

Torver Parish Council

Minutes and Actions of Torver Parish Council

Meeting held at the Church House*, Torver,

On Thursday 6th November 2025 at 7.30pm

Present:

Chair: Cllr P Worth

Deputy Chair: Cllr C Bradley

Councillors: Cllrs M Feather, T Stergiakis, and J Ward.

Clerk: C Sargeant

Members of the public: 2 (J Barr snr, and R Graham)

[* Councillors could not gain access to the Schoolroom. Cllr Feather generously hosted the meeting next door in the Church House.]

Minute Number		Action By
109/25	Public participation: 1. Westmorland and Furness Cllr S Pender appeared via a video call and addressed the following issues: a. Devolution: In October, W&F and Cumberland Councils approved the establishment of a Mayor-led strategic authority with powers and funding beyond those of the current councils. The Cumbria Combined Authority (CCA) will be formed in early 2026 and operate for one year without a Mayor ahead of Mayoral elections in May 2027. Cllr Pender thought this would not be to the benefit of rural communities. b. Community Governance Review: W&F is conducting an initial phase review, with public consultation, until 8th December 2025. The review aims to ensure that parish councils are effective and appropriate for local communities, considering factors such as community cohesion, size, population, and boundaries. During Stage 1, residents and organisations are invited to submit proposals. c. Fibrus Networks Ltd: (i) Cllr Pender warned that if Fibrus are erecting telegraph poles in the parish against the wishes of the community that quick action should be taken. She thought that Fibrus were using permitted development powers to do this to save money rather than cables underground. She added that there has been no consultation or engagement with communities about this.	

	(ii) Cllr Pender said a temporary road closure has been put in place to allow Fibrus Networks Limited to carry out utility works which are expected to commence 17th November 2025 and anticipated to take 4 nights (between the hours of 18:00 and 06:00) to complete. d. 'Bluebird' Event: The full text of email from W&F Cllr Pender was published on Nobbutt. Cllr Pender expressed concerns about the ambition of the event planned for May 2026, and councillors agreed to return to the issue in January. e. United Utilities: Having visited the Coniston Water Treatment Works with CB to see the improvements made, Cllr Pender thought it time to pressurise UU to upgrade the Torver WTW. 2.The Chair involved W&F Cllr Pender and the 2 members of the public (RG and JBSnr) in a discussion about the flood risk to the village. Councillors PW, CB and MF with RG and Les Higgins visited the area of Bull Haw Moss to assess the threat. Though the source of the problem is on private land, councillors thought it worthwhile to consult the Environment Agency, Natural England, and the Rivers Trust. PW reminded the meeting that the EA was not a facilitating agency. Cllr Pender is to draft a letter to the EA suggesting a site visit. An email from India Tuer, LDNPA surveyor, had been expected but the clerk could not find any communication from her.	
110/25	Apologies: All present.	
111/25	Requests for Dispensation: None declared.	
112/25	Declaration of interests in respect of Agenda items: None declared.	
113/25	Minutes of the Meeting on 4th September 2025: Resolved: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September 2025 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair P Worth and Seconded by Cllr C Bradley.	
114/25	Matters Arising from Minutes: 1.(101/25.2) New Noticeboard: Haverigg refunded money paid to them. Clerk investigating other manufacturers.	

	Clerk had written to Coniston 14 (providers of a grant of £250) to keep them updated. 2.(101/25.3) Speed Indicators: the acquisition of two solar-powered speed indicators is ongoing. Councillors were keen to have fixed SIs in the village. 3.(101/25.4) Village Green: Councillors were agreed that the present arrangement for cutting and maintenance should be left with the community-spirited Wilson Arms. 4.(101/25.5) BT phone box (on the A593 to the west of The Church House): Clerk to arrange for cleaning and visit of electrician to check supply and safety. It was suggested that the box could house the noticeboard; it would provide cover for readers. The clerk will contact Zurich to update the insurance cover. 5.(101/25.6) Coniston Medical Practice: Clerk reported that the CPG intended to publish in the Coniston and Crake Valley News an update on the progress being made. To further the provision of a building to house the Practice, councillors recommended a round table meeting with MP Tim Farron, W&F Cllr Pender, the ICB, and the LDNPA. JBSnr provided the meeting with news of the parallel situation at Haverthwaite: he emphasised the complexity of getting the scheme completed. 6.(101/25.7) SP Electricity North West: Annabel Hall requested (19th August) to attend TPC meeting still needs to be arranged. 7.(101/25.8) Parking Issues opposite Hadwins' Garage: CB addressed the issue later in the meeting. 8.(106/25) MF's concern about the need for the white lining at Crook Corner to be re-done, the ongoing blocked drainage on the A593 between the Corner and the church, and the consequent subsidence damage to the roadside walls on that stretch, ongoing. 9. Councillors agreed to prioritise speed indicators, telephone box, and noticeboard in January meeting.	
115/25	Planning:	

	a.Permission Granted (03-Oct-2025) Application Number: 7/2025/5372 Location: Wilson Arms, Torver, Coniston, LA21 8BB Proposal: Retrospective approval for hardstanding within plots and sections of track to northern section of site. Approval for hot tubs and associated hardstanding b.No new applications. c.Clerk monitoring the potential misdirection of applications to neighbouring parishes.																			
116/25	Financial Matters: In the light of his imminent retirement, the Chair presented the meeting with a comprehensive update of the pc's finances (reference doc PW 20251106). No payments were authorised. Cheque from Haverigg for £86.34 to be banked. Cllr TS to assume responsibility for TPC's financial affairs.																			
117/25	Councillor vacancy: Councillors were pleased to co-opt Julie Ward, who duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form. Cllr JW took the Declaration of Interests form to be completed and returned by next meeting (January 2026). In the event of the Chair's retirement, advertising to be renewed.																			
118/25	Correspondence: 1. Published through 'Nobbut': <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th><th>From</th><th>Subject</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>06/11</td><td>Coniston Carers</td><td>Items for sale.</td></tr> <tr> <td>03/11</td><td>Citizens Advice</td><td>Advice on using food banks.</td></tr> <tr> <td>29/10</td><td>W&F</td><td>A595 Grizebeck Bridge update.</td></tr> <tr> <td>15/10</td><td>Cumbria CC</td><td>Household Emergency Plan</td></tr> <tr> <td>03/10</td><td>Citizens Advice</td><td>Help with Winter energy bills.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> 2. From Cllr Suzanne Pender (see 109/25 above). 3. Regular circulars from NALC and CALC 4. Other: a. 03/10 from Coniston PC – papers for Meeting 20 October	Date	From	Subject	06/11	Coniston Carers	Items for sale.	03/11	Citizens Advice	Advice on using food banks.	29/10	W&F	A595 Grizebeck Bridge update.	15/10	Cumbria CC	Household Emergency Plan	03/10	Citizens Advice	Help with Winter energy bills.	
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119/25	Councillor Matters: 1.CB drew attention to correspondence he had received from Carol Barr about the area of land opposite the garage on																			

	commons land used by Hadwins. CB said: The law around parking on commons seems to be a little complex. His understanding is that whilst the right to vehicular access to commons cannot be an acquired right (20 years or more), it is not clear that parking is included, providing it has not been illegal. There is certainly a right to drive 15 yards across common land to a parking location under the Road Traffic Act 1988. He thought the retention of at least <u>some</u> parking would seem beneficial, as there is precious little in the Park in general and certainly the Back Common in particular. Councillors agreed to monitor the situation and return to the issue in January. 2.PW made reference to the Housing Strategy for Westmorland and Furness which he thought did not apply to Torver because the parish is in the National Park and is subject to the LDNPA's strategies. 3.Clerk to contact the Coniston and Crake Valley Benefice about TPC's access to and use of the Schoolroom. 4.PW handed his letter of resignation (doc PW20251106R) to the clerk. Cllrs accepted it and, in appreciation of the leadership he had shown throughout his tenure, CB, on behalf of TPC, made a presentation. 5.It was agreed unanimously that CB take the Chair. The position of Deputy to be decided at next meeting (January 2026).	
120/25	Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting of Torver Parish Council will be held on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom.	
121/25	Closure: The Chair closed the meeting at 9.30pm.	

Signed

Date

Signed

Date