

Minutes of a meeting of Cartmel Fell Parish Council held at Tower Wood Outdoor Education Centre on Wednesday 26th November 2025 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Helen Smith (Chairman), Chris Cannon, Matt Martin, Alan Telford and Mike Smith, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jenny Boak and Parish Clerk Kevin Price.

25/28 Public participation: None.

25/29 Requests for Dispensations: None.

25/30 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest made in respect of any matters on the agenda.

25/31 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2025, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

25/32 Finance:

a. *It was resolved to pay the following accounts:*

RBL Poppy Appeal	£50.00	Remembrance wreath
T Flitcroft	£100.00	Payroll administration
K M Price	£133.77	Quarterly expenses to 30 th September, Including use of home office and travel

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

c. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved that this Council makes a Precept upon Westmorland & Furness Council in the sum of £8,000 for the financial year 2026-27. There is therefore a reduction in the parish element of the Council Tax of one third.

d. It was resolved to adopt the Financial Regulations that were presented to the last meeting.

e. Verges/hedges in the parish:

The previous contractor who has done work on verges and hedge cutting along our lanes is not currently available for similar work at present so no quotations had been obtained.

This led to a discussion on what this Council should expect from Westmorland & Furness Highways, with regard to the lanes.

Ongoing disappointment was expressed about the state of the verges, drains and overhanging obstructions along the lanes as well as along large sections of the A592 and dissatisfaction as the quality of work undertaken when Westmorland & Furness Highways contractors have been employed; with no apparent 'audit' of works by the Authority (or consultation with the Parish Council) to ensure value for money for Council Tax payers and lane / highway users.

The Meeting agreed to approach Westmorland & Furness Council Highways with a more comprehensive list of areas of concern and to involve Councillor Boak in helping get these points to the right people within the Authority in a more strategic manner (to include help in approaching land owners where necessary and understanding options should landowners decline to assist where they may be expected to have some responsibility).

Councillor Martin will draft a letter for approval before this is sent to Councillor Boak (This letter to include specific reference to our lanes as well as the A592).

25/33 Planning matters:

Ongoing issues were expressed and unhappiness regarding responses from Planning and Enforcement. It was agreed to invite Gavin Capstick, Andrew Smith and Mark Kidd to our next meeting to discuss the relationship and specific issues.

25/34 'Assertion 10 – Digital & Data Compliance':

This document, from CALC, had been sent to all Councillors. New ways of communicating are becoming mandatory from the end of the current financial year. A quotation of £400 plus VAT was accepted from A2A (which set up and maintains the present website) to deal with all the compliancy issues.

The Council feels that further pressures are being placed upon small Councils, which seem out of proportion to any perceived benefit, as well as the cost to Parish Councils, and therefore to Council Tax payers in order to comply

25/35 Date and place of the next meeting:

Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 7pm at Tower Wood Outdoor Education Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed

Dated: