

Minutes of a meeting of Cockermouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Cockermouth, on Wednesday 15th April 2026 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillor Stephen Barnes

Councillor Catherine Bell

Councillor Isabel Burns

Councillor David Malloy (Mayor)

Councillor Alan Smith

Councillor Richard Watson

Councillor Howard Beanland

Councillor Chris Bridgman

Councillor Julie Laidlow

Councillor James Samson

Councillor Gillian Telford

Mrs Jane Ollerenshaw – Town Clerk

Mrs Amy Jeffrey – Assistant Town Clerk

Sarah, Jennie and Madeleine – Guest Speakers, Cockermouth Bike & Skate

Members of the Public: 12

19:00 Meeting Opened.

302/25 Apologies. Cllr Bowman had submitted apologies.

303/25 To approve the minutes of the Cockermouth Town Council Meeting of 18th March 2026. Resolved to approve the minutes.

304/25 Declaration of Interests. There were no declarations of interest.

305/25 Exclusion of Press & Public. No items required the exclusion of the press and public.

306/25 Mayor's Announcements.

Cllr Malloy reported that he had attended the High Sheriff's Installation Ceremony and his own Mayor's Golf Competition, kindly hosted by Cockermouth Golf Club. He thanked those who had donated to the raffle.

307/25 Reports from Cumberland Councillors.

Cllr Semple provided an overview of Cumberland's budget. He reported that Cockermouth had received approximately £8,000 in the previous year from the Lakes to Sea Community Panel. He also advised that £1.2 million had been spent on road improvements in Cockermouth, including works between Gote Brow and Lorton Road.

Cllr Laidlow reported that concerns had been raised by members of the public regarding difficulties contacting the Cumberland Councillor for Cockermouth North. Cllr Semple confirmed that he would raise the matter with Cllr Tucker.

Cllr Bell requested an update on the Courthouse. Cllr Semple advised that he was unable to discuss the matter due to it being subject to a legal process.

Councillors thanked Cllr Semple for his attendance and reports.

308/25 Guest Speakers. The Mayor welcomed representatives from Cockermouth Bike & Skate Charity. An overview was provided of the formation of the group, consideration of potential sites within Cockermouth and progress to date.

It was reported that the next step would be to undertake community engagement regarding Bellbrigg Lonning as the preferred location. Councillors expressed their support and commended the group on their progress

309/25 Public Participation. No questions had been received.

310/25 Planning

- **FUL/2026/0037** The Council considered the application and resolved to submit the following comments and observations.
 - There is a need for sufficient on-site parking to prevent congestion from parking on surrounding residential streets.
 - The Eco Centre, which was constructed relatively recently, is proposed to be demolished as part of the application and the Council requests that consideration be given to a suitable alternative memorial to Mike Wilde within the new development.
 - Concerns have been raised by members of the public regarding potential flooding and ecological impacts, particularly in relation to trees on the site and the Council asks that Cumberland Council ensures that surveys, assessments and appropriate measures are in place.
 - Concerns were also raised regarding construction logistics, noting that construction vehicles have been advised to take the first turning through Embleton, which is subject to a 7.5 tonne weight limit. The Council supports the comments of the Highways Authority and recommends that access be via the Dubwath turning.
 - The proposed renewable energy measures are welcomed and the inclusion of EV charging points would be a positive addition, which the school may wish to consider making available to residents outside school hours.
- **HOU/2026/0041 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **VAR/2026/0008 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **LBC/2026/0014 Resolved** to recommend approval.
- **HOU/2026/0046 Resolved** to recommend approval.

311/25 Planning Decisions Under Delegated Authority. None received.

312/25 Clerk's Report. The Clerk's report had been circulated.

- **Maintenance.** The Clerk reported that the Mayo Statue had been cleaned, the Cenotaph cleaned and polished, and the brickwork outside the Town Hall had been completed. The flagpole has been securely reinstalled and the flag replaced.
- **Allotments.** Updated terms and conditions have been issued to plot holders

alongside the annual rent notices.

- **Harris Park Extension.** Cockermouth CAN are organising an event as part of 'Green Week' to remove tubes and stakes from trees that have outgrown them.

Cllr Smith asked the Clerk to contact Cumberland Council about pruning the trees on Main Street.

Cllr Laidlow asked the Clerk about the town clock. The Clerk confirmed it is serviced annually and will check for an update.

313/25 Climate Emergency Group.

- **Isel Road Survey.** Cllr Bridgman explained that following an initial inspection and after receiving advice, it was agreed to investigate how the woodland area could be maintained and improved. **Resolved** that the Bio-Diversity Survey would be funded.

314/25 Community Led Plan Group.

Cllr Bridgman reported that a good number of responses had been received from the visioning day and online survey, with further consultation planned as the next step.

Cllr Bridgman requested reimbursement of costs incurred to date and asked for the remainder of the 2025/2026 budget (3056) be placed in earmarked reserves..

Resolved that the expenses be approved retrospectively and that reserves be earmarked.

315/25 Improvement to footpath in Memorial Gardens.

Cllr Laidlow reported that a complaint had been circulated regarding the condition of the footpath from the footbridge to the Castle and asked the Town Council to approve obtaining a price for the works. **Resolved** that the Clerk obtain quotes for the works, including options for different levels of flood resilience.

316/25 Payments for Approval. Resolved to approve the payments.

317/25 Pre-approved Payments. Resolved to note the schedule of payments.

318/25 Councillor Matters.

Cllr Smith advised that, at the previous meeting, he had agreed to investigate the replacement of the two trees on Station Street. He has since consulted a specialist, whom he will invite to attend the next meeting to provide guidance.

Cllr Telford confirmed that road and pavement works at the Lovell site have now commenced, to the satisfaction of local residents.

319/25 Date of next meeting.

Confirmed as Wednesday 20th May 2026 which will be the annual meeting.

20:30 Meeting Closed.