**Minutes of the Meeting of Dean Parish Council held on Monday 7th July 2025 at 7.30pm in the Kirkstile Village Hall.**

Present: Mr. Hayman, Mr. Chittenden, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Scott, Mr. Smith, Mr. Haslam, Mr. Worsley, Mr Thomas, Mr Agnew, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Pallister. Mr. Andrew Semple, Cumberland Councillor, and Rev Morgan, Parish Clerk, were also in attendance.

**29/25 Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs. Holmes.

**30/25 Public Participation** – no issues were raised.

**31/25 Declarations of Interest –** Mr. Scott declared an interest re Grass Cutting and Mr. Ferguson declared an interest in Agenda item 6, re Dalton Lane.

**32/25 Approval of Minutes**

After an amendment to include Mr. Smith as and attendee under minute 28/25 I, and on the motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Chittenden, the minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2025 were approved and signed.

**33/25 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered on the agenda**

The Clerk confirmed that all council policies are now on the website.

**34/25 To Consider a complaint by a member of the public regarding Fibrus’ reinstatement of Dalton Lane, Eaglesfield**

Three members of the public had written to the Parish Council raising concerns that Dalton Lane, which forms the bridleway section of Reg’s Round, had not been properly reinstated. The neighbouring residents have contributed financially for several years to the upkeep of the lane, to ensure that rainwater is properly dealt with. The Fibrus reinstatement had spoiled the existing system and rainwater can no longer reach the gully. Residents have concerns for potential flooding of their properties as a result and for a greater risk of potholes forming in the surface. After discussion it was agreed that the clerk should write to Libby Bateman at Fibrus, enumerating the complaints and ask that the lane be reinstated properly. Mr. Ferguson to be the point of contact for Ms. Bateman.

As an aside, Mr. Hayman informed the council that residents of Far Branthwaite Edge and New Branthwaite Edge had been visited by Viberoptix to ask if poles could be erected to connect them to full fibre broadband. This potentially leaves only one property unconnected.

**35/25 To consider a request for help in securing traffic calming measures at Dean School**

A request for assistance with this matter was received and discussed. The issues are that the pavement outside the school is very narrow and traffic signage insufficient to slow traffic substantially, making the area hazardous for pedestrians. The school is looking for a sensitive solution, appropriate to place. Mr. Semple offered to provide, via the Clerk, a link to the Community Safety Partnership and to also speak to the local police community inspector about the issues. Mr. Chittenden added that the presence of a PCSO outside of school may help.

**36/25 Report from Cumberland Councillor Mr. Andrew Semple**

Mr. Semple informed the council that he had been re-elected to serve as Chair of Cumberland Council for a second year. He had stood down as chair of the Lakes to Sea Community Panel but had joined the new Audit and Risk Committee, which will have an independent chair. He remains on the planning committee.

Cllr. Semple also spoke about the plans to build HMS Dreadnought in Barrow, and about bus service improvement plans. He will email the powerpoint on bus service improvements to the Clerk for distribution to councillors, but noted that the 217 bus is Cumberland Council’s experimental project for the rural mobility fund with guaranteed funding for the next two years. The 217 bus will be going to procurement again this month.

There was discussion of road closed signs which had been left up inappropriately and an assurance had now been given that they will be either removed or lain flat when not in use.

Mr. Semple confirmed that new larger bins can be requested via the Cumberland Council website.

**37/25 Reports:**

* 1. **Dean Community Response Group**

Mr. Chittenden gave a verbal report, and it was noted that:

* + - 1. The Parish Council will fund the rental of the Kirkstile Community Centre for the group to hold a training day in September.
      2. Mr Chittenden will complete both the Local Resilience Plan questionnaire and the NALC flooding questionnaire.
      3. There will be a conference in the Autumn, date, time and venue to be notified.
  1. **Dean Solar Farm Committee**

Documentation is now with the Planning Inspectorate. The Preliminary Hearing will be held on 22nd July 2025 at 9.30am via Teams. A link to the meeting had been sent to all members of the parish council by the clerk. Anyone wishing to speak would need to register by midnight on 8th July. The Dean Parish Council unique reference number was given to councillors by the clerk.

* 1. **Lostrigg Solar Farm**

A joint meeting had been held with Little Clifton Parish Council and representatives of RWE Lostrigg Solar in Mid-June. The meeting had not seen any movement of positions and no apology from RWE. The suggestion of Grantscape administering the fund had been accepted. The West Cumbria Rivers’ Trust had not heard from RWE and the two councils were not impressed with the quality of communications from RWE.

The project will most likely be decided by Cumberland Council, with the application made in January 2026. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to RWE for the notes of the meeting, and that Mr. Chittenden should write to Josh MacAllister’s office for an update on the guidance from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

* 1. **Parish Plan/Cumberland Local Plan**
     + 1. **Parish Plan**

Clerk to arrange an informal meeting between ACT and members of the Parish Council, to take place in September.

Clerk to also ask RWE for access to the £5,000 promised ‘up front’ to assist with the development of the plan.

* + - 1. Cumberland Local Plan

This is being developed now and will come into effect in 2028/29. A call for sites asks for areas for development, deadline for inclusion is 4th January 2026. Sites that should not be developed can also be included.

Mr. Semple to send members’ briefing to Clerk for distribution.

It was agreed that this requires local input, and it was agreed that the following people would be responsible for co-ordinating people’s thoughts in each of the villages:

Branthwaite – Mr. Smith. Ullock – Mr Hayman

Dean – Mr Agnew Eaglesfield – Mr. Ferguson

Deanscales – no-one appointed. Pardshaw – Mrs. Pallister.

*Mr. Semple left the meeting at this point – 8.40pm*

**38/25 Finance**

*The following accounts were approved:*

**Paid since last meeting**:

Kirkstile Rent £ 52.35

Naturescape (Plants for reg’s round) £546.76

**To pay in July:**

Clerk’s salary – July - net £ 257.23

Tax on July salary £ 64.30

Clerk’s expenses £ 31.68

Clerk’s salary - August– net £ 257.23

Tax on August salary £ 64.30

Insurance Policy (Zurich Insurance) £ 257.60

J A Lee – bus shelter cleaning £ 61.62

J & R Bennett (Trees for Reg’s Round) £ 528.00

T Scott – Grass cutting half year acct. £4200.00

**39/25 Planning Matters**

**Applications pending a decision**

**Ref No: OUT/2024/0005**

Applicant: Hewson Wood

Proposal: Outline consent for redevelopment of farm steading, involving the erection of 7 No. dwellings and associated infrastructure with all matters reserved except for layout and means of access (outline) (resubmission of OUT/2023/0017)

Location: Well Head Farm, Dean CA14 4TJ

**Ref No: FUL/2025/0016**

Applicant: Stockdale

Proposal: Conversion of 2 no. detached agricultural style sheds into one bedroom self contained units. Location: Thorndyke, Pardshaw, CA13 0SP

**Ref No: FUL/2025/0018**

Applicant: Stockdale

Proposal: Installation of 5 No. Glamping Pods in adjoining field, including access track.

Location: Thorndyke, Pardshaw, CA13 0SP

**Reference No: FUL/2024/0049**

Applicant: J Skelton

Proposal: Conversion of a barn to dwelling

Location: Barn Opposite Southward Cottage, Pardshaw, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 0SP

Dean Parish Council had no objections.

**Applications Approved**

**Ref No: HOU/2024/0185**

Applicant: Josh Hoyle

Proposal: Alteration and extension comprising of an entrance porch, living room, office/bedroom and an external terrace on the ground floor and additional roof lights on the first floor.

Location: Hill Top Barn, Ullock, CA14 4TP

**Ref No: FUL/2025/0017**

Applicant: Stockdale

Proposal: Conversion of detached store into one bedroomed self-contained unit.

Location: Thorndyke, Pardshaw, CA13 0SP

**40/25 The following reports were received:**

1. **Open Spaces** – nothing new.
2. **Registered Land** – nothing new.
3. **Repairs to noticeboards and seats**.

Mr. Agnew is still to contact Simon Watson to see if he could quote for the repair to the Eaglesfield Notice Board.

1. **Reg’s Round**.

The remaining grant money had been spent – some on forward orders for next Spring – and the grant forms had been closed out. Mr. Simon Watson had been unable to fit a handrail.

**41/25 Matters pertaining to County Highways** – none**.**

**42/25 Reports from Meetings Attended**

Mrs. Moore had attended a meeting at Tendley Quarry and gave a verbal report. Mr Ray Wilson is now the quarry manager. Scoping is continuing and there will be no restoration work this year. Blasting is not expected to affect Brigham properties but is being monitored. There are cameras on the weighbridge. An extra 11 hectares will provide an additional 16 years of operation. It is hoped that a public meeting can be held in Brigham Memorial Hall. Parish Councils are being notified of out of hours working.

**43/25 Communications addressed to the council** – nothing additional.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 1st September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Kirkstile Community Centre, Dean.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_