

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday 23rd January 2025
in the Back Room, Langwathby Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

1/25 Apologies

Cllrs, C Eland, C Merrie, J Hodgson

Unapproved

2/25 Present

Cllrs D Banks (Chairman), C Henderson, M Holliday, J Corbishley, K Little, C Wilson, WAF Councillor M Hanley and M Robinson, J Fleming (Parish Clerk) and 3 member of the public representing the group 'PLAY'

3/25 Minutes

The Chairman was authorized to sign the minutes of the 21st November 2024 meeting, as a true record
Proposed by Cllr D Banks
Seconded by Cllr K Little

4/25 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs K Little, C Wilson, C Henderson declared his position on the Langwathby Public Hall Committee
Cllrs M Holliday, D Banks and C Eland declared their positions on the Langwathby Village Hall Renovation Committee.

5/25 Public Participation

The 'PLAY' group, whose remit is to raise funds to upgrade the Langwathby Playground, gave an update of their activities to the meeting. Key points made:-

- It was their intention to work towards financing the plans previously agreed.
- Fund raising has really taken off in the last 3 months with over £7000 being raised.
- Substantial grant applications will be investigated.
- The estimated cost of the project being approximately £92, 000, though they were aiming for £100,000.
- The Langwathby Pub fund raising evenings being a great success.
- LPC offered to forward any information on grant funding when received.

The Chairman thanked those attending from Play, for joining the meeting and updating the Council. The work that they were undertaking on behalf of the community was much appreciated.

6/25 Westmorland and Furness Councillor's Reports

6.1 Cllr Michael Hanley reported to the meeting: -

A) Car Club Meeting in Alston 21.1.25 This is one of the projects of the local Place Action Group (PAG). Alston Moor Community Transport (AMCT) are leading on this. They used to have a minibus but when this finally failed its MOT a few years ago, they could not afford to buy another. The Derwent Valley (south of Gateshead) Car Club were invited to the meeting. They have 8 Nissan 'Leafs' (EVs) and to use these you.

1/25

have to join the club (£5 per month, £5 per hour to hire the EV). AMCT have looked into this but the insurance is very expensive and the insurance companies will insure only a minimum of three vehicles at £10k per annum. It was thought that if other centres such as Melmerby and Langwathby were interested in having an EV based at their village halls this might work.

B) Devolution: At the cabinet meeting in mid-January it was decided to seek devolution, though there was some caution. 12 areas of England have been invited. Most of northern England has already devolved. There are three stages: Foundation Strategic, Mayoral Strategic and Established Mayoral Strategic. The government wants WAFC to skip the first stage and join with Cumberland Council. They would still be separate councils. It would be the smallest devolved authority. There would be increased funding and powers. This would be a preliminary stage and the final decision would take place in Autumn. If WAFC went ahead there would be mayoral elections in May 2026.

C). WAFC Full Council Meeting 23.1.25

(a) The Rural Services Delivery Grant has been abolished. This leaves a £6.4 million hole in WAFC's finances. This grant is in recognition of the higher cost of delivering services in rural areas,

(b) Proposed Alston to Penrith Service: £90k was set aside for this service but the report said that the tenders were not good value for money. I asked the Portfolio Holder for Transport about this and he said that there would be more money coming in next year and it would be looked at again.

4. Place Action Group Meeting (3rd) 29.1.25 PAG grants fund total: £6k. Decided that £2k to go to help set up Fellside Food Bank. £2k for a feasibility study for Alston Moor Car Club and £2k to a Housing Needs Survey for Alston and Fellside.

6.2 Cllr Mary Robinson raised with the meeting the proposal of Strategic Devolution and the appointment of a Mayor to Cumbria and the importance of participating in consultations on the issue.

Reported that there was still no information available on the future use of the Town Hall or Mansion House in Penrith.

7/25 Finance

7.1	To note the following balances as at 17/1/25	£
	Penrith Building Society	1997.91
	Barclays	18610.83
	Sundry Debtor - VAT (Claimed)	<u>3904.41</u>
	Total Cash	<u>24513.15</u>
7.2	To approve the Interim Accounts from 17/11/24 – 17/1/25	
	These were unanimously agreed.	
	Proposer Cllr D Banks Seconder Cllr M Holliday	
7.3	The Following Accounts Were Ratified – Since 11/21/24	
	Clerks Fee November/December 2024	As per contract
	Clerk's Office Provision November/December 2024	50.00
	Village Hall Room Hire 21/11/24	22.50
	Simon Watson – Cemetery maintenance	390.30
	Replacement door – Langwathby Notice board	441.60
	David Campbell – Cemetery Mole catching	30.00
	Craig Eland – Installation of Notice Board	80.00
7.4	Payments	
	Clerks Expenses 21 st November 2024 – 23 rd January 2025	24.30
7.5	To Approve 7.3 and 7.4	
	These were unanimously agreed	
	Proposed Cllr K Little Seconded Cllr C Henderson	

7.6	To note the following receipt	
	Richardsons Funeral Directors – Burial Fee	150.00
7.7	Transfer from PBS to Current Account	3500.00

8/25 Grass Cutting Contract

8.1 The meeting was reminded that the contractor, Simon Watson, is on a 3-yr contract terminating at the end of 2026 at a figure of £1145.50 per arum.

8.2 Councillors expressed their grateful thanks to Simon for a job very well done, during the 2024 season.

9/25 Planning Matters

Application No. 2024/2373/FPA

Location: - Stagstones Road Edenhall Penrith.

Proposal; - Change of use from agricultural to a mixed use of agricultural (storage) and equestrian (stabling of racehorses with associated storage of bedding/tack/equipment and utility/care area). Supported

10/25 Highways and Land Matters

10.1 Langwathby Traffic and Parking Issues.

10.1.1 Maypole Gardens – Traffic Speed and the Junction.

WAFC Highways, having undertaken a traffic survey on Maypole Gardens reported that the 85th percentile speed was 22mph, which is considered slow.

Being a new estate, the signage and road markings, being within the required legislation, are effective with such low traffic speeds. Over the time that the data was collected there were a total of 2107 vehicles recorded. This traffic would be considered to be residents and visitors to the estate who are well aware of the surroundings of the village beyond this junction. It is anticipated, again, that because of the low traffic volumes and clear visibility motorists are able to safely exit the junction, without stopping, in most cases.

The Give Way signage has been installed on the lighting column, as it is required by the regulations to be illuminated, as it is installed within a series of street lights. It is mounted at the correct height to ensure it is not a hazard for pedestrians and we are able to advise that it is correct and should not be a Stop sign. A Stop sign would only be used at a Stop junction and these are usually at places where traffic flows are high and visibility when exiting the junction is severely restricted.

The installation of additional signage at this junction would only be ignored by motorists, due to the usage of this access being mostly residents of the village they are already well aware of the potential for pedestrians and children. There is no accident data to show that there is a concern and as advised, the traffic speeds are low enough that motorists are able to stop in the event of a potential hazard.

In regard to the junction markings, we we will review the area when looking at Low Mill junction and combine the works package along with any other markings for the area. This will be added to the list for attention in the 2025/2026 financial year.

10.1.2 Low Mill Junction.

Housing estates are constructed, as required by legislation, in such a way where signage and road markings should not be required. They are expected to reduce traffic speeds with not dictating priorities to motorists. The majority of traffic using this access will be residents or visitors to the estate, they are well aware that there is potential for approaching traffic and should therefore

be approaching the junction ready to give way, however because of the low traffic volumes and clear visibility they are able to safely exit the junction without stopping in most cases. The installation of Give Way markings would not prevent people from making this maneuver.

10.1.3 Installation of Temporary One – Way System in Langwathby

This will take place shortly.

10.1.4 Salkeld Road – Speeding Traffic.

WAFC Highways have reported that, in the first instance, Highways will collect traffic data; this will then allow them to identify what the 85th percentile speed and mean speed is, the volumes of traffic and any peak times where motorists are increasing speed. Once in receipt of this data Highways will be able to advise what action needs to be taken. Highways will also liaise with the Development Team, because usually, when a new housing estate is constructed, such as by Hopes Garage, a speed restriction extension is included in the planning conditions.

The Parish Council also asked that the possibility of installing illuminated, digital, speed awareness signs, be looked into, as a traffic calming measure; even, if initially, as a temporary measure.

Highways confirming that they will respond, in a couple of months' time, when further data is available.

10.2 Edenhall Flooding – Sports Field Area.

Possibly additional drains are required.

In hand with Highways

10.3 Langwathby- Salkeld Road – Jetting of Drains

Work Completed

10.4 Eden Straits – Improving the River View from Seat.

Work is imminent.

10.5 Langwathby Notice Board – Storm Damage

Repair is in hand

10.6 Cemetery Over Grown Bushes.

,Work completed

10.7 Road markings by Langwathby Shop and junction with Coxen Lane

Reported to Highways

11/25 Correspondence, Notices and Publications

The following had been received since the last meeting.

11.1 **38 E Mails** had been circulated to Councillors since last meeting. These being kept on file for 12 months

11.2 **WAFC Lighting Policy** was reported to the meeting - Details on file.

11.3 **A Micro Woodland Scheme** was reported to the meeting. Details on file.

11.4 Insurance Renewal

The Langwathby Parish Council including the Langwathby Public Hall Charity policy was due for renewal on 13/02/2025.

Action:- It was unanimously agreed to renew the policy on for a further 3 years at a premium of £2515.07. This being a £123 lift on last year.

11.5 **The National Event 'D-Day 80 – 6 June 2024.** Reported to the meeting.

12/25 Councillor Matters

An opportunity for Councilors to raise issues on behalf of residents.

Note: no decisions can be made on these matters but they may be placed on a future agenda of the Council.

12.1 Reported a Flooding Issue by Langwathby Vicarage.

Action: - Report to Highways.

12.2 A686 by Folly Cottages – Woodland Roadside Safety Pruning Required.

Action: - Report to Highways.

13/25 Date of Next Meeting

Venue Langwathby Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm
Thursday 20th March, 2025

The meeting was closed at 20.50