

CLAIFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Held at & The Braithwaite Hall, Far Sawrey at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th June 2025.

Attendees; Cllrs A Brodie (Chair), S Hilton, M Stanton, J Whitworth, C Sharp Worth (Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer), two representatives from United Utilities, one from South Cumbria Rivers Trust and two members of the public.

79/2025 Apologies

Cllr. Denyer, Cllr. Knight and Cllr. Pender

80/2025 Declarations of Interest and Requests for dispensations to speak or vote on any item on the agenda by elected or co-opted members. **None Received.**

81/2025 Minutes

Resolved Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2025 as a true record.

82/2025 Public participation

Reports received from:

i) **Police.** No reports received.

ii) **Unitary Councillor.** No reports received.

iii) **National Trust.** Harrowslack - New highway signage and a seasonal bin installed in the main car park. New fencing will be installed along the lake shore from Strawberry Gardens to support revegetation. Additional work includes changes to the adjacent lakeshore layby to improve parking for day visitors. The National Trust, with partners, is addressing antisocial behaviour, and these measures will be discussed at an upcoming parish council meeting. **Resolved.**

iv) **South Cumbria Rivers Trust** update on septic tanks (STEP). A £200m program funded by the Government to upgrade private sewage systems to reduce water pollution. Four areas being targeted including Far Sawrey. There are 1800 to 2000 septic tanks in the four regions, but their condition and maintenance status are unknown. Goal to engage with the community through door-to-door visits, starting with inspections to develop a free of charge maintenance program. A questionnaire is ready for review. SCRT to email it to the PC for review and help with distribution. To setup another meeting involving PC. Clerk to arrange. **Ongoing.**

v) **United Utilities update on FujiClean.** Two representatives presented plans for a significant investment aimed at improving water quality and environmental sustainability via a new Japanese technology called FujiClean for phosphorus removal. UU have been conducting site surveys and ecological assessments, and shared updates on site layouts in Far Sawrey and Near Sawrey treatment works. Visualisations of the proposed work were shown, with a focus on minimising environmental impact. Plans involve collaboration with the National Trust, local council and other stakeholders to address flooding and surface water issues in the area, and to ensure sustainable outcomes for the long term. Target for completion by March 2030, with further engagement and planning underway. Discussion addressed design capacities, timelines and planning with assurances given that solutions are being developed and community concerns considered. UU to share slides with the PC and YouTube video. Clerk to follow up. **Resolved.**

b) **Representations from members of the public.** A resident raised disappearance of sign showing 6ft 6in width restriction below Chapel Cottage at lower entrance to How End, Far Sawrey. Resident believes the sign needs replacing with one at the junction with the B5285. For future agenda. **Deferred.**

83/2025 Councillor matters

For National Trust:

Concerns were raised about traffic congestion on the road near Hill Top caused by visitors, queues blocking the main road so other vehicles can't get past. Clerk to raise with NT.

Footpath between Near Sawrey and Wilfin Beck (passing Whinfall) in very poor state due to water erosion. Plans for NT to repair.

On the same NT path, there is significant dog fouling.

Clerk to contact NT on these three topics **Ongoing.**

Cllr. Whitworth raised a question about friend mooring at Ash Landing. To discuss privately with NT.

Resolved.

Signed by.....date.....

84/2025 Highways and gritting

i) update on Hawkshead pilot gritting proposal. Cllr Brodie and Cllr. Stanton to join a meeting with W&F Highways Delivery Operations Managers on 30th June. **Deferred.**

ii) Councillors to report on road surface and pothole repairs completed since last meeting. EI232843 B5285 Beech Mount, Near Sawrey. Clerk to contact Highways and report it and ask for update. Clerk to communicate with Hawkshead regarding the road passed Belmont B5289 up to the Wray road. **Deferred.**

iii) Councillors to report outstanding road surface and pothole repairs and to consider further action. Speed of repair not consistent. When the postponed W&F council meeting goes ahead, PC to raise questions about the process, criteria and prioritisation of repairs and to try to raise the profile of the PC roads. **Deferred.**

85/2025 Management of Parish Council land

i) Signage on PC land at Tarn Hill. NT provision of sign – ordered 12th June. **Deferred.**

Other: Cllr. Brodie proposed “no parking turning area for farm vehicles” sign. Area needed for farm access. Cllr. Hilton to research and contact clerk. **Ongoing.**

To arrange groundsperson to trim around defibrillator and parking area at Tarn Hill playground and Far Sawrey Parish Council noticeboard and defibrillator. Authorised a small sum. Clerk to arrange and Cllr. Brodie to advise Clerk exact requirements **Ongoing.**

ii) Signage and further action to be taken at Waterside (land registry ref. CU315570). Cllr. Brodie awaiting solicitor feedback. **Ongoing.**

86/2025 Registration of Parish Council land

Chapel Cottage adjacent land, Tarn Hill Playground and Ash Landing – Statements of Truth being reviewed by solicitor. **Ongoing.**

87/2025 Defibrillator status update. Annual renewals due on three defibrillators. Awaiting Community Heartbeat invoice. **Ongoing.**

88/2025 Attendance of CALC Training courses. LDNPA Planning sessions – Councillors and Clerk in attendance. Everyone in agreement that the first session was informative, interesting and surprising especially around the grouping of permitted development categories and the limited powers of the LDNPA. 27 August is second part. Friends of the Lake District offering bespoke courses on same topic for small donation. Something to consider for Councillors. **Ongoing.**

89/2025 Planning Applications

a) To note planning applications with provision for consultation:-

7/2025/5317 Moss Eccles Tarn, Stones Lane, Near Sawrey, Ambleside. Repair and improvement works to Main Dam and Saddle Dam of Moss Eccles Tarn and creation of main site compound and satellite compound. **No comment. Resolved.**

b) To note planning decisions made since the last meeting:-

i) 7/2025/5244 Bryers Cottage, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, LA22 0LW. Variation of condition 2 (plans) on planning permission 7/2024/5550, Additions including connecting section added between balconies and balustrading updated. **Granted. Resolved.**

ii) 7/2025/5233 3 The Ferry House, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, LA22 0LZ. Modification of 3 windows to form taller openings and alter a set of French doors to a single door. **Granted. Resolved.**

90/2025 Consultation on Mayor for Cumbria. No further update. **Resolved.**

91/2025 Local housing Working Group. To join with other Parish Councils – in light of the email from LDNPA regarding the number of second homes and their letter to Angela Rayner. Aim being to establish the numbers in Claife villages. Cllr. Brodie shared the format used in 2020, to send to Clerk. Hawkshead are now doing their own survey. Councillors and various residents to cover as many homes as possible. Clerk to collate data when completed. **Ongoing.**

Signed by.....date.....

92/2025 Parish Picnic. Councillors suggested Braithwaite Hall was a suitable location in case of wet weather. Wray Village Hall hosting similar event 27th July 6.30pm. **Deferred.**

93/2025 Consultation launched by Westmorland and Furness Council The public have now been invited to complete an online survey to input into the process to harmonise the whole county. This is on Claife PC website. Councillors have completed the survey. **Resolved.**

94/2025 To note new additions to website. Resolved.

- a) Cllr. Knight now Vice Chair.
- b) Music for a Summer Evening throughout June and July in Hawkshead.
- c) W&F shape the future of waste and recycling – a chance for residents to be part of the consultation process.
- d) New Email address for reporting crime.
- e) In future, display all events passing through Claife and implications for roads and services on noticeboards.

95/2025 Financial Matters

- a) To note the bank balance on 31st May 2025 was £30,568.28. 4 entries in the month. Debits for courses £40, Clerk wage and sundries £568.40, GDPR membership £47 (DD) and Internal Auditor £75.
- b) Public Rights Period notice has commenced and is open until 14 July 2025.
- c) Annual Year End Accounts submission completed, published and approved by External Auditor.
- d) The internet based bank account is open, along with an esaver easy access. Clerk finalised user setup. Now need to close old account and transfer funds across.
- e) Contact information for new Clerk. Most updated now.
- f) Appoint a GDPR Officer. Clerk appointed and attending a course as soon as one comes available.
- g) Approval for Clerk to move appropriate cash surplus to the new esaver account which is interest bearing at 3.15% currently. No notice required to move back.
- h) Approve the following payments.
 - i) Clerk / RFO: 1 cheques or Faster payment (fee free) for Clerk dated 21 July for £589.09. (pay July £552.88 + Files £14.82 + folders £9.69 Amazon + Printing 3 months £11.70– see receipts).
- HMRC DD for July is £13.02 (£6.40 income tax rebate + £19.42 NIC Class 1)
- ii) Community Heartbeat Annual Support – due 9 July – it was £324 last year, but three to pay for now.
- iii) Clear insurance – due 9 July also – it was £332.43 last year. To gather other quotes given the increase.
- iv) Laptop purchase to go ahead up to the amount approved of £600-£1000 in Jan-25 meeting – see Minutes. Clerk or Chair to purchase and refund via Faster payment. Clerk to purchase.
- v) Microsoft license £84.99 and Anti-virus software purchase up to the value of £30. None on current laptop.
- vi) Councillors to consider offering Clerk a monthly contribution to personal pension instead of setting up a new one.

All Resolved.

96/2025 Events affecting the Parish villages

- a) Forthcoming events. None known.
- b) Event feedback – Windermere Marathon 15th June. Cllr. Brodie to attend feedback meeting 25th June. Donation £100 to each village hall. Cllr. Hilton following up on donations. **Resolved.**

97/2025 Date of next meeting.

5th August Parish Council Meeting High Wray Village Hall

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