

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

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Councillors:- A Waite (462922) Mrs S Glover (462383) Mrs S Kelly (465343) Mrs C Stringer (464781) N Fleming (466040)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 3rd April 2025 at 7.30 pm. in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

Present:- Councillors A Waite; Mrs S Glover; Mrs S Kelly; Mrs C Stringer; N Fleming.

Apologies:- N/A

Also present: One member of the public was present.

In attendance. N/A

41/25 Urgent business. Items normally needing to be publicised but received too late for the agenda. (Section 100B (4) (b) Local Government Act 1972)

None.

42/25 Disclosure of interests. Requests for dispensations.

None.

43/25 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 6th March 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 6th March 2025, were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED: - Councillor Fleming. SECONDED: - Councillor Mrs Glover.

Carried unanimously.

44/25 Matters arising from those minutes.

- a) 28/25 With reference to the Snipe Ghyll flooding issues, there was no further information.

- b) 36/25 (4) Further information had been received regarding the proposed changes to electoral dates insofar as Town and Parish councils were concerned, with Westmorland and Furness Council looking for specific opinions and it was, therefore, PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs Kelly and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Stringer that Lindal and Marton Parish Council confirm that it had no objections to such proposals. This would see the local elections deferred from 2026 to 2027, to coincide with W&F Council elections, the parish councillors thus serving for an additional year. Carried unanimously.
- c) 39/25 (a) The question of speed humps on Pit Lane, Lindal, had been referred to W&F Council's Highways department. NB.- The long-standing issues of 20 mph roundels on the road surface in the same area, together with the outstanding requirement for a SID, speed indicator device, had been referred to W&F councillors for their help in progressing such matters.
- d) 33/25. Councillor Mrs Glover referred to the Tytup Smallholdings issue, drawing attention to the erection of a barn (under permitted development) in close proximity to adjacent houses. This was an unneighbourly development and, whilst it appeared to be in line with the legal requirements, members wished to express their disappointment that more thought had not been given to a more suitable location.

45/25 Attendance of officer from Cumbria Constabulary

No officers were in attendance: information had been received that no crime had been recorded.

46/25 Government Devolution Policy

Correspondence from the Government regarding further devolution had been received, suggesting that England would benefit by the introduction of a Mayoral system, a tier of government above the unitary authorities, with specific responsibilities designed to allow more decisions at local level.

This would involve around fifteen existing unitary authorities, and would incorporate an elected Mayor and, locally, would encompass the whole of Cumbria, ie., Westmorland and Furness Council and Cumberland Council and this new authority would have funding to help:-

**Improve transport to make it easier for people to commute and travel. *Tailor skills and training for adults to the jobs available locally. *Build houses in the right places with the right infrastructure. *Attract investment and support local businesses to grow *Maximise the benefits of the area's local natural environment and help tackle climate change.*

**Improve health and wellbeing. *Give the area a stronger voice nationally by taking a seat at the Prime Minister's Council of Nations and Regions.*

There was doubt regarding the expense associated with such a development which would necessitate election costs, staff costs, premises and travel expenditure etc and whilst it had been reported that the Government would provide adequate funding, perhaps £1million per year for this, it was unclear what the overall financial situation would be.

There was also concern over the powers and responsibilities attached to the Mayoral system which envisaged a responsibility for major developments with transport and houses, for example, and also encompassed more nebulous activities such as improving health and wellbeing. Whilst finance from the Government would be available for these matters, it was felt that national financial constraints would still be an inhibiting factor in funding.

The existing local government arrangements were thought to be capable of assuming responsibility for the developments set out in the proposals, albeit with additional funds as would have been provided for the Mayoral system, and it was therefore, PROPOSED by Councillor Fleming and Seconded by Councillor Mrs Glover that the Parish Council confirm that it did not support the proposals. Carried unanimously.

47/25 Electoral review, District Council boundaries.

The question of alterations to the existing ward boundaries for electoral purposes had first been discussed in November 2024 when W&F Council had made suggestions. This was in line with the Boundary Commission's requirements for all electoral wards to have roughly the same number of electors. It was now noted that the latest proposals altered the wards to the extent that Lindal and Marton parish would be absorbed into a new district called Low Furness, without any link to Dalton as is seen in the existing Dalton North ward.

It was then PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs Kelly and SECONDED by Councillor Waite that the Council object to this proposal and request that it be revised so that the link to Dalton, in whatever form an amended ward should take place, be fully retained. Carried unanimously.

48/25 Planning applications relating to the Parish

B21/2025/0046. Erection of dormer roof extension, 6 Bell Hill Cottages, Marton.

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs Kelly and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Glover that the Council offer no objections to this application. Carried unanimously.

49/25 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications, all of the Borough, previously circulated to members, on-line.
- b) The Clerk submitted correspondence from Askam and Ireth History Group inviting councillors to a "Looking Back" exhibition in Duddon Road Church, on Saturday, 12th April, between 10.30 am and 4.00 pm, to celebrate 160 years since the founding of the village of Askam.

50/25 Finance

- a) Balances: - *Current* - £50: *Festivals* - £169.78- *Reserve* - £7015.34
- b) Payments recently made, for formal authorisation.

Barry Anderson, computer repairs, £35.

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs Glover and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Stringer that such payment be duly authorised. Carried unanimously

- c) The Clerk confirmed that the final accounts in respect of the financial year 2024/25 were in the process of being produced with first requirement being the need to complete the Certificate of Exemption. This confirmed that the Council's gross income/expenditure had not exceeded £25,000, thus making a review by the National Auditors unnecessary. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Fleming and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly hat the Chairman authorise the Certificate of Exemption. Carried unanimously.

51/25 Any Other Business.

- a) *From the floor*; a member of the public drew attention to the problem of vehicles being parked on pavements by the park in Marton, proving to be a hindrance to the public. The general condition of the park was also mentioned. The Clerk would refer these items to the appropriate authorities.
- b) Councillor Waite
- c) Councillor Mrs Kelly referred to vehicles occasionally being parked on the bend of the road leading past the Church, thus creating a traffic hazard. The Clerk to pursue.

52/25 Date and time of next meeting.

The date and time of the next meeting, the Annual General Meeting, was AGREED as Thursday 1st May, 2025, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

(Council meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Agendas and minutes can be supplied by email to any resident on request and similarly, they can be seen, along with other documents, on the community website, www.lindal-in-furness.co.uk)