

CLIFTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk: Ms Becx Carter, 40 Windebrowe Avenue, Keswick, CA12 4JA – cliftonpc@outlook.com; 077866 78283

Minutes of the Clifton Community Council Meeting held in the Abbott Lodge on Thursday 26th Feb 2026 at 18:30

Community Councillors Present: Jonathan Davies, Sarah Davies, Claire Bland, Phil Clarke

Attendance: Becx Carter (Parish Clerk & RFO),

Apologies: Sharon Blaylock (Personal commitments), WaF Cllr N Vecquary

With 4 councillors present the meeting was quorate.

15/26	Apologies None received
16/26	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 27 th November 2025 (<i>previously circulated</i>).
17/26	Declarations of Interest/requests for dispensation None
18/26	Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960) None
19/26	Public Participation None
20/26	Resolutions Update/Actions Log. The resolutions sheet is hosted online for councillors to review and was noted as received. Action: Clerk to update.

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21/26

Planning

i. Planning applications received from WaF for Consultation

Ref: 2025/1377/FPA

Location: Town End Farm, Hackthorpe

Proposal: Change of use of agricultural land and buildings to an equine stud farm

It was noted that this is not in Clifton Community Council area.

Ref: 2026/0251/FPA

Location: 5 Crooklands View

Proposal: Creation of access and tarmac driveway

Resolved by all present that that the Parish Council fully support this proposal subject to Highways approval and that appropriate materials are used to prevent excess water run off on to the highway. Clifton Community Council requested that it be ensured that it be included as a planning condition that the pavement remains suitable for access for all once the dropped kerb is installed (e.g. wide enough to allow for safe passage of wheelchairs, mobility scooters etc)

Action: Clerk to submit these comments

It was noted that WaF are intending to take the Valley Road planning application to Planning Committee on the 1st April 2026. Clifton Community Council resolved that they wanted to make representation at this meeting.

Resolved that once the officer recommendation is received that Clifton Community Council submit a request for call in to the Secretary of State if the officer recommendation is to approve.

ii. To note receipt of the below decisions

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

Ref	Location	Proposal	Decision
2025/2169/HOU	The Rectory, Clifton, Penrith	Proposed side extension	Approved with conditions

22/26

Network Rail M6/Clifton Bridge Replacement

Cllr J Davies noted that there were some ongoing issues relating to issues with the line/electricity supply.

Concerns were noted by some residents during the works about litter being dropped by contractors. This was raised to Network Rail who apparently briefed their contractors on this. However another report has been received from a member of the public w.c 16th Feb about the access and littering issues.

Resolved that an official complaint be raised about littering/parking issues relating to contractors.

Action: Clerk to file this official complaint with National Highways

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It was noted that National Highways has also sent out a consultation to local parishes but (not Clifton) regarding feed back about the diversion routes etc during the works. The lack of consultation with Clifton Community Council has already been raised with National Highways.

It was noted that the compound is in place until July 2026, and the speed limit is in place for at least another year as the works are also linked to the Lowther Bridge works. It was noted that there has been no community benefit sadly from this project.

One concern that has been raised with WaF/National Highways is the large depression that has formed on the A6 railway bridge through Clifton. This has been raised with WaF Highways and a survey has been undertaken an update on the identified works is awaited.

23/26

Highways & Parish Maintenance

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

- It was noted that all issues are on HIMS
- It was noted positively that the White Lines are now in place at Clifton, after a number of years of lobbying. It was noted that these haven't gone all the way through the village, and that additional ones will be installed as part of the 20mph limit works in due course.
- A resident in Crooklands has raised concerns about the road there, these concerns have been raised multiple times before. A formal response from WaF has been requested on this area of works.

Action: Clerk/Chair to raise this with the officer contact at WaF Highways.

- The pavement outside the George and Dragon (on the pub side) is in a very poor state of repair.

Action: Clerk to raise this issue with Waf once What Three Word locations have been provided.

ii. Autospeed Watch Update

Cllr J Davies to look at the renewal date for these and then the council to consider if the units are renewed, and to give consideration to additional battery life.

Action: Clerk to agenda this matter for the April 2026 meeting

iii. Parish Maintenance/Lengthsman agreement

It was noted that this is still outstanding from WaF.

Action: Clerk to send an email to the portfolio holder/directorate regarding this and to ask for an update

iv. Footway Lighting/Street Lighting to discuss & consider any next steps

No further correspondence has been received from WaF regarding the support they can provide (nor the audit of lighting on the A6), this was promised back in August 2025.

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- v. To consider any necessary actions relating to the Pocket Park

It was noted that there is still a need for the concrete pads to be installed for the new bench. The Clerk noted that there are no obvious contractors to approach about this work.

Action: Cllr J Davies to approach a local business to ask about getting these works done

It was noted that the trees will need resurvey in Oct 2027

- vi. Clifton Well

Cllr J Davies is looking to reorganise a meeting with Lowther about this, and then safety inspection/insurance may need to be considered.

Action: Cllr J Davies to take this forward & to speak to Grace Forge about the sculpture.

- vii. Clifton Dykes Speed Indicating Device

Cllr J Davies noted that he recently attended Brougham Parish Council meeting to discuss this but it wasn't on the agenda.

Action: Clerk to obtain some quotes for a basic SID that just shows the speed limit, and circulate to all prior to the next meeting.

Action; Clerk to ask WaF for TDU data for Clifton Dykes, and to ask about siting. Also Clerk to contact Eden Rural Policing to ask for the same information.

24/26

Clifton Playpark Update

- i. To receive an update on Clifton Playpark/Develotion

Cllr J Davies noted that WaF Cllr N Vecqueray is not taking this any further.

Action: Cllr J Davies to write to the CEO/S151 officer to offer to take over any WaF Assets in the area to save them the financial burden.

It appears that the Community Asset Transfer remains stalled as Clifton Community Council are not willing to take a lease transfer.

- ii. To consider submission of a formal complaint to WaF regarding the recent consultation relating to Clifton Play area and the fact it excluded a number of user groups

Cllr J Davies updated all present that WaF went ahead with the consultation in the school despite the express request of Clifton Community Council to hold a full consultation with all the community and not just the school (which doesn't cover all children in Clifton).

Resolved by all present that a complaint be submitted to WaF about how this has

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been handled.

Action; Clerk & Chair to draft a complaint for review by all councillors prior to submission.

25/26

Asset of Community Value Nominations

Resolved by all present that the Clerk apply to WaF to renew the Asset of Community Value Nomination on the following sites

- Clifton Pond
- Clifton Pocket Park
- Clifton Well

All these are due to expire in the coming weeks.

Action: Clerk to take this forward.

26/26

Cumbria in Bloom

Resolved by all present that Clifton Community Council enter the Village Category and Rural Community Category.

Action: Clerk to submit this registration form

27/26

Financial Matters

- i. To authorise the below payments.*

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

PAYEE	Budget line	Value	Action
Becx Carter	Feb Salary	£357.48	Ratify
HMRC	Feb PAYE	£100.20	Ratify
S & C Bland	Room hire (Jan)	£20.00	Approve

Action: Clerk to pay these accounts

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

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 consider and adopt the Clifton IT policy*

Resolved by all present that this policy be adopted with immediate effect

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	<p>Action: Cllr J Davies to upload the policy to the Clifton Community Council website</p>
28/26	<p>Correspondence received.</p> <p><i>To receive the outcome of the decision of the electoral commission relating to Clifton Polling Place</i></p> <p>Resolved that it be noted the Electoral Commission has upheld Clifton Community Council's appeal regarding the relocation of the Clifton polling place.</p> <p>Following Westmorland & Furness Council's decision to move the polling place for the EMC polling district (Clifton Parish) from Clifton Village Hall to Lowther Parish Hall, Clifton Community Council appealed on the grounds that the decision failed to meet the reasonable requirements of electors.</p> <p>After reviewing written submissions from both parties and conducting a site visit, the Electoral Commission determined that there were no "special circumstances" justifying the designation of a polling place outside the Clifton (EMC) polling district. The Commission concluded that locating the polling place outside the district materially affects the convenience of electors.</p> <p>The Commission has therefore directed Westmorland & Furness Council to designate a polling place within the EMC polling district. The new designation must comply with the statutory requirements of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and have regard to accessibility for disabled voters.</p> <p>The Local Authority has been instructed to make the new designation within two months of the decision (dated 13 February 2026).</p> <p><i>To note the increase in fees for Payroll Processing for Clifton Community Council for 26/27</i></p> <p>It was noted that the fees for this service are increasing from £277 per annum to £302 per annum from the turn of the financial year.</p> <p><i>Eamont 927 Treaty Anniversary</i></p> <p>There are plans for an event to celebrate this, Penrith Town Council, Eamont & Brougham Parish Councils have been invited to take part in an event WaF are organizing. Clifton Community Council is disappointed to have not been included in this event organization.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to email Nic Wright (Manager of Eden Locality Board) expressing the disappointing that Clifton haven't been invited to take part in this event.</p>
29/26	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Resolved by all present that the meeting dates for 26/27 be set as these can be altered as required throughout the year:</p> <p>All at Abbott Lodge at 18:30</p>

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	16 th April 2026 21 st May 2026 AGM/APM 9 th July 2026 10 th Sept 2026 22 nd October 2026 26 th November 2026 14 th January 2027
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Meeting closed 19:20