**Minutes of the Meeting of Dean Parish Council held on Monday 1st September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Kirkstile Village Hall.**

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

**44/25 Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs. Moore, Mr. Smith and Mr. Haslam.

**45/25 Public Participation** – no issues were raised.

**46/25 Declarations of Interest** – None.

**47/25 Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2025 were approved and signed.

**48/25 To consider a request for a memorial plaque to be added to the public bench at the top of Shawbanks Road, Dean**

The Council approved the addition of a plaque to the bench in memory of Rachel Morgan, provided the proposed plaque is not larger than the slats on the bench, which may cause a sharp edge to be exposed.

**49/25 To consider a request from a resident for the removal of the lower branches of the large tree on land adjacent to the Wild Duck, Branthwaite.**

It was agreed that the tree is causing a visual obstruction to traffic and needs some remedial work immediately. Mr. Thomas agreed to contact a tree surgeon for quotes on removal of the lower branches and, separately, for felling the tree should that be required.

It was noted that Electricity North West had offered previously to fell the tree free of charge if the council would remove the wood thereafter. Clerk to check the minutes to see when this was last discussed and to contact Electricity North West to see if they would still be willing to undertake this work.

Mr. Semple agreed to contact Nic Earlston of County Highways to see what could be done, and it was agreed that if there was no action from County Highways by 15th September, the council would arrange for the removal of the lower six to eight feet of branches to improve visibility splays.

**50/25 Matters arising from the Minutes not covered on the agenda**

Mr. Ferguson stated that he had had no further contact with Fibrus since before the last meeting. Clerk to raise the Dalton Lane reinstatement with Fibrus again.

**51/25 Report from Cumberland Councillor Mr. Andrew Semple**

Mr. Semple gave a comprehensive report on his duties and responsibilities on Cumberland Council and informed the council that Dr. Stuart Green has been appointed as independent chair of the Council from 1st September and Mr. Rob Timlin as chair of the Improvement Panel. In addition, Mr. Billy Webster had been appointed as Chief Innovation and Commercial Officer.

A consultation on the Cumberland Local Plan will run from 1st September to 31st October with a local drop-in session to be held in Cockermouth Library on Thursday 25th September from 10.30am until 3.30pm. The CLP will set strategy for the council for around 15 years and will take approximately 3 years to produce. Mr. Semple is to email the clerk with a link to the Consultation, to be emailed to all council members.

In response to a question about the proposed Brigham Roundabout, Mr. Semple advised that Highways England has said it does not meet their criteria for the formation of a roundabout.

**52/25 Reports:**

* 1. **Dean Community Response Group**

Mr Chittenden had completed both the Local Resilience Plan questionnaire and the NALC flooding questionnaire. A session had been booked in the Kirkstile Hall for volunteers to look at the kit and discuss, publicity for this event is to follow.

The Conference is taking place on 8th October from 10am – 4pm at Reghed, two places are available for any councillor wishing to attend.

* 1. **Dean Solar Farm Committee**

Mr. Chittenden had attended the Planning Inspectorate Preliminary Hearing on 22nd July via Teams. The next stage is the Main Hearing which will be held over three days, 16th, 17th and 18th September in the Washington Central Hotel, Workington. Mr. Ferguson to speak to Mr. Smith to ascertain whether or not he had registered to speak at this event. If not, the clerk is to request permission for members of the council to do so. A meeting of the subgroup will be needed ahead of the hearing, this to be arranged via emails.

* 1. **Lostrigg Solar Farm**

The application to the Planning Inspectorate had been withdrawn, a new application to Cumberland Council is expected to be made in early 2026.

* 1. **Parish Plan**

A meeting with two representatives of ACT had been arranged for Tuesday 9th September at 7pm in Ullock Village Hall. It was hoped that a good number of councillors would attend.

**53/25 To consider a motion to submit the document ‘Dean Parish Submission to CCC’ to Cumberland Council.**

A detailed document pulling together the ideas from the representatives of each village, appointed to this task at the July meeting, had been drawn up by Mr. Ferguson and had been emailed to all members of the council ahead of the meeting.

On the proposal of Mr. Hayman, seconded by Mr. Chittenden, it was unanimously agreed that the document be forwarded to Cumberland Council by the Clerk.

*Mr. Semple left the meeting at this point, 8,27pm.*

**54/25 Finance**

*The following accounts were approved:*

Clerk’s salary – September - net £295.62

 Tax on September salary £ 73.91

 Clerk’s expenses £ 27.24

 Clerk’s salary - October– net £263.64

 Tax on October salary £ 65.91

 Kirkstile Community Centre rent (July) £ 30.00

 Moores (external audit fee) £283.50

 Webador (annual subscription) £102.00

Vat of £4300.67 had been reclaimed.

The Clerk presented the report from the external auditor and it was noted that one document had not been uploaded to the website last year, clerk to rectify this, and that the clerk does not have a council-owned email address, as all members of the council also need these, it was agreed that the clerk and Mrs. Pallister would look into how this can be achieved.

It was noted that the Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2025/26 had been published and that the new rate had been applied to the clerk’s salary.

**55/25 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.

**56/25 The following reports were received:**

1. **Open Spaces** – There was some discussion of the little bridge at Ullock which it is believed belongs to Ullock Village Hall.
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, if not a contact was given by Mr. Scott of a handyman in Dean. The new seat at Branthwaite is still awaiting fixing into position.

1. **Reg’s Round**.

There was further discussion of a possible handrail at the steps. The Village Hall had taken advice from a National Trust representative who had advised that they would not fix a handrail in such a position, and consequently, the Village Hall committee felt unable to commit to doing so.

**57/25 Matters pertaining to County Highways**

The clerk was instructed to raise again a flooding issue in the centre of Eaglesfield Village, raised approximately two years ago and not yet remedied.

**58/25 Reports from Meetings Attended**

Mr. Hayman and Mr. Worsley had attended the most recent meeting of the Potato Pot Fund Grant Award Committee and asked whether the council was happy for them both to continue to represent it on this body – this was affirmed.

**59/25 Communications addressed to the council**

An email from Fibrus relating to a pole in Ullock required no reply as it is not on council owned land.

**60/25 Item for next meeting.**

The grass cutting schedule for next year will be discussed at the November meeting.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 3rd November 2025 at 7.30pm in the Kirkstile Community Centre, Dean.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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

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