

BLINDBOTHEL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Blindbothel Parish Council held at Yew Tree Hall, Lorton on Monday 2 March 2026 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Cllrs. A. Baker, R. Bell, and P. Jenkinson (Chair)
Also present: J. Perry, Cumberland Councillor and J. Rae (Clerk)
Members of the public: None

16/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. V. Jay, S. Riley and J. Clark. The reasons for absence were noted and accepted.

17/26 MINUTES 5 JANUARY 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2026 were signed as a correct record.

18/26 REPORTS

Cumberland Councillor – Cllr J. Perry reported that the new Cumbria Combined Authority had been formally established on 23 February. An interim CEO had been appointed and the leadership will be shared between Cumberland Council and Westmorland & Furness Council until the first mayoral election in 2027.

Cumbria Police - The newsletter for the Cockermouth/Keswick area had been circulated by email prior to the meeting.

19/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were in attendance.

21/26 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING ON 5 JANUARY 2026

None.

22/26 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been circulated by email:

GMC Community Chaplain Newsletters
CALC - Cumbria Combined Authority - briefing - 25 February
CALC - Community Emergency Hubs Launch
Cumberland Council - Supported Housing Strategy – Consultation
CALC - Royal Garden Party - Friday 8 May 2026
CALC - Connecting Cumbria Unveils Digital Infrastructure Strategy 2026–2030
CALC - Cumbria Community Transport Conference - 10th March, 10am - 4.00pm
Lake District National Park Management Plan Consultation
Peter Walter's Newsletter
Cumberland Council Newsletters
CALC News
Cumberland Council - Parish Council Shelters
CALC - Parish & Town Council Play Areas
Community Energy & EV Car Club Opportunity

23/26 ANNUAL INSURANCE

Members noted that the renewal invitation had been received from Zurich Insurance at an annual premium of £214.00. (no increase from the previous years). RESOLVED to renew the policy with Zurich Insurance with effect from 1 April.

24/26 ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(a) The financial statement had been circulated with the agenda. Balance 31 January 2026 £4,148.17.

(b) The following accounts were authorised for payment:

Clerk's account Quarter 4	£627.74
HMRC PAYE Quarter 4	£131.40
Contribution to Melbreak Communities Website	£ 50.00

Donations granted to

Mosser PCC	£50.00
Citizens Advice Allerdale	£50.00

Zurich Municipal – Annual Insurance £214.00 due 1 April 2026

25/26 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR/REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT

Members RESOLVED to appoint Mr. T. Gear as the internal auditor for financial year 2025-26. Members noted and approved the contents of the review of the effectiveness of the internal audit.

26/26 REVIEW OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Members reviewed and approved the Risk Management Policy.

27/26 UPDATE ON EMAIL ACCOUNTS AND ADOPTION OF IT AND EMAIL POLICY

The .gov email accounts for the Clerk and Councillors had now been created. Members noted that their email accounts need to be activated by 1 April to comply with Assertion 10 of the 2025 Practitioners' Guide. The IT and Email Policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. RESOLVED to adopt the Policy.

28/26 PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Applications received since the last meeting: None.

(b) Decisions:

7/2025/2217 - Mansion House, Brandlingill, Cockermouth, CA13 0RD

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 (plans) on planning permission 7/2024/2228, extension and alterations - amendment to elevations and layout REFUSED

T/2025/0234 - Whinfell Caravan Park, Low Lorton, Cockermouth, CA13 0RQ

Proposal: Fell 3 willow trees REFUSED

29/26 ROADS AND HIGHWAY MATTERS

Cllr. A. Baker advised that Highways had responded quickly and repaired any pot holes that he had reported on the HIAMS.

30/26 BROADBAND

It was noted that the availability of Fibrus broadband is increasing in the Parish. Cllr R. Bell reported that he was awaiting ducting to be installed at Palace How and Moorland Close. Cllr A. Baker agreed to follow this up with Fibrus.

31/26 FLOODING

Cllr A Baker reported on the flooding issues at Lorton Bridge. The blocked gully had been reported to Highways. Cllr J. Perry agreed to follow this up with Cumberland Council.

32/26 WASTE COLLECTION ISSUES

It was noted that the numerous issues raised and discussed at the last meeting regarding the waste and recycling collections appear to have now been resolved.

33/26 DONATION REQUESTS

Members considered the donation requests received from Mosser PCC and Citizens Advice Allerdale. RESOLVED to support the requests and grant £50.00 to Mosser PCC and £50.00 to Citizens Advice Allerdale.

34/26 PARISH MATTERS/ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr. A. Baker raised that Lorton PC had enquired whether Blindbothel PC had ever considered merging with Lorton PC. Members agreed to give further consideration to this when Cumberland Council re-commence the Community Governance Review of town and parish councils.

Cllr A. Baker declared an interest in the following matter

Cllr. A. Baker asked if the Parish Council would consider sending a letter of support for the planning application submitted to the LDNPA authority by the Yew Tree Hall Management Committee. Members agreed to support the request.

35/26 DATE OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

Annual Parish and Annual Meeting 11 May 2026 – 6.45pm

6 July, 7 September, 2 November 2026 and 4 January and 1 March 2027 - 7.15 pm
Supper Room, Yew Tree Hall, Lorton.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Signed.....Chairman Date.....