

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT –

Councillor Chris Stapley
Councillor Shane McCarthy
Councillor Mary Huntington
Councillor David Ferriby
Councillor Allan Dawes
Councillor Paul Shone
Councillor Monique Speksnyder
Councillor Sandra Hodson
Councillor John Crouch
Councillor Hamblin

Clerk: Emma Ireton

FC/107/2026 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Mary Clark
Councillor Anne Jackson (Chairman and Mayor)
Councillor Chris Scott

FC/108/2026 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

To agree to the Full Council minutes of the 11th January 2026 – **AGREED**
Change congregation to PCC.

FC/109/2026 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES – APPENDIX 1

None

FC/110/2026 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

FC/111/2026 EXCLUSIONS OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were excluded from Item 14 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

FC/112/2026 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

PCSO Graham Kirkpatrick and the Wigton area PC from the Neighbourhood Policing Team attended the meeting and presented statistical data to members. The following provides a breakdown of calls for service resulting in Police attendance within Wigton.

Antisocial Behaviour	3
Burglary	6
Concern for welfare	12
Criminal Damage	5
Domestic Incidents	11
Drugs	1
Fire/Gas/Electricity	1
Fraud	1
Harassment	5
Highway Distribution	2
Missing Person	5
Other (non crime related actions)	11
Pets/Wildlife	2
Public Order	2
Road Related Offence	4
Road Traffic Collision	3
Suspect	0
Package/Object/Bomb	0
Sexual offences	4
Suspicious incident	5
Theft	4
Violence Against the Person	4
Weapons	2

Both officers confirmed that they are engaging with parents of children involved in ASB, with most parents being supportive of Police intervention. They also clarified that policing in Wigton involves both proactive neighbourhood engagement and reactive response to calls for service.

6.2 Cumberland Authority Report

Cllr Lynch was in attendance and provided the following update:

It was reported that Wigton overall remains a safe place to live, with the primary concern continuing to be anti-social behaviour.

On 16 January, a meeting was held at St Mary's Church to review grounds maintenance matters.

On 23 January, Cllr Lynch met with the Highways Team to undertake a walk-around of Wigton to discuss Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). George Street was reviewed and, as a result, double yellow lines have been proposed to address over-parking and improve access for large vehicles such as refuse collection wagons. West Street was

also reviewed due to regular bottleneck issues. It was suggested that parked vehicles be relocated to the opposite side of the road to improve visibility of oncoming traffic.

Cllr Lynch advised that she would support the introduction of a 20mph restriction in the centre of Wigton due to concerns regarding speeding. However, this would require several consultations before approval. If a town-centre restriction is not feasible, it was suggested that 20mph limits outside schools be made enforceable rather than advisory.

On 24 January, Cllr Lynch attended the Community Panel meeting in Allonby, where discussions focused on potential service improvements.

A Wigton Area Emergency Group meeting was held, alongside a Flood Event. The flood support van was stationed in Water Street Car Park to provide advice, and an information event was held in the Market Hall where various agencies were present to offer guidance to residents affected by flooding. Thanks were extended to Cllr Hodson for manning the stall throughout the day. Reports are awaited regarding flooding at Burnside.

It was reported that a member of the public raised concerns regarding weight restrictions on the High Street and questioned why these were not referenced within the Aldi planning application. Members were advised that weight restrictions are exempt where access is required.

The pedestrian crossing repair works are scheduled to take place shortly, with signage to be installed to inform residents.

Plans are in place to expand specialist SEND provision, with central government funding 90% of the cost and Cumberland Council contributing 10%. The additional provision will be delivered within schools.

The previously reported sinkhole in Wigton has now been repaired, and associated drainage works have also been inspected and addressed.

Questions Raised to Cllr Lynch

- A loose manhole cover on St Cuthbert's Close has been reported. Both Cumberland Council and United Utilities have indicated the other organisation is responsible. Cllr Lynch was asked to assist in clarifying responsibility and progressing repair.
- Concerns were raised regarding vehicles using the footpath between Wigton Baths and Lowmoor Road. It was requested that this be investigated.
- Cllr Hamblin reported that trade waste at the cemetery had not been collected and requested that Cllr Lynch investigate the matter.

FC/113/2026 Financial Matters

7.1 To receive and authorise Payments and Bank Reconciliation for January 2026

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

RESOLVED

Payments and reconciliation for **January 2026** be **approved** (unanimously)

Wigton Town Council and Wigton Cemetery Payments

Wigton Town Council PAYMENTS LIST

5 February 2026 (2025-2026)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
652	Consumables	15/01/2026		Town Council Main	21x 2nd class stan	Receipt	Post Office Counter	X	18.27		18.27
601	Barton Laws Running costs/no	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	BL	Invoice	ID5 Fire & Security	S	895.61	179.12	1,074.73
602	Barton Laws Running costs/no	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	Boiler service 2/12	Invoice	Roland Hill	S	96.00	19.20	115.20
629	Equipment/Materials	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	Generator	Invoice	Wigton Tool Hire & Supplie	S	19.80	3.96	23.76
637	Equipment/Materials	16/01/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	Saundersons	S	46.89	9.38	56.27
638	Christmas Event	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	Generator	Invoice	W M Plant	S	135.00	27.00	162.00
646	Training	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	Councillor training	Invoice	CALC	X	20.00		20.00
647	Training	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	Councillor training	Invoice	CALC	X	20.00		20.00
651	Equipment/Materials	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	Cement mixer & g	Invoice	Wigton Tool Hire & Supplie	S	11.00	2.20	13.20
600	trade waste bins	16/01/2026		WBIC Current	Trade waste	Invoice	Cumberland Council	X			
644	Internet, phones and mobiles	16/01/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	System IT	S	9.00	1.80	10.80
648	Solicitor fees	16/01/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	Cumbria Employment Solic	S	3,942.00	788.40	4,730.40
661	trade waste bins	16/01/2026		WBIC Current		Invoice	Cumberland Council	X	60.00		60.00
630	Reserves - Contingency	16/01/2026		WBIC Current	Bench	Invoice	Bewick	X	514.90		514.90
632	clerk	16/01/2026		WBIC Current	Clerk services	Invoice	Julia Webster	X	177.84		177.84
633	Room Hire	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	Room hire	Invoice	NADT	X	99.00		99.00
634	Grave software	16/01/2026		WBIC Current	Burial software hox	Invoice	Gower Consultants	S	1,021.60	204.32	1,225.92
635	Grave software	16/01/2026		WBIC Current	Burial software anx	Invoice	Gower Consultants	S	881.80	176.36	1,058.16
636	Fuel	16/01/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	W Ferguson Limited	S	48.80	9.76	58.56
639	Machinery Maintenance	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	Repair Lawnflite	Invoice	W M Plant	S	128.23	25.65	153.88
640	Machinery Maintenance	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	Repair Taskman	Invoice	W M Plant	S	264.31	52.86	317.17
641	Machinery Maintenance	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	Repair	Invoice	W M Plant	S	175.75	35.15	210.90
642	Machinery Maintenance	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	Repair	Invoice	W M Plant	S	36.99	7.40	44.39
643	Machinery Maintenance	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	Parts line marker	Invoice	Fleet Line Markers	S			
680	Machinery Maintenance	16/01/2026		Town Council Main	CONTROL PANEL	Invoice	Fleet Line Markers	S	143.53	28.71	172.24
672	Subscriptions	17/01/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	Adobe	S	13.87	2.77	16.64
649	Christmas Lights Costs	19/01/2026		Town Council Main	Removal and stora	Invoices	Blachere Illumination	S			
670	Pension	19/01/2026		Town Council Main		Wages	Cumbria Local Government	E	5,639.28		5,639.28
671	Christmas Lights Costs	19/01/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	Blachere Illumination	S	2,085.00	417.00	2,502.00
650	Fuel	19/01/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	D A Harrison Fuel Green In	S	247.34	49.47	296.81
663	Barton Laws Running costs/no	20/01/2026		Town Council Main	BL gas	Suppliers	Total Energies	L	594.85	29.74	624.59
669	Training	20/01/2026		Town Council Main	Managing safely cc	Invoice	Woodward Health and Saf	S	425.00	85.00	510.00
662	Electricity	20/01/2026		WBIC Current		Suppliers	Eon	L	63.58	3.18	66.76

PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
659	Equipment/Materials	22/01/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	Treemarkers	S	51.45	10.29	61.74
673	Subscriptions	22/01/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	CANVA	S	10.82	2.17	12.99
664	Depot Running Costs - not rent	23/01/2026		Town Council Main	Depot	Suppliers	Total Energies	L	107.82	5.39	113.21
665	Barton Laws Running costs/ino	23/01/2026		Town Council Main	BL	Suppliers	Total Energies	L	113.98	5.70	119.68
666	PAYE	23/01/2026		Town Council Main	PAYE		HMRC - PAYE	E	5,897.70		5,897.70
667	Allotments Running Costs	26/01/2026		Town Council Main	Allotment	Suppliers	Waterplus	S	106.31	21.26	127.57
681	Public Toilets Running Costs - r	28/01/2026		Town Council Main	bin bags, gloves, d	Invoice	Amazon	S	33.24	6.65	39.89
668	Office Equipment	28/01/2026		Town Council Main	Keys cut	Receipt	Buckle and Jones	X	20.00		20.00
694	Public Toilets Running Costs - r	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Nappy disposal qu	Invoice	Direct 365 Sales	S	42.55	8.51	51.06
695	Barton Laws Running costs/ino	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	BL waste	Invoice	Direct365	S	77.57	15.51	93.08
687	Equipment/Materials	13/02/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	Tynedale Farm Services	S	23.40	4.68	28.08
689	Equipment/Materials	13/02/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	Laversdale Timber	S	49.40	9.88	59.28
690	Equipment/Materials	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Bolt	Invoice	Laversdale Timber	S	8.10	1.62	9.72
691	Equipment/Materials	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Bolts screws	Invoices	Laversdale Timber	S	48.73	9.75	58.48
692	Park Maintenance	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Bark	Invoice	Dalston Aggregates	S	70.80	14.16	84.96
693	Park Maintenance	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Bark	Invoice	Dalston Aggregates	S	283.20	56.64	339.84
698	Equipment/Materials	13/02/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	Saundersons	S	87.32	17.47	104.79
683	Christmas Lights Costs	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Installation and rer	Invoice	Blachere Illumination	S	4,135.46	827.09	4,962.55
688	Internet, phones and mobiles	13/02/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	System IT	S	9.00	1.80	10.80
696	Office Equipment	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Printing	Invoice	Infinity Print Solutions	S	7.15	1.43	8.58
653	Machinery Maintenance	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Tractor repair	Invoice	Richard Miller	S	275.00	55.00	330.00
684	Machinery Maintenance	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Pressure washer sr	Invoice	TM Plant Services	X	85.00		85.00
685	Machinery Maintenance	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Stihl machine servi	Invoice	TM Plant Services	X	300.00		300.00
686	Machinery Maintenance	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Service	Invoice	TM Plant Services	X	50.00		50.00
697	Machinery Maintenance	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Servicing machine	Invoice	Rickerby Limited	S	2,319.43	463.89	2,783.32
699	Building Repair and Maintenance	13/02/2026		WB/C Current		Invoice	Saundersons	S	0.25	0.05	0.30
700	Machinery Hire	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Chainsaw hire	Invoice	W M Plant	S	225.00	45.00	270.00
701	Machinery Maintenance	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Spray	Invoice	W M Plant	S	29.61	5.92	35.53
702	Machinery Maintenance	13/02/2026		Town Council Main		Invoices	W M Plant	S	78.92	15.79	94.71
703	Rent of Market Hall INCL public	13/02/2026		Town Council Main	Rent	Invoice	Solway Plain Futures	X	893.41		893.41
Total									33,275.86	3,764.08	37,039.94

7.2 To consider and approve the purchase of a chainsaw at a cost of £769 plus VAT.

Members considered a report regarding the purchase of a chainsaw for use by the grounds team at a cost of £769 plus VAT.

It was noted that the equipment is required to support operational duties and ongoing maintenance works.

RESOLVED:

That the purchase of a chainsaw at a cost of £769 plus VAT be approved.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

7.3 To consider and approve the renewal of the Council's insurance through Zurich, either for one year at a cost of £13,345.93 or for three years at a cost of £12,589.44 per annum.

Members considered the renewal of the Council's insurance policy. It was reported that three insurance providers were approached to provide quotations; however, only **Zurich**, the Council's current insurer, submitted a quotation.

Members were advised of the following options:

- One-year policy at a cost of **£13,345.93**
- Three-year long-term agreement at a cost of **£12,589.44 per annum**

Members discussed and agreed on the reduced annual premium under the three-year agreement.

RESOLVED:

That the Council enter into a three-year long-term agreement with Zurich at a cost of £12,589.44 per annum.

The resolution was carried **unanimously**.

FC/114/2026 To consider the replacement of two defibrillators, and to authorise the Clerk to obtain quotations and proceed with purchase once costs are confirmed.

The Clerk reported that, of the four Council-owned defibrillators, two units require replacement batteries and pads. Due to the age of these devices, replacement batteries and pads are no longer available from the manufacturer and therefore the units are no longer serviceable.

The Clerk advised that confirmed replacement costs are being obtained. In the meantime, approval was sought for the replacement of both defibrillators, subject to costs being confirmed.

RESOLVED:

Members voted unanimously to approve the replacement of two defibrillators and authorised the Clerk to obtain quotations and proceed with the purchase.

FC/115/2026 To consider the potential introduction of a 20mph speed limit through Wigton, and to agree the Council's views for submission to Cumberland Council.

Members had previously requested that this item be placed on the agenda following a request raised by a member of the public with Cllr Lynch.

Members considered the proposal and discussed the advantages and disadvantages. Views were mixed. Some Members expressed support, noting that a reduced speed limit could improve road safety. Others commented that during peak traffic periods it is often difficult for vehicles to exceed 20mph in any event, and therefore questioned whether the proposal would represent an effective use of public funds.

It was noted that concerns regarding speeding had been raised, particularly in relation to vehicles travelling from Southend up King Street during late evening hours.

Representatives from Cumbria Constabulary, who were present at the meeting, advised that where specific instances of speeding are reported, the Police can monitor identified roads at particular times. They also suggested that the Council may wish to consider the purchase of an AutoSpeedWatch camera, which automatically records speeding vehicles and issues advisory letters. The data collected could assist the Police in identifying and monitoring problem areas more effectively.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the matter would be included as an agenda item for further consideration at the next meeting. As Members' views were divided, no formal comments would be submitted to Cumberland Council at this stage.

FC/116/2026 Grounds Report



Wigton Town Council

Monthly Grounds Report

Month : February

Item	Description	Comments or requests
Wigton Park	We are spiking pitches weekly and marking fortnightly(if played on or weather permitting) . All the shrub beds have been pruned and decorative mulch put down to control the weeds The public toilets still need some work to be completed on them , which I don't mind doing to save on cost	Stronger slit spikes are needed for our multi slit spiker
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; one has been completed and made stronger to prevent damage . The trees that we replanted are requiring stronger stakes in these	I would recommend that all the area is topped . We did this last year and it was a lot tidier . This will be done when the weather is right and the land dries up
Phoenix Park	There is a mole problem this will be dealt with shortly	
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 . A section of the river bank is getting washed away at the top of the field. This requires attention which we will attempt ourselves . Pot holes are appearing again on the main car park	Also we require some stronger slit tines for our sisis multi slit , this will improve the drainage on the pitches . Will need to order some ash plainings for the pot holes
Wigton Park Bowling Club green	Some of the green edging still needs attention as well as a section of banking when the weather allows , the green has been spot sprayed for fusarium . I will keep a close eye on this as we don't want this to spread .	
Allotments - Longthwaite	I have noticed that there is some empty allotments which need attention we will clean these out and cover with membrane to	

	stop the weeds growing and spreading across to other allotments	
Allotments - Burnfoot		
Machinery and Vehicles	The ransom parkway has been returned ready for the grass cutting season and the isiki has been sent in for its annual service and dennis mower to Rickerbys as has the 3 honda mowers to lloyds . The tractor has now been repaired and is up and running again doing the weekly pitch maintenance . We have been using TM plant in Carlisle to see what he is like . I am very impressed by his knowledge , speedy return of the machines and is very reasonably priced .	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 has been completed in innovia , the R & D shrub beds are next along with tidying up Wigton halls site . Some tree work is required on some of the small trees . This work is undergoing but takes time as we had to thin out the laurel bushes	Purchasing a moss cleaner would be a good idea for the future as it did a really good job on the setts and cornmarket . We also need to purchase a chainsaw for tree work that is required
Equipment		A Generator and dremel tool sharpener would be well used . Also a key cabinet would be helpful and rope to help with tree work . Emma has suggested a telescopic tree pruner which is a great idea and will reduce the risk of going up scaffolding to cut off low limbs on trees
Staffing	All appraisals have been complete and several courses have been suggested to members of staff to help with their knowledge in the job	

Schools	We have been spiking the pitches also at the school and scholars green .	
Play areas	Work is underway on painting the equipment at highmoor play area . Fell view play area requires a new cradle swing; the old one has been taken down due to an advisory by the insurance . Some fencing work is required as well	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	The front flagged area has had to be coned off due to the danger of the public slipping on them . We do hypochlorite them but with them being sandstone we can only make it so strong not to take the colour out of the flags . Some tree work has been done on removing the ivy , a more detailed schedule of work is required from the church for future	
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 , Speet Gill)	These will be pressure washed and any graffiti or stickers taken off . This will be done shortly as the pressure washer has been repaired The beck at speet gill needs to be cleaned out as it has quite a bit of debris in it and a tree has fallen across it , the bottom path also needs to be finished off from last year where we were widening it and topping it with fresh ash plannings . Some hawthorn needs to be cut back on this path as well . Chris and Rhys have been doing a tree survey and have been tagging all the trees on our sites and have started to take ivy off	As I have said earlier a chainsaw and rope would be handy for the tree work that is needed in speet gill .

FC/117/2026 Town Mayor Engagements

To be received in March.

FC/118/2026 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reminded Members who have not yet arranged an appointment with SC to change their Council email accounts that this must be done as soon as possible.

An update was provided in relation to the public toilets. Members were informed that the issue of youths accessing and vandalising the disabled toilet has now been addressed by installing a metal plate over the lock mechanism, which has resolved the matter.

FC/119/2026 Member Reports

Cllr Huntington – stated Cumberland Council had left cones in Water St Car Park which were blocking spaces.

Cllr Speksnyder – Attended the flood event. Advised that more trees would be planted at East End Park.

Cllr Ferriby – Attended the Town Plan meeting. The next Town Plan meeting was arranged for Monday 9th March at 18:30. A finance committee meeting was planned for Wednesday 4th March at 17:30, both meetings will be held at Barton Laws.

Cllr Hodson – Attended the flood event and WAERG meeting.

Future agenda items:

AutoSpeedWatch Camera
Staffing Update

Meeting Closed: 20:22

Next meeting 11 March 2026

Action	Responsibility	Completion Date	Complete	Comments
Arrange for an annual review of buildings and assets at the park bowling club	EI	Asap		
Devise a maintenance schedule for TC owned buildings and land	EI/SC	Ongoing		
Develop plan for park toilets opening	EI/SC	Asap		
Revise Park Bowling Club agreement	EI/SC and councillors	End Feb		