

BLINDBOTHEL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Blindbothel Parish Council held at Yew Tree Hall, Lorton on Monday 29 June 2026 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Cllrs. A. Baker, R. Bell, V. Jay and P Jenkinson

Also present: J. Rae (Clerk) and one member of the public

37/26 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Nominations were invited for the election of Chair for council year 2026/27. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Baker, seconded by Cllr. R. Bell it was therefore RESOLVED that Cllr. P. Jenkinson be re-elected Chair for the ensuing year.

38/26 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr. P. Jenkinson accepted the nomination and signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

39/26 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

On the proposal of Cllr. R. Bell, seconded by Cllr. V. Jay it was RESOLVED that Cllr. A. Baker be appointed Vice Chair for council year 2026/27.

40/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J. Clark and S. Riley. The reasons for absence were noted and accepted. An apology for absence was also received from J. Perry, Cumberland Councillor.

41/26 MINUTES 2 MARCH 2026 AND 11 MAY 2026

The minutes of the meetings held on 2 March and 11 May 2026 were signed as a correct record.

42/26 REPORTS

Cumbria Police - The newsletter for the Cockermouth/Keswick area had been circulated by email prior to the meeting. It was noted that the next Neighbourhood Policing Pledge meeting for the Cockermouth Area will take place on Wednesday 5 August at 6pm via Microsoft Teams. Cllr P. Jenkinson advised he would be attending.

Cumberland Councillor – Cllr J. Perry was not in attendance.

43/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

44/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No matters were raised.

45/26 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING ON 2 MARCH 2026 AND 11 MAY 2026

Waste Collections – It was noted that the waste collections are mainly back on track. There are still issues with recycling collections not being collected at Mosser due to the road closure signs located on the A5086/Mosser junction whilst United Utilities work is ongoing.

Flooding – No developments to report

46/26 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been received and circulated by email:

CALC - Highways reporting system - My Account

CALC - Highways slides from 20 May

CALC News

CALC - Newsletter for Town and Parish Councils about the Nourish project, which is around improving the school food culture.

GMC Community Chaplain Update

Oliver Dorgan - Coffee catch-up

Letter from a resident raising concerns relating to planning application 7/2026/2045 - Whinfell Caravan Park – The resident's concerns had been forwarded to the LDNPA.

47/26 ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- (a) The financial statement had been circulated with the agenda.

Balance at 31st May, 2026	£7288.03
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- (b) Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were authorised for payment:

Clerk's account Quarter 1	£641.78
HMRC PAYE Quarter 1	£131.20

48/26 ANNUAL AUDIT

- (i) Internal Audit - The internal audit had been carried out with no issues reported
- (ii) Annual Governance Statement – The Annual Governance Statement was considered. RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement.
- (iii) Accounting Statement – The accounting statement for 2025/26 was considered. RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign the annual return.
- (iv) Certificate of Exemption - Members resolved that the Certificate of Exemption should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk certifying that the Parish Council is exempt from a limited assurance review and during the financial year 2025/26 the gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000.
- (v) Period of Exercise of Public Rights – Members noted that the period for the exercise of public rights will commence on 1 July and will end on 11 August. A notice will be displayed on the parish notice boards notifying electors of their rights to inspect the accounts.
- (vi) Publication on website – The Clerk reported the requisite documents will be forwarded to the administrator of the Melbreak Communities website to be published on the website.

49/26 PLANNING MATTERS

- (a) Applications received since the last meeting:

7/2026/2045 - Whinfell Caravan Park, Low Lorton, Cockermouth, CA13 0RQ

Proposal: Proposed Extension of Holiday Park Including 21 Holiday Static Units & Associated Infrastructure.

Members view was if approved, the application to increase the number of units by 62%, would be detrimental to the locality of Whinfell. Object

7/2026/2066 - Mansion House, Brandlingill, Cockermouth, CA13 0RD

Proposal: Extension and alterations – variation of condition 2 (plans) of planning permission 7/2024/2228 to amend elevations and layout. No objections

7/2026/2068 - Brandlingill Farmhouse, Brandlingill, Cockermouth, CA13 0RD

Proposal: To the north east elevation of the house: 1) Relocation of kitchen extractor fan vent which currently vents into chimney flue liner. New location to be directly through the kitchen gable end wall with the addition of a cast iron vent cover; and 2) Replacement of half height plastic downspout with full height cast iron downspout to the same elevation and addition of a short length of further cast iron guttering to reduce rainwater runoff from roof. No objections

7/2026/2070 Location: Brandlingill Farmhouse, Brandlingill, Cockermouth, CA13 0RD
Proposal: Removal of defective cementitious roughcast render to south east elevation of house and chimney, repairs to stonework and replacement with lime render as per specification set out in 002-2026 Heritage, Design and Access Statement.

No objections

(b) Decisions:

7/2026/2068 - Brandlingill Farmhouse, Brandlingill, Cockermouth, CA13 0RD
Proposal: To the north east elevation of the house: 1) Relocation of kitchen extractor fan vent which currently vents into chimney flue liner. New location to be directly through the kitchen gable end wall with the addition of a cast iron vent cover; and 2) Replacement of half height plastic downspout with full height cast iron downspout to the same elevation and addition of a short length of further cast iron guttering to reduce rainwater runoff from roof GRANTED

7/2026/2070 Location: Brandlingill Farmhouse, Brandlingill, Cockermouth, CA13 0RD
Proposal: Removal of defective cementitious roughcast render to south east elevation of house and chimney, repairs to stonework and replacement with lime render as per specification set out in 002-2026 Heritage, Design and Access Statement GRANTED

7/2026/2066 - Mansion House, Brandlingill, Cockermouth, CA13 0RD
Proposal: Extension and alterations – variation of condition 2 (plans) of planning permission 7/2024/2228 to amend elevations and layout REFUSED

50/26 ROADS AND HIGHWAY MATTERS

It was noted that some of the verges/hedges in the Parish are overgrown. Cllr P. Jenkinson agreed to report on the HIAMS.

51/26 BROADBAND

Cllr A. Baker reported that Fibrus broadband is still being rolled out in the Parish. Some more isolated areas are still to be connected. Cllr A. Baker agreed to raise this with Fibrus.

52/26 WEBSITE AND EMAILS

It was noted that two members are still to activate their .gov email accounts. Cllr A. Baker offered to provide assistance to set up the accounts. The issues with the website have now been resolved and can be located at www.melbreakcommunities.org.uk

53/26 PARISH MATTERS/ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr A. Baker agreed to continue to represent the Parish on the Yew Tree Hall Committee.

Cllr J. Clark had tendered her resignation. The Returning Officer at Cumberland Council will be notified and the Notice of Vacancy will be displayed in the Parish.

54/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Due to the Chair and Vice Chair not being available on the Monday 7 September it was agreed the next meeting will be held on Monday 14 September 2026 at 7.15 pm in the Supper Room, Yew Tree Hall, Lorton.

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm

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