

**A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON**

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT –**

Councillor Anne Jackson (Chairman and Mayor)  
Councillor Chris Stapley  
Councillor Shane McCarthy  
Councillor Mary Huntington  
Councillor David Ferriby  
Councillor Chris Scott  
Councillor Allan Dawes  
Councillor Paul Shone  
Councillor Monique Speksnyder  
Councillor Mary Clark

Clerk: Emma Ireton

**FC/81/2025 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor John Crouch  
Councillor Sandra Hodson  
Councillor John Hamblin

**FC/82/2025 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

To agree to the Full Council minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – **AGREED**

Councillor Speksnyder abstained from voting on the approval of the minutes as she was not in attendance at the meeting.

The minutes of the October meeting were noted to require an amendment. Approval of the amended October minutes will be scheduled for consideration on the January meeting agenda

**FC/83/2025 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES – APPENDIX 1**

Steve Robinson (Borderlands) was contacted and asked to attend the December Full Council meeting.

**FC/84/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None

**FC/85/2025 EXCLUSIONS OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Agenda item 15

## **FC/86/2025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

To receive any representations from members of the public – Members of the public are invited to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes each. The maximum total time for public participation will be 10 minutes. At the close of this item, members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council Members unless invited to do so by the Chairman.

### **6.1 Public Participation**

Resident in attendance to observe.

### **6.2 Cumberland Authority Report**

Councillor Lynch was unable to attend the meeting but provided a report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Questions could be raised through the clerk.

Flooding – The Emergency Response Group were in action all day on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov during the flooding in Wigton and my thanks go out to Rev Phil Jackson and Councillor Chris Scott for all their help on the day. Also to Emma for coordinating things, Eileen in the front office for helping residents with flood sacks etc and our Mayor, Councillor Anne Jackson for visiting residents who had been affected. It was our first emergency, and we learnt a lot from it!

Our Cumberland Council officers organised 2 drop-in sessions on 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Nov in the Methodist Church which I also attended. We had a lot of residents attend and were able to get a lot of information from them and provide help and guidance too.

I was also able to help our local MP Markus C-S organise a visit to residents on Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> which Cllr Shane MacCarthy attended as I was away (he can probably add more about the meeting). Markus also engaged with CCL regarding their fence, and he mentioned Burnside and the flooding in Parliament.

I have a meeting next week with our senior officers in Flooding and Highways to discuss what lessons can be learnt and how we can work better with Cumberland Council when flooding hits again. I will update you in January on this.

Water Street – this has not been dealt with yet but is back in the hands of the Council and I am pressing for a speedy solution as it is getting worse with at least 3 potholes appearing now and a lot of standing water.

Fells and Solway Community Panel meeting – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec – took place in the Market Hall at 10-00 and I was disappointed that no WTC councillors were in attendance to engage with CC councillors and officers and hear about what is happening in our area and the investments we are making.

Neurodiversity and Emotional Wellbeing Strategy – this was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> November and to date there have been 380 enquiries with most coming from Carlisle. It is good to see that 21 of these came from Wigton so word is getting around. Details of how to access the service are on the Cumberland Council website.

I think that is all. I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2026.

## Member comments/questions

Councillor Scott reported that an organisation had contacted him to express an interest in volunteering to clear debris that has accumulated adjacent to Black Beck, behind the properties on Burnside. Councillor Scott will confirm the name of the organisation to the Clerk.

## FC/87/2025 Financial Matters

### 7.1 To receive and authorise Payments and Bank Reconciliation for November 2025

Members received the payment lists and monthly reconciliations to review prior to the meeting.


## RESOLVED

Payments and reconciliation for **November 2025** be **approved** (unanimously)

### Wigton Town Council and Wigton Cemetery Payments

Wigton Town Council										5 December 2025 (2025-2026)	
PAYMENTS LIST											
Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
532	Subscriptions	22/11/2025		Town Council Main		Invoice	CANVA	S	10.82	2.17	12.99
537	Public Toilets Running Costs - r	24/11/2025		Town Council Main		Toilet roll and raffa Invoice	Amazon	S	44.20	8.84	53.04
534	Grant Application	24/11/2025		Town Council Main		Grant - Wigton ABI Invoice	Wigton ABC	E	1,000.00		1,000.00
535	Grant Application	24/11/2025		Town Council Main		Grant Invoice	Citizens Advice Allerdale	E	750.00		750.00
536	Christmas Event	24/11/2025		Town Council Main		Raffle prizes Receipt	Justmylook - website	S	39.49	7.90	47.39
537	Christmas Event	24/11/2025		Town Council Main		Toilet roll and raffa Invoice	Amazon	S	9.16	1.83	10.99
533	Pension	24/11/2025		Town Council Main		Pension Wages	Cumberland Council Pensio	E	5,596.89		5,596.89
539	Training	25/11/2025		Town Council Main		GMA Membership Invoice	Stephen Farish	E	93.00		93.00
538	PAYE	25/11/2025		Town Council Main		PAYE Invoice	HMRC - PAYE	E	4,598.99		4,598.99
542	Clothing/PPE	26/11/2025		Town Council Main		PPE Invoice	Screwfix	S	23.14	4.63	27.77
540	Clothing/PPE	26/11/2025		Town Council Main		Uniform/PPE Invoice	Workwear.co.uk	S	59.57	11.91	71.48
500	Christmas Event	26/11/2025		Town Council Main		Reindeer - Xmas Invoice	North Yorkshire Reindeer	S	1,350.00	270.00	1,620.00
501	Christmas Event	26/11/2025		Town Council Main		Remaining balance Invoice	Stagebus	S	1,578.25	315.65	1,893.90
502	Christmas Event	26/11/2025		Town Council Main		Barriers and cones Invoice	Border Group	S	215.00	43.00	258.00
503	Christmas Event	26/11/2025		Town Council Main		Radio Mic Invoice	Stagebus	S	85.00	17.00	102.00
504	Christmas Event	26/11/2025		Town Council Main		Blu Tack Invoice	B&M store	E	2.00		2.00
541	Bedding Plants and Shrubs	26/11/2025		Town Council Main		Daffodil bulbs Invoice	bOSTONSEEDS	S	254.99	51.00	305.99
543	Allotments Running Costs	27/11/2025		Town Council Main		Allotment Invoice	Waterplus	S	100.04	20.01	120.05
544	Christmas Event	27/11/2025		Town Council Main		Licence occupy Invoice	Cumberland Council	E	500.00		500.00
545	Christmas Event	27/11/2025		Town Council Main		Raffle prize Receipt	Foxes Butcher	E	100.00		100.00
546	Christmas Event	27/11/2025		Town Council Main		Raffle Prize Invoice	Half Moon	E	10.00		10.00
547	Christmas Event	27/11/2025		Town Council Main		Raffle Prize Invoice	Yummiez	E	10.00		10.00
548	Christmas Event	27/11/2025		Town Council Main		2 x £15 voucher Receipt	Post Office Counter	E	30.00		30.00
549	Christmas Event	27/11/2025		Town Council Main		Raffle Receipt	Barista	E	10.00		10.00
550	Christmas Event	27/11/2025		Town Council Main		Raffle Receipt	Solway Plain Futures	E	10.00		10.00
551	Christmas Event	27/11/2025		Town Council Main		Raffle Receipt	Twisted Willow	E	10.00		10.00
552	Christmas Event	27/11/2025		Town Council Main		Raffle Receipt	Gladrags	E	10.00		10.00
553	Christmas Event	27/11/2025		Town Council Main		Raffle Receipt	B&M store	E	20.00		20.00
554	Christmas Event	27/11/2025		Town Council Main		Raffle Receipt	Rainbow flower	E	10.00		10.00
561	Christmas Event	27/11/2025		Town Council Main		Invoice	Johnny Morton	E	200.00		200.00
555	Christmas Event	28/11/2025		Town Council Main		RAFFLE Receipt	OOTB	E	10.00		10.00
473	Wigton Bowling Club	12/12/2025		Town Council Main		Kiln dried topdress Invoice	GroGreen Ltd	S	212.00	42.40	254.40
570	Equipment/Materials	12/12/2025		WBC Current		Grease cartridge, f Invoices	Tynedale Farm Services	S	79.50	15.90	95.40

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**Wigton Town Council**  
**PAYMENTS LIST**

5 December 2025 (2025-2026)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
580	Equipment/Materials	12/12/2025		Town Council Main		Invoice	Laversdale Timber	S	19.68	3.94	23.62
581	Equipment/Materials	12/12/2025		Town Council Main		Invoice	Laversdale Timber	S	148.25	29.65	177.90
582	Equipment/Materials	12/12/2025		Town Council Main		Invoice	Laversdale Timber	S	7.56	1.51	9.07
577	Equipment/Materials	12/12/2025		Town Council Main		Invoice	Saundersons	S	30.82	6.17	36.99
569	Wigton Park Bowling Club Toile	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	Guttering replacem	Invoice	LLED CONSTRUCTION	S	898.90	179.78	1,078.68
594	Park Maintenance	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	Bark	Invoice	Dalston Aggregates	S	141.60	28.32	169.92
586	Training	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	Councillor training	Invoices	CALC	E	30.00		30.00
587	Training	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	Councillor training	Invoice	CALC	E	30.00		30.00
563	Christmas Event	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	Traffic manager	Invoice	Contraflow Ltd (CTM)	S	798.50	159.70	958.20
583	Internet, phones and mobiles	12/12/2025		Town Council Main		Invoice	System IT	S	9.00	1.80	10.80
571	Room Hire	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	Room hire	Invoice	NADT	E	100.00		100.00
593	Admin and Audit	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	Interim Audit	Invoice	Julie Wright - Auditor	E	300.00		300.00
592	Bedding Plants and Shrubs	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	CCL PLANTS	Invoice	Capsticks	S	257.60	51.52	309.12
585	Grave Digging	12/12/2025		WBXC Current	MOORE	Invoice	Tivoli	S	588.00	117.60	705.60
565	Grave Digging	12/12/2025		WBXC Current	BROUGH	Invoice	Tivoli	S	588.00	117.60	705.60
566	Grave Digging	12/12/2025		WBXC Current	CALDERON	Invoice	Tivoli	S	588.00	117.60	705.60
567	Grave Digging	12/12/2025		WBXC Current	RUDD	Invoices	Tivoli	S	588.00	117.60	705.60
568	Grave Digging	12/12/2025		WBXC Current	PIGG	Invoice	Tivoli	S	588.00	117.60	705.60
574	Machinery Maintenance	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	Machinery service	Invoice	Lloyd Ltd	S	84.27	16.85	101.12
575	Machinery Maintenance	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	Service	Invoice	Lloyd Ltd	S	42.79	8.56	51.35
588	Rent Depot	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	Depot Rent	Invoice	Michael Armstrong	E	1,250.00		1,250.00
589	Rent Depot	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	Depot Rent	Invoice	Thomas Armstrong	E	1,250.00		1,250.00
578	Machinery Hire	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	Hire machinery	Invoice	W M Plant	S	70.00	14.00	84.00
579	Machinery Hire	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	Hire	Invoice	W M Plant	S	152.00	30.40	182.40
573	Fuel	12/12/2025		Town Council Main		Invoice	W Ferguson Limited	R		93.14	93.14
576	Tyres	12/12/2025		Town Council Main	New tyre	Invoice	P&L Haile	S	55.15	11.03	66.18
584	Building Repair and Maintenanx	12/12/2025		WBXC Current		Invoice	Saundersons	S	1.18	0.24	1.42
572	Building Repair and Maintenanx	12/12/2025		WBXC Current		Invoice	CJW Surveyor	S	731.25	146.25	877.50
590	House Repairs	12/12/2025		WBXC Current	Cupboard kitchen	Invoice	Derwent Valley Building	S	168.00	33.60	201.60
591	House Repairs	12/12/2025		WBXC Current	Plumber - house le	Invoice	Bailey and Stott	S	280.00	56.00	336.00
<b>Total</b>									<b>26,828.59</b>	<b>2,272.70</b>	<b>29,101.29</b>

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## 7.2 To review and agree on the 2026/2027 budget and precept.

Members were provided with a copy of the budget prior to the meeting which also stated the precept amount to be levied to the amount of £430,000.

Members were encouraged to ask questions and make comments.

### RESOLVED:

Members voted to approve the 2026/2027 budget.

Two members abstained from voting. One member stated that they did not understand the budget. No reason was provided by the second member.

Members voted to approve the precept in the sum of £430,000.

Two members abstained from voting. No reasons were provided.

## 7.3 To approve the repairs to St Mary's Church gate

A quotation to repair St Mary's Church gate was circulated to members for consideration. Members discussed the respective responsibilities of the Town Council and the Church, in light of the legislation introduced in 1972 requiring local authorities to maintain the grounds of closed churchyards. There was some disagreement as to whether this responsibility extends to boundary walls, gates, and fencing.

## **RESOLVED**

It was agreed to defer a decision to a future meeting. This will allow the Clerk to research the relevant legislation and to meet with the Vicar of St Mary's Church, Richard Corrie, to undertake a walkthrough of the grounds and establish a clear maintenance plan.

### **7.4 To add the Clerk to the Town Council E-savings account.**

It was noted that the Clerk and Assistant Clerk (EI and SC) had not previously been added as authorised users to one of the Town Council eSavings accounts. The Clerk requested that members approve their addition to the account to enable funds to be transferred into a savings account with a higher interest rate.

## **RESOLVED**

Members unanimously approved the addition of both the Clerk and Assistant Clerk to the eSavings account (Account No. 54008118) and Events account (Account No 54008081)

### **FC/88/2025 Town plan**

At a previous meeting, members discussed the development of a new Town Plan. Members were asked to consider their skills, strengths, and experience and to put themselves forward at this meeting to form a working group.

## **RESOLVED**

It was agreed that the Town Plan Working Group would comprise the following councillors:

Councillors McCarthy, Dawes, Ferriby, Scott, and Jackson.

The Clerk will also be a member of the working group.

Members will arrange for a meeting of the working group to take place shortly after Christmas.

### **FC/89/2025 WBJC report**

It was reported that following a period with relatively few funerals, there have been several funerals recently, with further services scheduled in the coming weeks.

Members were advised that there had been some minor flooding within the cemetery; however, this has now been resolved.

The Vice-Chairman, Tony Huntington (Waverton Parish Council), will act as Chairman of the Wigton Burial Joint Committee while Councillor Mary Clark is on leave for a period of three months. Councillor Clark is expected to return in April 2026.

It was noted that there is an issue with the cemetery electrical supply, as all electrics are currently routed through the cemetery house, which is a rented property. Works will be undertaken to separate and remove the wider cemetery electrical supply from the house.

Members requested that the chapel, which is currently used for storage, be tidied due to the presence of flammable materials and general waste. It was agreed that benches may continue to be stored there for refurbishment purposes; however, other items should be removed. It was also suggested that an inventory of items stored in the chapel be compiled.

## FC/90/2025 Grounds report

Councillor Speksnyder queried whether 10,000 daffodil bulbs had been purchased, as the report referenced 5,000. The Clerk advised that this would be checked with the Assistant Clerk (SC), who placed the order.

Councillor Dawes asked whether an inventory of the ground's machinery is held. The Clerk confirmed that an asset register is maintained and can be filtered to show only assets relating to the grounds team.

**ACTION:** Clerk to provide Councillor Dawes with a filtered copy of the asset register showing grounds machinery/assets.

Wigton Town Council  
Monthly Grounds Report

Month: December



Item	Description	Comments or requests
Wigton Park	We are spiking , pitch grooming weekly (if played on)and marking fortnightly . The lime trees have had their low growths trimmed off to tidy them up , just a bit of shrub cutting and weeding to do in the beds .	
East End Park	Some play items require attention , these have been taken down until they are repaired or renewed .	Parts needed for basket swing , cradle swing , hip hop seesaw and zip line ( On order )
Throstle Park	Weekly litter pick and empty bins . Two of the picnic benches have been damaged these will be repaired and all of them will be treated	I
Phoenix Park	We have been cutting back the path till its edge and are in the process of putting in the round picnic table which will need a concrete base	
Barton Laws	Weekly litter pick and emptying litter bins . Weekly checks are still being done on the Fridays before match days for dog muck . Pitches are worked on weekly and marked out fortnightly . The pot holes on the car park have been filled in	Also we require some stronger slit tines for our sisis multi slit , this will improve the drainage on the pitches
Wigton Park Bowling Club green	Some of the green edging has been fixed and renewed but some banking work is still needing done . The green has also been sprayed for leather jackets . With the warm humid weather we have had to top the green a couple of times	
Allotments - Longthwaite		

Allotments - Burnfoot		
Machinery and Vehicles	The ransom parkway has been sent in for its annual service .	Also for the future we will need to be looking at getting a new tipper van , ransom parkway ( at least 1 more year left in the blade maybe 2) and isiki as all of these are 10 years plus old
Innovia/Futamura	Cutting shrub beds and hedging . Also we have been clearing leaves up regularly and cleaned the settled areas when we had the moss cleaner on hire .	Purchasing a moss cleaner would be a good idea for the future as it made a really good job on the sites setts and commarket
Equipment		A Generator and dremel tool sharpener would be well used . Also a key cabinet would be helpful .
Staffing	Rhys has done his final exams plus all of the staff have had their health and safety course	
Schools	We have been spiking the pitches also at the school and scholars green . We have been doing regular clearing of leafs on them all and cutting hedging and a bit of fencing work	
Play areas	Some items require a lick of paint , when weather permits . Fell view play area requires a new cradle swing the old one has been taken down due to an advisory by the insurance	A play item in wigton park is needing repaired , we are still waiting for parts , plus one base is needing repaired due to shrinking producing a gap

St.Marys	Regular clearing of leaves . We have also cleaned the front and side sandstone flags with hypochlorite . The front commarket was cleaned with the moss cleaner when we had it on hire , it made a good job despite the weather	
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Town Benches	Throughout the autumn and winter months we will be repairing any benches needing done and treating and painting all of them	
Other ( bus shelters)	These will be pressure washed and any graffiti or stickers taken off . These have not been done yet as the pressure washer has been in for repairs but will be done . We are currently planting all the town entrances up with approx 5000 daffodil bulbs .	

## FC/91/2025 Town Mayor Engagements

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	C C Meeting a.m. re: flooding in Town. Cornerstones Church. Presented Eileen Green with flowers & gift, on her retirement.
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	a.m. Performance Review, with Cllr S McCarthy.
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Attended the Civic Service of Cllr David Farrar, Workington, along with Cllr S Hodson.
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Wigton's Christmas Lights Switch On.
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Attended the Civic Service of Cllr David Malloy, Cockermouth.
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Invitation to Bowness on Solway School, for Christmas Lunch.
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	p.m. WAERG Meeting, Cornerstones Church.
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Borderlands Meeting.
	Attended W T C Meetings
CORRESPONDENCE	

MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS 12<sup>th</sup> NOV - 10<sup>th</sup> DEC 2025

Anne C Jackson 10th December 2025

## **FC/92/2025 Clerk's Report**

Members were advised that CALC training has been arranged to take place upon Councillor Clark's return in April. The training will be delivered in person and will cover GDPR, the Code of Conduct, and Social Media.

Members discussed arrangements for covering the public toilets on Saturdays while Councillor Clark is on leave. Several local individuals were suggested as potential cover, subject to remuneration. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow this up directly with those recommended.

The Clerk thanked all councillors and volunteers who assisted with the Christmas Light Switch-On event. It was noted that adverse weather conditions may have reduced attendance during the day; however, the light switch-on itself was well attended. It was reported that a total of £287.40 was raised from the attractions and raffle.

## **FC/93/2025 Member Reports**

**Cllr Dawes** – Attended the Christmas Light Switch-On event. Also completed the Effective Councillor training through CALC. Recommends that all councillors read the NALC's Good Councillor Guide.

**Cllr Speksnyder** – Attended Borderlands meetings.

**Cllr Ferriby** – Attended the Christmas Light Switch-On event. Also mentioned the Church Service which will be on Sunday, 3pm at St Mary's.

**Cllr McCarthy** – Attended the Christmas Light Switch-On event. Met with Burnside residents several times.

**Cllr Scott**– Met with members of the WEARG to help residents during the flood.

**Cllr Stapley** – Attended the Christmas Light Switch-On event.

### **Future agenda items:**

Tommy Statue  
St Mary's Gate

Meeting Closed: 20:02

Next meeting 14 January 2026