

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 27th November 2025 at 18:30

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

Attendance: Becx Carter (Parish Clerk & RFO-Via Zoom)

With 4 councillors present the meeting was quorate.

97/25	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Resolved by all present that the apologies be noted as received from Cllr Sharon Blaylock (Work Commitments), and Waf Cllr N Vecqueray</p>
98/25	<p>Minutes of last Clifton Community Council meeting</p> <p>The Chair was authorised to sign, as a correct record the minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 18th September 2025 (<i>previously circulated</i>).</p>
99/25	<p>Declarations of Interest/requests for dispensation</p> <p>None</p>
100/25	<p>Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)</p> <p>None</p>
101/25	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>None</p>
102/25	<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>
103/25	<p>Network Rail M6/Clifton Bridge Replacement</p> <p>The Chair provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There have been a number of issues. There have been regular meetings in the diary with Network Rail & National Highways for many months, but in November the meeting was held 4 days early without Clifton Community Council & WaF being notified about this. This has been raised as a serious concern which has now been addressed but none the less it is disappointing.• Clifton Community Council were told on the weekend of the 22nd/23rd November that Cumbria Police had raised concerns about the south bound diversion particularly overnight, and as such the south bound diversion was going to be moved on to the A6 overnight (8pm-6am). So overnight on the closure weekends the M6 will be on the A6 in both directions, and still south bound via A66-M1-M62 during the day.

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- On the 27th November 25 Cumbria Police confirmed that it wasn't an ask of theirs to change the diversion. As such Clifton CC and WaF have asked for an emergency stakeholder meeting to be held to discuss these issues, and to request that full and detailed plans are provided to all of the proposed diversions. This stakeholder meeting is being held on Friday 28th November 2025.
- Between now and Christmas all the buildouts/island etc will need to be removed from Clifton on the A6. National Highways have agreed to put a school crossing in. Clifton CC has proposed that the entrance to the school via the play area could be used during the works with National Highways/National Rail agreeing that this would work if parking was put in around the play area. National Highways agreed to measure up/look at this on the 26th November but it is not clear if this has been done or not.
- It was noted that National Rail/Highways are proposing some public meetings about this project, but Clifton Community Council are not clear what information is going to be shared at these events.
- A request has been made to Skanska for some community benefit but it is not clear if they are going to agree to anything or not. They have offered replacement planters for the build outs once they are reinstated. Another proposal has been made about requesting an art installation/bench to mark the anniversary of the last battle in England. Skanska are apparently looking at this.
- Concerns were noted that MP Tim Farron hasn't engaged with this project and its potential impacts thus far (he has been invited to meetings but not attended). Cllr J Davies noted that MP Tim Farron has been copied into emails so is aware of the project.

Action: Clerk/Chair to extend an invitation to MP Tim Farron to discuss this project.

Concerns were noted about the impacts on the children of the Parish who will have had disturbed sleep on Sunday nights prior to school on Monday on two weekends due to the diversion of traffic through the Parish.

It was noted that during the recent M6 closure there was significant disruption with a broken-down HGV on the bend by the church resulting in congestion and damage to cobbles on the edge of the road. The Police have agreed there will be a permanent speed camera in the village on the diversion nights. Councillors suggest that breakdown cover needs to be on the diversion route to prevent issues like the broken-down HGV that was stuck on the A6 for over 5 hours.

Concerns were raised about the volume of money that National Highways/National Rail have spent on traffic modelling (circa 300k) that has now proved worthless.

Thanks were noted from all at Clifton Community Council to Amy Hutson & Laura McCellan and WaF Highways Team who have worked very collaboratively with the Community Council sharing many of the same concerns and supporting us.

It was noted that WaF Highways have agreed to put down TDU's during the works to capture volumes of traffic.

Concerns were noted about the volume of additional HGVs that will be on the highways due to the closure of the West Coast Mainline and the need to move freight.

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Clifton Community Council have requested that that emergency highways teams are on standby during the duration of the closures for emergency carriageway repairs. Further a full survey of the A6 that is going to be used as the diversion route has been requested included surveys of the A6 Railway Bridge & Eamont Bridge to ensure no further degradation of the highway (and to establish if the two bridges that are in place on the A6 route can cope with two way motorway traffic for the duration of the closures).

Cllr J Davies noted that the height of the bridge compound and the motorway are not level and it is not clear how the bridge will be 'crawled' out onto the carriageway due to the height difference?

It was noted that no decision is now required about the build out as following the recent changes to the diversions that requires both directions of the M6 to be diverted on to the A6 ALL build outs/islands etc will need to be removed.

104/25

Highways & Parish Maintenance

- i. To receive updates on any Highways related matters within the Parish.
 - It was noted that there has been concerns raised about the condition of the highway at Crooklands from a resident, and these are being pursued, and it has been recommended that the resident contact WaF.
- ii. Autospeed Watch Update

It was noted that the units are due to be upgraded in 2026/7.

Action: Cllr J Davies to request Skanska/National Rail fund/provide new averaging speed autospeed watch units for Clifton as a legacy benefit.

It is hoped that averaging speed units might overcome some of the concerns that the police have (as the units won't need to be calibrated as it is just a mathematical calculation how long it takes a vehicle to travel between two points).

- iii. To receive an update on the Clifton 20mph Speed Limit update

It was noted that the statutory consultation on this proposal is now open.

Resolved by the majority of those present (one abstention) that Clifton Community Council are fully supportive of the proposed 20mph zone being taken forward.

Action: Clerk to confirm this to WaF Highways.

It was noted that there may be a need for DYL lines to be installed on Valley Road.

Action: Clerk/Chair to take this forward.

- iv. Highways & Footways Lighting

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

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August 2025.

Resolved by all present that the matter be left in abeyance until contact is received from WaF.

Cllr J Davies noted that WaF are going to have to look at significant service cuts due to the changes to 'fair funding protocol' following the budget which is going to cost WaF millions.

v. Parish Maintenance/Lengthsman

It was also noted that the WaF Lengthsman Agreement is still not in place which causes a grey area in terms of liabilities.

No responses have been received to the local advert for the work thus far.

vi. To consider quotes and appoint a contractor to undertake a tree safety survey on the Pocket Park.

The Clerk confirmed a tree survey has now been undertaken and this has identified some works as being required. A quote for to undertake these works has been received (£480)

Cllrs Sarah & Jonathan Davies noted a personal interest in this matter.

Resolved by all present that the contract for the tree works be let and be undertaken as soon as possible.

Action: Clerk to take this forward.

vii. Clifton Well

It was noted that on the 18th December 2025 an event organised by the 1745 association is being held to celebrate the anniversary in the Parish that this area be cleared.

Resolved by all present that consideration be given to removal of the railings as they are not in a good condition, a budget of £500 was set for the Clerk to organise the removal of these railings.

Action: Cllr J Davies to send some photos of these railings to the Clerk.

Action: Clerk to take this forward and see if she can identify a contractor to do this work before the 18th December 2025.

Action: Clerk to contact David at Lowther to ask about taking on long term future maintenance of the site.

105/25

280th Anniversary of the Last Battle on English Soil

It was suggested that Clifton Community Council considered some permanent art installation or similar to mark the anniversary.

It was also noted that in 2027 there is the 1000 year anniversary of the signing of Treaty of Eamont Bridge which also needs to be marked.

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	<p>Action: Clerk to speak with the artist in residence at Brougham Hall to see what designs/options she could come up with to commemorate the 280th anniversary of the Last Battle on English Soil/and then maybe a second piece that commemorates the 1000's anniversary of the signing of Treaty of Eamont Bridge</p> <p>It was noted that the Clifton Trails need to be updated which could be a good engagement project with the school etc.</p>
106/25	<p>Clifton Playpark Update</p> <p>It was noted once again with significant disappointment that this issue is going round in circles.</p> <p>A second formal request for devolution was submitted to WaF earlier on in the year; a letter from Westmorland & Furness Council (W&F) responding to Clifton Community Council's Expression of Interest (EOI) for a Community Asset Transfer of the Clifton Play Park was received advising that, under their current policy, the asset is not considered surplus and would therefore only be available for transfer on a leasehold basis as part of a "devolved asset" arrangement, rather than freehold ownership. W&F requested further information relating to maintenance arrangements, ground surveys, proposed funding sources, precept implications, and any plans for EV charging infrastructure.</p> <p>The Chair noted that this position contradicts assurances given the previous week that the EOI would be considered by the Community Asset Transfer Review Group on 26 November and expressed strong concern at the ongoing changes in process. It was reiterated that Clifton Community Council has consistently stated that leasehold is not an acceptable outcome, as it does not constitute meaningful community ownership or devolution.</p> <p>One possible solution is to wait for the combined mayoral authority and hoping they compulsory purchase powers.</p> <p>Resolved by all present that another letter be sent to the Leader & new CEO offering once again to take over ownership, responsibility and liabilities for this site given the newly identified financial difficulties by WaF.</p> <p>Resolved by all present that until Clifton Community Council have the title of this site transferred to them the Community Council are not in a position to spend money on the site.</p> <p>It was noted that WaF are going to be replacing some of the swings on the site as they have been identified as unsafe.</p> <p>Resolved by all present that a newsletter be circulated to all residents in January 2026 to update residents on all the work/time that Clifton Community Council have put into trying to get the playarea devolved to the council and the fact that EDC/WaF have been less than supportive.</p> <p>Action: Clerk & Chair to work on this.</p>

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107/25

Planning

- i. *Planning applications received for consultation.*

Ref: 2025/2169/HOU

Location: The Rectory, Clifton,

Proposal: Proposed side extension

Resolved by all present that Clifton Community Council support the proposal but note there are some concerns about the fact that it is described as a residential proposal, yet the application states it is for the creation of a meeting room space, which may increase traffic to the site/cause parking concerns. There also doesn't appear to be any mention of rainwater harvesting/solar power etc.

Action: Clerk to submit these comments

It was suggested than an approach be made to Lonsdale about the Parish Council taking on the Village Hall Parking area for parking.

- ii. *Planning decisions*

None

108/25

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	Expenses	£77.77	Approve
Becx Carter	Oct Salary	£357.48	Ratify
HMRC	Oct PAYE	£100.20	Ratify
Becx Carter	Nov Salary	£357.48	Ratify
HMRC	Nov PAYE	£100.20	Ratify
ICO	ICO renewal	£47.00	Ratify
Gareth Davidson	Final Grass Cut of Season	£160.00	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.

- iii. To consider the draft budget as circulated with the meeting papers.

It was noted that this has been circulated to all for initial consideration. A formal decision needs to be made in January 2026 on the precept.

Action: All to let the Clerk know of any errors/omissions in the budget

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	<p>Action: Clerk to agenda the budget for Jan 2026 meeting.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to agenda approval of quote for concrete pads to site the benches on at the Pocket Park.</p> <p>iv. To receive the outcome of the Clerks Appraisal</p> <p>Cllr J Davies updated that this was carried out by the Chair & Vice Chair on Monday evening.</p> <p>It was noted that there a couple of IT issues that need to be reviewed and a meeting will be held in January to go through these.</p> <p>The Clerk has requested an increase in her SCP. The Clerk has been asked to prepare some options for the salary increase to the January 2026 meeting to be considered as part of the budget setting.</p> <p>Thanks were noted to the Clerk for all her on going work.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to take this forward.</p> <p>v. To review the Clifton Community Council AI Policy</p> <p>In January 2026 an IT policy will need to comply with Asseration 10 of the AGAR. The Clerk will bring a draft of this to the January 2026 meeting.</p> <p>A draft of this had been circulated to all.</p> <p>Resolved by all present that this policy be adopted</p> <p>Action: Cllr J Davies to upload this to the website.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to bring a draft IT policy to the January 2026 meeting.</p>
109/25	<p>Correspondence received.</p> <p><i>Community Governance Review Consultation</i></p> <p>Community Governance Review- It was noted that Parish Councils can now submit requests for a CGR to WaF to alter parish boundaries, reduce the number of councilors etc.</p> <p>Resolved by all present that a request be submitted to look to reduce the number of council seats to 5 and to bring all of Clifton Dykes into Clifton for community cohesion, and that the one house on the edge of Eamont be moved over to Eamont.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to submit his request.</p>
110/25	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>It was noted that future meetings are scheduled for:</p> <p>All at Abbott Lodge at 18:30 unless stated below</p> <p>15th January 2026</p>

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Meeting closed 19:54