

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 17th September 2026 at 18:30

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

Attendance: Becx Carter (remotely), Mark Dewar (United Utilities)

Apologies: Cllr N Vecqueray. Cllr S Blaylock (work commitments), Cllr P Clarke (Personal Commitments)

With 3 Councillors present the meeting was quorate.

69/26	Apologies Resolved by all present that apologies be noted from those named above.
70/26	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 9 th July 2026 (<i>previously circulated</i>).
71/26	Declarations of Interest/requests for dispensation None
72/26	Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960) None
73/26	Public Participation i. To receive previously notified written public questions - <i>This is at the Chairman's discretion and no decisions can be made on items brought to the attention of CPC under this item.</i> None ii. Clifton School & PTA None iii. WaF Councillor N Vecqueray None iv. United Utilities- Mark Dewar Mark attended to speak about a project to reduce the over spills from the

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pumping system at the Penrith end of the village that are sometimes triggered by rainfall events. The new attenuation tank will be in the field directly opposite Clifton Hall (between the old Village Hall/the Tower). UU are installing the attenuation tank which will hold back over spill to reduce spills out into the wider network to less than 10 per year, water held in the newly developed infrastructure will be slowly reduced as and when the network can cope with it.

The works will take circa 4 weeks (it is hoped it will be completed by the end of November 2026).

The project is aware of the archaeology locally and a survey has been done of this, and this will be monitored. It will be a box culvert 1.5m deep that is used to hold back water (20,000litres) It will then be back filled and graded; it is fully sealed once completed. It will be stocked fenced around it. It runs alongside the freshwater main. The flow release etc. will be remotely managed there is no human input needed. All works will be done remotely and off the sewage line so there will be no disruption to any services.

Mark committed to provide a weekly update be provided to the Community Council/local community to keep them updated on the project. Mark will also be contactable about any issues on the site.

Mark also committed to speaking to the wider network about doing some outreach about careers/STEM in the local school etc around the project.

Concerns were noted about the issues relating to sewage issues at the other end of the village (near the Black Barn) where regular over flows occur.

A question was raised about what are UU doing relating to sewage resilience in the local area? Mark noted that this project is a better rivers project so about reducing impacts on water ways, it is not a capacity/resilience improvement project.

Action: Mark to look into if any capacity upgrade for the waste water treatments are taking place locally in the coming 5 years.

Mark confirmed that a mail drop about this project is going out to all properties in Clifton by the end of September 2026.

Access on to the site is going to be off the A6 via the Network Rail emergency access point, it will all be covered by a traffic management plan, and Cubby's are going to share this w/c 21st Sept 2026. There maybe some traffic management (stop/go boards) required to get deliveries on and off site but these will be timed to avoid school pick up/drop offs etc. All site activity will be contained within the site.

Action: Mark to share the map of the works & traffic management and information on any significant delivery dates/times with

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	<p>Clifton Community Council.</p> <p>Mark noted that he will go and speak directly with the likely most affected properties (either side of the field).</p>
74/26	<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>
75/26	<p>Planning</p> <p><i>i. Planning applications received from WaF for Consultation</i></p> <p>Ref: 2026/1538/HOU Location: 10 Cumberland Close, Clifton, Penrith Proposal: Proposal to remove existing conservatory and replace with new extension incorporating canopy roof over existing patio</p> <p>Resolved by all present that Clifton Community Council support this proposal to improve this local residence to make it more amenable for people living in the community</p> <p>Action: Clerk to submit these comments</p> <p>Ref: 2026/1415/HOU Location: 29 Cumberland Close Proposal: Erection of Single Storey rear extension</p> <p>Resolved by all present that Clifton Community Council support this proposal to improve this local residence to make it more amenable for people living in the community</p> <p>Action: Clerk to submit these comments</p> <p>Ref:21/0953 Location: Land South of Valley Road, Clifton, Penrith Proposal: Outline application for a residential development with all matters received (revised flood risk assessment and drainage strategy)</p> <p>Resolved by all present that Clifton Community Councils comments as submitted previously remain and further resolved that any additional attenuation/water storage ponds MUST be safely fenced to ensure the safety of local children.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to submit these comments</p> <p><i>ii. To note the below planning decisions</i></p>

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Resolved that the below decisions be noted as received

Ref	Location	Proposal	Decision
2026/0952/TPO	4 Cumberland Close, Clifton	Works to trees subject to TPO 47-G1	Approved

76/26

Highways & Parish Maintenance

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

- WaF are about to carry out works at the North End of the village near the old village hall/police station to resolve the slumped culvert.
- Works have been done at Clifton Dykes (North end) to improve highways issues.
- Works are pending on the Wetherriggs road to address the deep trenches in the road.
- All other issues are on HIMS
- Concerns have once again been raised with WaF about the lack of street cleaning/weed removal etc in the Parish and the ongoing lack of Lengthsman agreement.
- WaF have responded to a previous request from Clifton Community Council for installation of a crossing at the school. At this point in time WaF have refused this request. This was noted with disappointment.

ii. Autospeed watch update

Councillors noted correspondence from Cumbria Police advising that, due to current working arrangements and the trial of AutoSpeedWatch technology being operated exclusively within the Cumberland area, the Police will no longer issue warning letters or process data generated by AutoSpeedWatch devices in the WaF Council area.

Cumbria Police advised that the decision had been taken because the initiative is currently supported only within the Cumberland policing area by neighbourhood policing teams and volunteers, with limited scope for expansion.

Resolved by all present that Clifton Community Council expressed their disappointment that, once again, Cumbria Police appeared unable to provide practical support to locally led initiatives aimed at reducing speeding and improving road safety. The Council considered this particularly disappointing given the time and resources invested by local councils and communities in supporting speed reduction initiatives and gathering evidence of speeding concerns. Additionally it was noted that this appears to show an inequity in Policing across Cumbria with certain actions being taken in Cumberland and not in WaF.

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iii. Clifton Dykes Speed Indicating Device

It was agreed that if a response has not been received from National Highways about them funding this by the October then Clifton Community Council will proceed with the project regardless.

Action: Clerk to follow up on this with National Highways

Action: Clerk to agenda this for October 2026 and prepare quotes.

iv. Rebel Tree Jacobite Gardens

Councillors received an update regarding the Rebel Tree. The management committees arboricultural officer confirmed that the tree has been visited and is not currently showing signs of soil compaction and that its rooting area had been successfully protected during the adjacent housing development.

However, a recent visit identified children playing football and riding bikes over the grassed rooting area. While fencing and mulching would normally be recommended to reduce compaction, it was considered that fencing may be ineffective within a public open space.

A community-led approach was therefore suggested, including raising awareness through the Community Council newsletter about the history and protected status of the Rebel Tree and encouraging residents to avoid heavy play over its root network. The tree will continue to be monitored during future visits.

The Council were keen to ensure that all green space remain accessible where possible and feel that to fence this would restrict this. One of the other concerns is about the speed at which vehicles enter the estate and if they could impact with children playing out in this area.

A suggestion was made about could additional planting be done over the root ball to discourage playing on the area.

Action: Clerk to speak to the management committee about collaborative communication with local residents and about education with local children via the school.

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77/26

Clifton Playpark Update

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

It was noted that an approach was made by WaF to Clifton Community Council for 20k with no consultation/quotations, and that the Clifton Community Council is disappointed with how this has been locally handled. As far as the Community Council is aware the only 'limited' consultation was with children at Clifton School of which a significant proportion of the children don't live in the Parish.

Resolved by all present that Clifton Community Council reiterate that the S.106 funding that the Community Council holds for development of play areas continues to remain with the Community Council and won't be 'pooled' with WaF on the current playarea unless a full freehold asset transfer was signed off by WaF.

Resolved by all present that a further request be made for WaF to evidence their ownership of the site as this still hasn't been provided.

It was noted that the noticeboard in this area needs to be replaced but one section needs to be locked for Parish Council business and the other for community notices.

Action: Clerk to agenda for the October 2026 meeting.

78/26

Correspondence received

- i. To consider options for a sculpture for Clifton Well/1745

It was noted that a design has been circulated by Cllr C Bland. It was suggested that the design could be modified to include to the name Kelter Well.

Action: Clerk to ask Gareth for a quote for the cleaning of the well/pressure washing.

- ii. Request for support Penrith Swimming Club

Resolved by all present that Clifton Community Council strongly support the swimming club in their efforts to protect a long-standing services to local residents not just of Penrith but the surrounding parishes. All present felt it was important to retain this service at Penrith Pool

Action: Clerk to send a letter in support

- iii. To note the confirmation of ACV Status for Clifton Well/Kelter Well

The Clerk informed all that this ACV nomination has been formally

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approved and this area is now on the ACV register for a period of 5 years.

iv. WaF Polling District Review 2026

Resolved by all present that Clifton Community Council strongly support the use of Clifton Primary School as a polling station for Clifton and are upholding the decision of the electoral commission to ensure a polling station remained within the Parish.

Action: Clerk to confirm this decision to the consultation

v. Christmas Lights at Pocket Park

It was agreed that lights be put on the tree at the rear of pocket park to celebrate Christmas (once Gareth has cleared back the undergrowth around this are). With a small event to be held to celebrate the lights switch on.

Action: Clerk to speak to WaF about installing a power supply off the street lights to power this.

Action: Clerk to follow this up with Gareth.

79/26

Financial Matters

i. *To consider and approve the Clerks Statutory Payrise*

Resolved by all present that the Clerk's 3.3% payrise be approved.

Action: Clerk to raise concerns with NALC about how these negotiations are done currently which mean they fall out of line with budget years.

ii. *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	Aug Salary	£381.65	Ratify
HMRC	Aug PAYE	£107.94	Ratify
Becx Carter	Sept Salary	£381.65	Ratify
HMRC	Sept PAYE	£107.94	Ratify
S & C Bland	Room hire (July)	£20.00	Approve
Becx Carter	Oct Salary (inc back pay)	£456.22	Approve
HMRC	Oct PAYE (inc back pay)	£141.48	Approve
GCA	Grass Cutting	£160	Approve

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	<p>Action: Clerk to pay these accounts</p> <p>iii. To note and sign the Bank Reconciliation and spend against budget report</p> <p>Resolved by all present that these documents be signed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>iv. To sign the relevant bank paperwork to change the email address to the bank account</p> <p>Resolved by all present that this paperwork be signed and filed.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to file this paperwork.</p>
80/26	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>All at Abbott Lodge at 18:30</p> <p>22nd October 2026 26th November 2026 14th January 2027</p>

Meeting closed 19:38