

CLIFTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk: Ms Becx Carter, 40 Windebrowe Avenue, Keswick, CA12 4JA. Clerk@cliftoncommunitycouncil.uk 077866 78283

Minutes of the Clifton Community Council Meeting held in the Abbott Lodge on Thursday 16th April 2026 at 18:30

Community Councillors Present: Jonathan Davies, Sarah Davies, Claire Bland, Phil Clarke, WaF Cllr N Vecqueray

Attendance: Becx Carter via Zoom (Parish Clerk & RFO)

Apologies: Sharon Blaylock (Personal commitments),

With 4 councillors present the meeting was quorate.

30/26	Apologies Resolved by all present that apologies be noted from those named above.
31/26	Minutes of last Clifton Community Council meeting The Chair was authorised to sign, as a correct record the minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 26 th Feb 2026 (<i>previously circulated</i>).
32/26	Declarations of Interest/requests for dispensation None
33/26	Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960) None
34/26	Public Participation None WaF Cllr N Vecqueray <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A66 project teams are in the process of taking forward the more detailed planning and works on the A66 Northern Trans Pennine Project particularly around the slip area at Kemplay Bank. They will be doing a lot of lane shifting as part of this project, so National Highways are doing works to solidify the central reservations to allow this to happen. This works will be managed via speed limits/lane closures. There are also more trees to be removed.• Concerns were noted by Clifton Community Council about the lack of public engagement about the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project in terms of tree removal/sewage.• All present recorded the ongoing need for the project to consider accommodation for project staff for the duration of the project,

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	<p>and the impacts on tourism through displacement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns were noted about the lack of engagement from WaF about the Eamont 927 project, and the lack of clarity about who is the leading on the project, if it is WaF/CALC? Cllr N Vecqueray noted that it is likely that a CIC will be formed made of up from interested stakeholders.• Cllr N Vecqueray has raised concerns about the condition of the road surface at Crooklands, it was noted the potholes have been mended, but the need for the road to be resurfaced remains and this has been being raised with WaF/EDC for years.• The condition of pavement between Cumberland Close and Jacobite gardens has been raised a number of times but it has been deemed to be of an 'acceptable' standard.• EV Charging project- WaF are launching a project to look at locations for EV Charge Points. Cllr J Davies noted that Clifton Community had raised some concerns about the 'allocated' land for EV charge points that was part of the tender that was advertised by WaF last year. Further Cllr J Davies noted that it was also part of the proposal for the play area if it had been devolved to install EV chargers.
35/26	<p>Resolutions Update/Actions Log.</p> <p>The resolutions sheet is hosted online for councillors to review and was noted as received.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to update.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to agenda the nomination of other areas for ACV for the May 2026 agenda.</p>
36/26	<p>Planning</p> <p><i>i. Planning applications received from WaF for Consultation</i></p> <p>Ref: 2026/0350/FPA Location: Bridge End Farm, Clifton Proposal: Proposed demolition of lean to building; change of use of an agricultural building and addition of extension to provide dwelling and annex</p> <p>Resolved by all present that Clifton Community Council supports application 2026/0350/FPA, recognising the benefit of bringing a derelict building back into use as part of the local housing stock. The Council notes the proximity of the site to the railway and recommends that appropriate sound insulation measures are incorporated within the development. The Council also encourages the inclusion of sustainable and energy-efficient measures, such as solar panels and grey water recycling, where feasible.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to submit these comments</p>

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Ref: 2026/0605/FPA

Location: Tarn Hill, Clifton Dykes, Penrith

Proposal: Change of use of two agricultural buildings to form two dwellings including associated operations

It was noted that this was introduced as an outline planning application last year, which was subsequently rejected by WaF. This was appealed to the Secretary of State when it was subsequently allowed.

Resolved by all present that that Clifton Community Council submit the same comments as previously

Action: Clerk to submit these comments

ii. To note receipt of the below decisions

Resolved by all present that the below decisions be noted as received

Ref	Location	Proposal	Decision
2025/1810/DISC	Clifton Hall Barn, Clifton	Application for approval of details reserved by conditions	Condition Discharged
2025/0761/S106	Land to East of Townhead Croft, Clifton	Modification of S106 agreement to widen the area of local occupancy restriction attached to approval 14/0656	Finally Disposed of

37/26

Highways & Parish Maintenance

i. To receive updates on any Highways related matters within the Parish.

- It was noted that there is a blocked drain in the region of Clifton Hill Gardens.
- It was noted there is a damaged sign in the region of the top of valley road. Councillors expressed a preference for a heritage fingerpost rather than just the replacement of the one that is damaged.

Resolve to request that WaF highways work with Clifton Community Council to look at the installation of a heritage finger post at this location. Clifton Community Council could potentially provide a financial contribution toward this.

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Action: Clerk to take this forward.

- ii. Autospeed watch update

No updates

- iii. Parish Maintenance/Lengthsman

It was noted that, more than three years after the establishment of Westmorland & Furness Council, no Lengthsman Agreement has yet been provided to Parish/Community Councils. Despite sustained lobbying by individual councils and representation through Cumbria Association of Local Councils, there has been no meaningful progress.

Members expressed significant concern and disappointment that the continued absence of this legal framework is preventing Clifton Community Council and other councils from undertaking routine maintenance activities within their communities, even where they are both willing and able to fund and deliver such works locally. This delay is having a tangible and negative impact on local maintenance standards and undermines the ability of Parish/community Councils to act proactively in the interests of their residents.

Resolved unanimously that the Clifton Community Council writes again to Westmorland & Furness Council to express its strong dissatisfaction at the ongoing delay and to request that the Lengthsman Agreement be prioritised and issued without further delay.

Action: Clerk to submit a letter to the new CEO of WaF to raise this issue.

- iv. Footway Lighting/Street Lighting to discuss/consider next steps

It was noted that Clifton Community Council had written to Westmorland & Furness Council in August 2025 following consideration of the Highways and Local Lighting Policy, setting out its intention to retain ownership of the devolved lighting within the parish, subject to appropriate maintenance arrangements and the resolution of outstanding unmetered electrical supply matters.

Clifton Community Council had also formally requested collaborative support from Westmorland & Furness Council, in line with Policy S.4.7.1.2, to enable it to continue operating as a Lighting Authority, together with clarification on how such support would be enacted.

Members expressed concern that, despite the time elapsed, no response has been received from Westmorland & Furness Council in relation to any of the matters raised, including the request for collaborative support.

- v. Pocket Park – To consider any necessary actions including the

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installation of a covered area

It was noted that there is still a need for concrete pads to be installed to site the seats on, but no contractors can be identified for these works at this stage.

Cllr J Davies noted that the space is being very well used which is great to see. The tree works have now been completed.

There is an area at the rear of the site that would lend itself to the installation of a pergola for a more covered area.

Action: Clerk/Chair to obtain quotes for consideration at a future meeting.

vi. Clifton Well

No update, communications have been sent to the landowner regarding this but no response has been received.

Action: Cllrs to approach the local sculptures to consider the idea of formation of a sculpture for the parish.

vii. Clifton Dykes Speed Indication Device

Cllr J Davies attended the Brougham Parish Council meeting where it was supposed to be on the agenda, but it was omitted from the agenda.

Resolved by all present that a request be made to WaF to work with Clifton Community Council to identify a site in Clifton Dykes to site a Speed Indicating device.

Action: Clerk to submit this request to WaF.

Action: Clerk to request a copy of the most recent TDU data.

viii. Condition of A6 & condition of footpath

It was noted that this road was resurfaced last year and is now significantly deteriorating. In 2025 WaF decided that the 'extra' lock surface wasn't necessary, but the condition suggests otherwise.

A question was posed about the condition of the Clifton Railway Bridge and the safety of the structure. This has been requested to WaF but no report has been provided at this stage.

Action: Clerk to formally request again from WaF the Bridge Safety Report for the Clifton Railway Bridge.

Cllrs suggested that these issues be raised with National Highways & WaF to have a site meeting to discuss the condition of the A6 that has deteriorated as a result of the M6 closures. It is understood that a pot of

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money had been provided by National Highways to WaF to undertake necessary works prior to, during and after the M6 closures but the Parish Council is unclear where/if this funding has been spent?

Action: Cllr J Davies to submit photos of all the defects to WaF and formally request a site visit.

ix. On street parking issues

Crooklands has an issue with on street parking, WaF have looked elsewhere in their area at on street parking permits for areas such as this. However this would require a consultation to look at appropriate areas for this in Clifton Village including Crooklands.

It was noted that it is likely that a consultation may be difficult to run as many households have multiple vehicles which may cause issues with only having 2 residents parking permits. It was suggested that an open questionnaire be sent out to all properties in the village to identify how many vehicles need to be parked to then approach WaF to request they work with Clifton Community Council to prepare a solution.

Resolved by all present that a request be made to WaF that is multifaceted to request that WaF work with Clifton Community Council initially in the form of a site visit to discuss:

- Condition of A6
- On street parking
- Double yellow lines/parking restrictions
- Community consultation about the above issues.

Action: Clerk to contact WaF to ask about how to progress these issues.

38/26

Clifton Playpark Update

i. To receive an update on Clifton Playpark/Devolution

It was once again noted with disappointment the lack of progress on this matter.

Action: Cllr J Davies to send a letter to the new leader and new S.151 officer about this issue.

Councillor noted to WaF Cllr N Vecqueary again that Clifton Council has been actively pursuing the devolution/transfer of this asset since circa 2018, initially with Eden District Council and subsequently with Westmorland & Furness Council, with numerous formal requests, follow-ups, and engagement over a period of several years. Despite this sustained engagement, no transfer has been progressed, with delays arising from organisational changes, policy development, and the

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introduction of Local Government Reorganisation.

It was further noted that, following the adoption of the Westmorland & Furness Council Community Asset Transfer Policy in October 2023, only leasehold arrangements are currently offered to Town and Parish Councils, rather than freehold transfer.

Councillors reiterated that Clifton Community Council has previously considered this position on multiple occasions and has consistently resolved that a leasehold arrangement would not provide sufficient security for the long-term protection, investment, and stewardship of the asset. Concerns remain that a leasehold model places full financial and maintenance liability on the Parish Council, whilst allowing the principal authority to retain ultimate control and potentially withdraw the asset in the future.

Resolved: that Clifton Community Council reaffirms its longstanding position that it will not pursue or enter into a leasehold arrangement for the play area and recreation ground and will only consider the transfer of the asset on a freehold basis in order to secure its long-term protection for the community.

Resolved: that Cllr N Vecqueray be requested to submit a Notice of Motion to Full Council, seeking a resolution that elected Members instruct officers to progress the full freehold devolution of the Clifton Play Area to Clifton Community Council.

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Financial Matters

i. To authorise the below payments.

Resolved by all present that the below payments were authorised/ratified for payment:

To	Budget line	Value	Action
Becx Carter	March Salary	£357.48	Ratify
HMRC	March PAYE	£100.20	Ratify
Becx Carter	April Salary	£381.65	Ratify
HMRC	April PAYE	£107.94	Ratify
S & C Bland	Room hire (Feb)	£20.00	Approve
CALC	Subscription	£260.29	Approve
CPSL	Payroll Services	£302.40	Approve

Action: Clerk to pay these accounts

ii. To receive and approve the bank reconciliation and spend against budget report

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Resolved by all present these be noted as received and signed as a true and accurate record.

Action: Clerk to add on the reserves to the bank reconciliation in the future.

- iii. To appoint the internal auditor for Clifton Community Council for the forthcoming year

Resolved by all the majority of those present (Cllr J Davies abstained) that Mrs R Kelly be appointed as internal auditor for 26/27

- iv. Green Waste Charges WaF

The Chair introduced at his discretion a late motion regarding the recently introduced garden waste subscription by Westmorland and Furness Council.

Members considered the £60 annual charge to be a backwards step, likely to result in unintended consequences and increased long-term costs, and a missed opportunity in light of the Council's climate and recycling objectives.

It was noted that, whilst garden waste remains a non-statutory service, recent Government updates allow for a combined food and garden waste collection (food waste being a statutory requirement). Members expressed the view that this could have been introduced using existing bins, providing an efficient, cost-effective service and enabling the use of waste for energy and fertiliser production to support local sustainability.

Resolved that Clifton Community Council calls on Westmorland and Furness Council to review the introduction of the garden waste charge and, as part of waste harmonisation by 2027, explore the implementation of a combined food and garden waste collection, alongside opportunities to utilise collected material for local energy and fertiliser production to support community resilience and offset rising service costs.

Clifton Community Council further noted concerns about the likely impacts of these charges with people dumping garden waste (in particular grass cuttings) in to agricultural fields can be deadly to cattle and sheep

Action. Cllr J Davies to submit this motion to WaF

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Date of next meeting

Resolved by all present that the meeting dates for 26/27

All at Abbott Lodge at 18:30

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21st May 2026 AGM/APM
9th July 2026
10th Sept 2026
22nd October 2026
26th November 2026
14th January 2027

Meeting closed 20:10