

Torver Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Schoolroom.

on Thursday 2nd July 2026.

Present:

Chair: Cllr C Bradley

Deputy Chair: Cllr T Stergiakis

Councillors: M Feather, R Graham

Clerk: C Sargeant

Guests: United Utilities – Kate Stark (Area Engagement Lead – Cumbria Corporate Affairs), Andrew Kendall (County Business Leader for Wastewater) and Russell Clark (Systems Performance Manager).

Environment Agency – Suzie Miller (Team Leader) and Andy Brown (Water Industries Regulation Manager for the NW Area).

Members of the public: Carole Barr, Hazel Bowness, Jennifer Graham, Eric Hadwin, Jason Hadwin, Bev Lewis, Mark Lewis.

Minute Number	
052/26	Guest Speakers: United Utilities attended to discuss concerns about Torver Wastewater Treatment Works, environmental impacts on local watercourses, water quality, flooding, and a request for water sampling at the WwTW outfall. United Utilities confirmed that Torver WwTW is operating as designed, remains compliant with its Environment Agency permit, and is regularly visited by operational staff. There is no specific capital upgrade currently planned for Torver within the present five-year business plan period, although future permit changes could lead to investment from 2030 onwards. In response to concerns about fish populations and historic bacteria testing, United Utilities explained that it monitors only for compliance with permitted parameters and does not test for, or treat, the bacteria identified by the Parish Council. Future in-river water quality monitoring is expected to be introduced nationally, with public access through an online portal, though the timing for Torver is not yet confirmed. On flooding around Green Cottages, United Utilities has not identified a direct sewer link and suggested the issue should be reviewed through a multi-agency approach involving relevant authorities. United Utilities also advised that sampling by non-UU personnel at the

	WwTW outfall would not ordinarily be permitted due to logistical and health and safety considerations.
053/26	Guest Speakers: The Environment Agency thanked Torver Parish Council and residents for their engagement and emphasised the importance of community action in building environmental resilience in the face of climate change. The follow-up notes provide links to resources on storm overflows, public registers, agriculture and water quality, catchment data, bathing water quality, and sustainable fish choices. The Environment Agency clarified that it regulates against permits set through legislation and cannot change that legislation directly; any desired legislative change would need to be pursued through elected Members of Parliament. The notes also encourage Torver to connect with other Cumbrian communities and environmental organisations working on local improvement projects such as tree planting, river restoration, and wildflower meadow creation. Further information about relevant data sources will be shared once Environment Agency colleagues provide additional details.
054/26	Apologies: J Ward (incapacity), W&F Councillor S Pender.
055/26	Requests for Dispensation: None requested.
056/26	Declaration of interests in respect of Agenda items: None declared.
057/26	Public Participation: a.The 7 members of the public engaged fully with UU and the EA . b.Updates from W&F Councillor Suzanne Pender received in the period since the last TPC meeting: (i) 05/06 ENW Road Closures Coniston (ii) 16/06 X12 Coniston – Ulverston Saturday service (iii) 27/06 M6 Southbound overnight closure (iv) 27/06 Local surgeries.
058/26	Minutes of the Meeting on 4th June 2026: Resolved: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th June 2026 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair C Bradley and D Chair T Stergiakis.
059/26	Matters Arising from Minutes:

	a.NHS Medical Care: It was reported that, with effect from 1 July, patients registered with Coniston Medical Practice would transfer to the care of the Central Lakes Medical Group. The Chair advised that he had attended the Surgery Update meeting held at John Ruskin School on Thursday 25 June. At that meeting, the Chair raised questions regarding the level of service that Torver residents could expect to receive. It was noted that the original practice boundary did not appear to include any part of Torver, but had subsequently been amended to include residents within the main settlement. Members further noted that a number of Torver residents, who had previously been registered with Coniston Medical Practice, had received letters advising them that they must register elsewhere. The Council expressed concern that the revised boundary appeared arbitrary. While it was acknowledged that patient numbers and proximity to alternative practices may have been factors in the decision, Members considered that these matters did not adequately reflect the long-standing relationship many Torver residents had with Coniston Medical Practice, the close links between the Torver and Coniston communities, the reliance of some residents on friends and neighbours for transport to medical appointments, or the practical impact on those now required to register elsewhere. Councillors agreed that affected residents should be encouraged to contact the Central Lakes Medical Group to appeal the decision.
060/26	Planning: a.Nothing new. b.Application 7/2026/5218 Garth Nook: decision awaited.
061/26	Financial matters: a.There were no new payments to be made. b.The Annual Audit had been passed by the internal auditor, whose comments were noted, and was ready to be sent to the external auditor. c.No response had been received from HMRC to acknowledge registration of employment of the clerk. d.Registration of signatories to Barclays accounts to be completed. e.Statements from Barclays awaited.
062/26	Correspondence to clerk@torverparishcouncil.gov.uk: a.From Rachel Kelly, Town & Parish Development Officer, Cumbria: 08/06 Skills training from CloudyIT, 10/06 Weekly Bulletin, 18/06 LDNPP Partnership Press call for updates, 18/06 LDNPA Planning sessions, 24/06 Call for case studies CLNRS

	Event, 24/06 CLNRS Workbook follow-up session, 24/06 Adoption of Partnership Plan update, 29/06 Powering communities, energy opportunities workshop, 29/06 CALC Annual Review 2026, 01/07 CALC Partner Bulletin. b.From NALC: 09/06 Events, 11/06 Chief executive's bulletin. c.From of Local Councils Cumbria: 16/06 EDI extravaganza, 16/06 NACTSO message, 18/06 Cumbria Local Nature Partnership News, 26/06 Village Heat Share Mailout, 01/07 Monthly lake views and news d.From Lindsay Nicholson, Parish Support Officer, Westmorland & Furness: 17/06 Local Plan Scoping Consultation, 26/06 Does your Council have an Emergency Plan?
063/26	Councillor Matters: a.Councillors resolved to monitor the proposal by SP Electricity North West to close the A593 to upgrade Coniston's power supply. Notice of postponement had been received but if work necessitates closure of the main road for a period of time then councillors were agreed to write to Tim Farron MP to seek his intervention. b.Through the Chair, Val Kay had urged the parish council to publicise how dangerous the blue-green algae on Coniston Water was to pets. c.The clerk reminded councillors that the Parish Plan was due for revision in 2027. Councillor Graham requested electronic copies of the current Plan.
064/26	Date of Next Meeting: Councillors agreed that a scheduled meeting should be held on Thursday 17th September 2026 at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom. Guest speakers to be confirmed.
065/26	Closure: The Chair closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

Signed

Date

Signed

Date