

Torver Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Schoolroom.
on Thursday 17th September 2026.

Present:

Chair: Cllr C Bradley
Deputy Chair: Cllr T Stergiakis
Councillors: M Feather, R Graham, J Ward
Clerk: C Sargeant
Members of the public: None.

Minute Number	
066/26	Apologies for Absence: None needed. All councillors present.
067/26	Declarations of Interest: None.
068/26	Requests for Dispensation: None.
069/26	Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 2 July 2026: Resolved: To approve unanimously as a true record and signed by the Chair C Bradley and D Chair T Stergiakis.
070/26	Public Participation:

	No members of the public present.
071/26	Reports from External Partners: a. County Councillor Suzanne Pender: Westmorland and Furness Council is asking residents and organisations to comment on its review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations, which runs until 5 October 2026. The review aims to ensure voting arrangements remain convenient, accessible and suitable for local communities, with particular interest in feedback from accessibility groups and people supporting disabled residents. Comments can be submitted online, by email or by post, and final proposals will be considered by the Council on 26 November 2026. b. Neighbourhood Policing Team Updates September 2026: (i) Courier fraud: Residents are warned about criminals posing as police or bank staff. Police and banks will never ask for money transfers, PINs, security codes, cash or valuables. Suspicious calls should be reported via a trusted bank number, 159, 101, or Report Fraud online. (ii) Operation Enhance: Increased high-visibility patrols and targeted policing are returning to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in hotspot areas. (iii) Local staffing: PC Henry Wray has joined the Furness team as a second dedicated Community Beat Officer for Dalton and Askam. (iv) Bike security: PCSOs are helping residents register bicycles with BikeRegister so stolen or lost bikes can be identified and returned. (v) Community priorities: Police have responded to concerns about youth antisocial behaviour, speeding, unsafe parking and other motoring offences through patrols, speed checks, community engagement and enforcement. (vi) Updates and events: Residents are encouraged to follow Furness Police on Facebook for details of upcoming police desks and drop-in sessions. (vii) Overall, the message emphasised vigilance, community reporting and cooperation with police to keep Ulverston, Low Furness and High Furness safe.
072/26	Finance & Governance: Resolved unanimously to approve BACS payments to: a. Torver School £70 for room hire.

	b. Fiona Ebbs £50 for Internal Audit 2026. c. Diane Malley £124.80 for Payroll Services.
073/26	Planning: a. Nothing new. b. Application 7/2026/5218 Garth Nook: application still “being considered.”
074/26	Parish Infrastructure, Maintenance & Projects: [To discuss and agree on capital expenditure and contracted services to maintain and improve on the village environment.] a. Repairs to bus shelter windows: MF to undertake, recycling materials where available. Resolution: unanimously agreed to reimburse MF for any costs incurred. b. Repair/replace village noticeboard: councillors agreed to purchase a new free-standing noticeboard. The clerk to contact Wonderwall Products Ltd at Shap with an agreed budget of £1000-£1500. MF to remove old noticeboard from Church House. Use of telephone kiosk to continue. c. Remove the lower branches from village green trees: Stuart Birkett to be approached to undertake work. d. Plants for the verges – shrubs and signs: it was agreed that the signs have served their purpose, are worn, and should be replaced with shrubs to deter parking on the green. MF to advise. e. Hedgehog signs: it was felt that a single incident did not warrant an expenditure at this stage. f. Speed warning indicators: the clerk to revive work previous done with highways. Councillors were willing to ring-fence a budget of £500 for a single, mobile indicator to be moved when appropriate to keep motorists alert. g. Maintenance of footpaths: councillors were agreed unanimously that work was needed. They felt that rather than involve a contractor, a community work force might be created. Councillors would like to set up informal working parties to help look after local footpaths, verges and planting areas. The aim is to bring together volunteers who enjoy spending time outdoors, improving the appearance of the village, and making these spaces safer and more pleasant for everyone to use. It is hoped that these sessions would also have a friendly social side, with opportunities to share food, drinks and conversation after the work is done, helping to make the

	effort enjoyable as well as worthwhile. Discussion about employing a contractor or the use of a lengthsperson was left open. The acquisition of maintenance equipment for grass control and such jobs was considered but no immediate decision was reached. h. Water testing upstream and downstream of water treatment works: it was resolved unanimously that CB purchase equipment (2 sets of 5 Anylates – E.coli, coliform and enterococci + colony counts at 22C and 36C at £129.90 each).
075/26	Clerk's Report & Correspondence: a. Summary of information from the UU public meeting in the Coniston Institute 26 August 2026 • United Utilities is investing over £13 billion through the Big North West Upgrade to improve water and wastewater infrastructure across the North West. • In Coniston, the project focuses on improving water quality by upgrading Coniston wastewater treatment works. • Two Moving Bed Biofilm Reactors have already been installed, increasing treatment capacity by 40 litres per second and treated flow by 300%. • Early results include a 50% reduction in spills into the lake and an improved bathing water rating at Coniston Boating Centre from Poor to Sufficient in 2025. • Further preparation works will begin in September, with the full upgrade due to be completed in 2028. • Planned improvements include new screens, a new inlet pipe, four lamella treatment units, a tertiary solids removal unit, ultraviolet treatment, two new storm tanks and two additional Moving Bed Biofilm Reactors. • The two new storm tanks will hold 2,600 cubic metres of excess rainwater during heavy storms. • Residents may see increased works traffic from September, with work generally taking place Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm. • Some road closures and escorted deliveries will be needed for large equipment, using a route from the A590 at Greenodd to Lake Road, Coniston. • United Utilities says it will continue working with the local community, businesses, Highways Authority and Parish Council to minimise disruption.

- For queries, residents can call 0345 672 37223 quoting project reference 80066028.
- b. **From Lake Rangers: Incident Report: Activity on Coniston Water, Saturday 29th August 2026**

Time of report: Between 19:00 and 19:30

Summary: During this period, a complaint was received through a series of telephone calls regarding suspected inappropriate activity involving speed boats and water skiers on Coniston Water.

Actions taken: The matter was discussed with the Coniston Parish Council Clerk, and the Lake Rangers were contacted. The Rangers confirmed they had already been made aware of the incident and had spoken with the individuals involved.

Outcome: The complainant and the Coniston Parish Council Clerk were updated accordingly. The reported activity on the lake had, for all practical purposes, ceased.

c. **Flooding monitoring:**

On Saturday 12 September, councillors monitored rising water levels using the Nosey Cam. After one member reported that the water had reached the camera's nose, another asked for the camera to be panned around to check whether the dam was overtopping. A site visit was planned to establish how the staff-gauge reading corresponded with the top of the dam.

It was explained that water breaking over the large boulder in the beck is known locally as a "Big Beck Event" (BBE). The group saw value in correlating these events with measured water levels on the common and data from a new local rain gauge, for which the necessary hardware and time were available. Continuing video suggested that the dam was already overtopping, based on the water level against the fence, while flow around the bend prompted discussion of installing another camera.

Downstream at Church House, the flow was estimated to be about 25% below the level at which the field would flood. In response to a question about whether such conditions were normal for the time of year, it was noted that water levels may depend more on rainfall intensity than duration. The latest 43 mm of rain in three hours was compared with previous heavy-rainfall and overtopping events of roughly 100 mm over 24 hours, suggesting that overtopping may be more frequent than previously thought and that a local gauge would be more reliable than one in the Coppermines because rainfall can vary over short distances. To improve visual monitoring, the group agreed that vegetation should be trimmed at the embankment's lowest point and that a post, sign, or small cairn could mark the reference point more clearly on camera.

d. **'Declarations of Interests' forms:** CB has published all DoI forms on website.

e. **Correspondence** received: to clerk@torverparishcouncil.gov.uk in SEPTEMBER 2026

FROM	DATE	SUBJECT
Becky Walsh	9/9/2026	Your Empowered Clerk Ebook
bookings@conistonandcrakechurches	9/9/2026	Successful form submission for 17/9/2026
BrightPay	8/9/2026	Payslips for quarter ending 30 September
Clerks & Councils Direct	9/9/2026	Subscription
Colin Murphy, Great Run Company	16/9/2026	13 Valleys Ultra event from Fri 25 th - Sun 27 th September
Diane Malley, Payroll Services	11/9/2026	Confirmation of contract
Helen Broughton, AGAR Support	11/9/2026	Digital AGAR Portal
Jane Wells, Plan Estimating	14/9/2026	Access Detailed Construction Estimates
Lindsay Nicholson, W&F	17/9/2026	Reminder: Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee – Locality 2
	15/9/2026	Help shape the future of your electricity network
	13/9/2026	Reminder: Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee – Locality 2
	8/9/2026	Community Safety Partnership Survey
	8/9/2026	CALC News
	1/9/2026	Deputy Town Council Vacancy - Windermere
	1/9/2026	Deputy Town Council Vacancy - Barrow
NALC	17/9/2026	Chief executive's bulletin
	16/9/2026	Star Council Awards 2026/27 – County Association of Year
	15/9/2026	Events Newsletter
	10/9/2026	Chief executive's bulletin
	9/9/2026	Star Council Awards 2026/27 – Climate Response of Year

		8/9/2026	Events Newsletter
		4/9/2026	Specialist insurance support for parish and town councils
		3/9/2026	Chief executive's bulletin
		2/9/2026	Star Council Awards 2026/27 - Young Councillor of Year
		1/9/2026	Events Newsletter
	Nobbut Torver	9/9/2026	Lost collie dog
		7/9/2026	Lost collie dog
		3/9/2026	FW: September article from Citizens Advice
		2/9/2026	Parish Newsletter
	of Local Councils Cumbria	8/9/2026	National Scheme of Delegation – Changes to the Planning System – 17 September 6-7pm Teams Meeting
		1/9/2026	LDNPA monthly lake views and news
	Rachel E Kelly, CALC	16/9/2026	Latest CALC News
		16/9/2026	Weekly Bulletin
		15/9/2026	Clerks join CALC's CiLCA Programme
		14/9/2026	Give Sonia Hutchinson a wonderful send off
		14/9/2026	Survey on Local Council Provision of Public Toilets
		9/9/2026	Weekly Bulletin
		9/9/2026	FW from NALC: Have Your Say: Consultation on a New Proper Practices Framework for Smaller Authorities
		9/9/2026	FW from Lake District National Park Partnership: 1. Parish and Town Forum Agenda 7 October Grasmere Village Hall

			2. Parish and Town Council Forum Terms of Reference
		9/9/2026	Local Plan Email Notification
		8/9/2026	Invitation to CALC AGM 10 October Penrith
		8/9/2026	Build more confident communication across your council
		8/9/2026	FW: Partnership Press – Summer 2026
		7/9/2026	Community Power Training Sessions
		7/9/2026	Free Wellbeing Sessions for Clerks and Councillors
		6/9/2026	Parkinson Partnership Finance and Governance Training Courses
		2/9/2026	Weekly Bulletin
		2/9/2026	FW: CALC Partner Bulletin September 2026
	Scott Thornley, Parish Support Officer	11/9/2026	Solicitor Recommendation
	Sonia D Hutchinson, Cumbria	16/9/2026	CALC AGM 10 October 2026
	Suzanne Pender, W&F Council	11/9/2026	Residents invited to speak on local polling arrangements
	vicar@conistonandcrakechurches	10/9/2026	Schoolroom booking confirmation
	Zurich Municipal	9/9/2026	Why workplace ergonomics matters for people, productivity and performance
076/26	Items for Information / Future Agenda Items: a. Prepare for Parish Plan Revision b. Prepare for Remembrance Sunday arrangements and investigate support for veterans. c. Prepare for Precept Submission for 2027-28 d. Investigate private development in the village that seems to have ignored planning control. e. Representatives to attend meeting re- Electricity NW road closures (Coniston Parish Council, 21 September, 7pm, Institute Reading Room). Councillors very concerned about the possible implications, and lack of consultation.		

	f. Clerk to collate documents legally required to be in TPC's possession and those that might need to be acquired. g. Clerk to investigate proposed boundary changes that might affect Torver's representation on the W&F Council.
077/26	Date of Next Meeting: Councillors agreed unanimously that the next scheduled meeting should be held on Thursday 22nd October 2026 at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom.
078/26	Closure: The Chair closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Signed

Date

Signed

Date