant authorities surrounding processes and time scales.</p>	
66/25	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> The proposed and agreed date of the next meeting is <b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 7pm.</b></p>	