

Minutes of a meeting of Cartmel Fell Parish Council held at Tower Wood Outdoor Education Centre on Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Alan Telford (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Chris Cannon, Matt Martin and Mike Smith, 15 members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies were accepted from Councillor Helen Smith and received from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jenny Boak.

The Chairman introduced Julie Birkett (Planning Manager – Enforcement), Councillor Mark Kidd (Chairman of the Development Control Committee) and Andrew Smith (Head of Service, Development Management Team).

The first hour was in public session, so that questions could be addressed to those from the LDNPA and a general discussion of planning issues, especially relating to Cartmel Fell, could take place.

The Parish Council (PC) thanked the LDNPA Planning officials for attending the meeting. Whilst acknowledging how busy the Planning Authority is, the PC expressed disappointment as to the level of engagement with Planners and over the apparent lack of real attention / value given to comments made by the PC on individual Applications / sites within the Parish. The PC spends considerable time in assessing and giving considered feedback on Applications but does not feel that it is treated in any way like a ‘valued’ party in the process. The Council questioned the point of investing more time and effort to further improve our understanding / quality of our submission as a result.

Questions were also raised over aspects of the planning approval process and ‘consistency’ of decisions as well as seeking to ensure that at Committee both sides of case submission should be openly discussed to ensure transparency and ‘fair’ balance when more contentious applications are being considered.

Members of the public expressed disappointment / frustration too including belief that some applications ignored legal concerns (over development near water extraction points) and questioned the Planning Authority on lack of specialist design review procedures / support when considering, for example, the impact of design on local communities and heritage landscape.

The business of the Parish Council began at 8.10pm.

26/1 Public participation:

The Council was informed that the Hare and Hounds at Bowland Bridge is currently up for sale and the Cartmel Fell Volunteers plan to register it as a Community Asset. They are seeking the Council’s support and this was given, the Clerk to write a letter confirming this.

26/2 Requests for Dispensations: None.

26/3 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest made in respect of any matters on the agenda.

26/4 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2025, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

26/5 Planning:

The following applications were considered:

7/2026/5057 Masons Arms, Cartmel Fell. Internal works. This was passed to the planning group for further consideration.

7/2026/5010 Winster Lea, Ghyll Head, Windermere. Proposed alterations and conversion of part of the existing garage to form bedrooms, with a single storey extension to the ancillary accommodation to form living room. This was passed to the planning group for further consideration.

7/2026/5031 Tower Wood Outdoor Education Centre, Windermere. Removal of an existing external oil tank and installation of a new external LPG tank, as part of the proposed boiler replacement works. No objections.

26/6 'Assertion 10 - Digital & Data Compliance'

The Clerk reported that the website had been developed to ensure compliance with the new regulations. All Councillors will, in due course, receive their 'gov.uk' email addresses which should be used after 31st March 2026, although there will be some overlap while the new system becomes established.

A2A in Milnthorpe, which originally set up the website, will welcome any photographs of Cartmel Fell that could be added to the site.

26/7 Finance:

a. *It was resolved to pay the following account:*

K M Price £120.35 Quarterly expenses to 31st December including use of home office and travel.

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

26/8 Date and place of the next meeting:

***Thursday 7th May 2026 at 7pm at the Parish Hall, Cartmel Fell.
(This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting)***

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed:

Dated: