

Askham and Helton Parish Council

Meeting: Parish Council Meeting **Date:** Thursday, 24th July 2025

Venue: Askham and District Community Centre

Present: Laura Harker (LH), Mary Westgarth (MW), Gary Calland (GC), Sophie Riches (SR),
Chris Whittaker (CW) John Banks (JB)

Apologies: Malcolm Holt (MH)

In Attendance: Sandie Watson (Clerk/RFO), Cllr Nicky Vecqueray, Westmorland & Furness Council (NV)

Members of Public: 9

Minutes

418.1 Apologies	Cllr Malcolm Holt – Family Commitment Resolved that the apologies be accepted and the reasons recorded.	
419.2 National Highways/Network Rail Presentation	The Council received a presentation from National Highways regarding the M6 closures to allow Clifton Bridge to be removed and replaced. This will take place over two weekends. Part of the West Coast mainline closure from 31 December 2025 to Thursday 15 th January 2026. M6 closure between junction 39 (Shap) and 40 (Penrith) in both directions from evening Friday 2 nd January to morning of Monday 5 th January 2026 and evening Friday 9 th January to morning of Monday 12 th January 2026. Residents will be sent information in the post from Highways which will include passes to allow access through the local road network. Further information is available on Highways and Network Rail websites.	
420.3 Declarations of Interest	i. Register of Members Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their Register of Interests. None received. ii. Personal/Prejudicial Interests. Cllr Whittaker; Planning Application 7/2025/3063 Askham Hall Farm, neighbour. iii. Dispensation Requests. None received.	ALL
421.4 Minutes	Resolved that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting on 22 nd May 2025 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
422.5 Public Participation/ Open Session	Planning application 7/2025/3063. Askham Hall Farm. Concerns were raised from members of the public of the noise and disturbance from operations at the farm. A further concern raised regarding log storage causing overshadowing/loss of light. Comments received about farming diversification in order to sustain the future of farming.	
423.6 Outcomes of Actions of last meeting	Tree seat – received quote for £299.00 for replacement bench. The council resolved to purchase. MH/NV to apply for grant. Gully between Helton and Butterwick is still blocked. Clerk to contact Highways for an update. GC will send photos to clerk to forward to Highways.	MH NV SW GC
424.7 External Meetings	NV reported the waste consultation ended and responses are being reviewed.	

	<p>It is likely that refuse collections will be fortnightly.</p> <p>A66 dualling going ahead.</p> <p>Lune Gorge 8 bridges essential maintenance plans ongoing.</p> <p>BT switchover - concerns raised when there are power cuts and identifying residents who need extra support.</p> <p>Askham Bridge – NV will investigate cause for delay with Highways.</p>	NV
425.8 Planning Applications	<p>Applications:</p> <p>7/2025/3063 Askham Hall Farm CA10 2PF Change of use of farm buildings and adjoining land to mixed agriculture and firewood processing and storage. Resolved to respond no comment.</p> <p>2025/0505/PACOU Shed at Highfield, Tirril CA10 2LG Prior notification under schedule 2, part 3, class R, for change of use of an agricultural building to storage or distribution (use class B8) Under officer investigation</p> <p>7/2025/3054 Fellgate Farm, Helton, Penrith CA10 2QA Installation of an air source heat pump at the back of the property. Ratified no objection.</p> <p>7/2025/3045 (Listed Building Consent) Fellgate Farm, Helton, Penrith CA10 2QA Installation of an air source heat pump at the back of the property. Ratified no objection.</p> <p>7/2025/3032 Hillside, Helton, Penrith CA10 2QA Larger glazed openings and balcony to north gable elevation. Replace windows in UPVC to match existing timber sash indicated on drawing. LDNPA approved with conditions.</p> <p>7/2025/3021 Fellgate Farm, Helton, Penrith CA10 2QA Internal alterations to create living accommodation within existing adjoining store at upper ground floor and to renovate existing store and workshop at lower ground floor. Remedial works to existing external envelope to stabilise and improve existing materials. New window to existing loft opening on front elevation, new window/door opening to existing barn door on rear elevation and 2no. new conservation rooflights to front elevation of main roof pitch. Ratified no objection. LDNPA considering.</p> <p>7/2025/3027 Shed at High Field, Tirril, Penrith, CA10 2LG Change of use of agricultural shed from agricultural to B8 – Storage or Distribution. The shed will be used to house shipping containers for secure storage use. Ratified objection. LDNPA refused under NOI Procedure.</p>	SW

426.9 Commons Registration Service	No comments to make.	
427.10 Septic Tank Upgrade	Following discussion, SR will add to newsletter to inform residents of the offer.	SR
428.11 Local Resilience Plan	Following discussion, the Clerk will contact Cumbria CVS to request further information.	SW
429.12 LDNPA Local Plan Review	No further comments to make.	
430.13 Financial Report	Resolved: The Clerk circulated the budget and bank reconciliation. Closing balance on 30 th June 2025 £15,156.50. The Council reviewed and accepted the transactions and budget 2025/26 updates.	SW
431.14 Payments of Account	Resolved. The Council approved for payment: Clerk's wages/expenses £602.68, CPSL £37.80, HP Ink £5.10, Hall Rent £16.00, M Holt (fuel) £55.80. The Council would like to make a provision in future budgets for £750.00 for annual lawnmower services.	SW
432.15 Correspondence	Organised events. A complaint was received from a resident regarding the recent Triathlon event in the village. Concerns for safety, speed of cyclists, confusion from participants and risk to other events happening at the same time e.g. church attendance. Council to consider response.	SW
433.16 Items for agenda and dates of next meetings	Parish Council Meetings: Thursday, 25 th September 2025 – Website, Parish Plan, Resilience Planning, Footpath between Askham and Helton, shelves for bus shelter, relocation of noticeboard to bus shelter. Thursday, 20 th November 2025 Budget and Finance All meetings held at 7.00pm at Askham and District Community Centre.	SW

Meeting closed 21.24pm