

A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WAS HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL 2026 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT –

Councillor Anne Jackson (Chairman and Mayor)
Councillor Shane McCarthy
Councillor Mary Huntington
Councillor David Ferriby
Councillor Monique Speksnyder
Councillor Sandra Hodson
Councillor John Crouch
Councillor Mary Clark

Clerk: Emma Ireton

FC/01/2026 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Allan Dawes
Councillor Paul Shone
Councillor Chris Scott
Councillor Chris Stapley
Councillor John Hamblin

FC/02/2026 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

To agree to the Full Council minutes of the 11th March 2026 – **AGREED**
Cllr Clark abstained due to absence from the previous three meetings.

FC/03/2026 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES – APPENDIX 1

Members were informed that a new Park Bowling Club agreement had been drafted which will be taken to the next Staffing, Policy and Development meeting before being shared with full council.

FC/04/2026 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

FC/05/2026 EXCLUSIONS OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

FC/06/2026 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

No public participation.

6.2 Cumberland Authority Report

Cumberland Council's Customer Services team has relocated from the Market Hall to Wigton Library, bringing services together in one location. The service is available as follows:

- Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday: 09:30 – 17:00
- Wednesday: 09:30 – 14:00
- Friday: 09:30 – 12:00

A private office is available for confidential discussions. There are plans for a representative from Revenues and Benefits to attend once per week on an appointment-only basis.

The crossing outside B&M has been improved with a lowered kerb to enhance accessibility for wheelchair users, those with prams, and mobility scooter users.

Drainage works have been undertaken, including clearance of the gully and drain opposite the Throstle's Nest, and the drain along Longhwaite Road towards Woodside.

On 19 March, Cllr Lynch met with a Highways representative to review drainage issues across Wigton, including the drain outside the library. It was noted that many issues are due to silt build-up requiring clearance. A drain at the bottom of the Nelson Thomlinson School drive was also identified as requiring attention.

Highways are again reviewing the proposed Aldi site to address previously raised traffic concerns.

It was reported that the elected Youth Council representative for the area is a student from Nelson Thomlinson School.

It was confirmed that the planning application for 192 houses will be called in for determination, with a site visit due to the scale of the proposal.

Cllr Lynch attended the Wigton Area Emergency Response Group AGM, where it was noted that progress is being made.

The Hope Haven facility in Whitehaven, a specialist mental health drop-in centre with crisis beds, has been successful. As a result, referrals to the Carleton Clinic and Yewdale have reduced significantly, from approximately 15–20 per month to 2 this month. There are plans to replicate this model in Carlisle.

Work is ongoing in relation to the Government's SEND white paper, which may result in additional funding for provision.

Questions to Cllr Lynch:

A resident had contacted the Town Council on several occasions regarding scaffolding on West Street which was blocking access and reported difficulty obtaining a response from Cllr Lynch. The message was relayed to her during the meeting.

Concerns were raised regarding drainage issues on Longhwaite Road. Cllr Lynch agreed to raise this with the relevant authority.

It was reported that the footpath to the left when crossing the bypass bridge towards Belted Will Close requires maintenance, including hedge cutting and removal of ivy. Some work appeared to have commenced but had not been completed.

The road leading towards the Springfields estate requires attention due to significant potholes. Cllr Lynch agreed to report this and encouraged residents to submit reports directly with supporting photographs.

Parking on double yellow lines outside Spar was discussed. Cllr Lynch was asked whether Highways would consider installing railings or planters. It was noted that strict criteria apply and that this location would not be suitable for such measures.

FC/07/2026 Financial Matters

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

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

RESOLVED

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

Wigton Town Council and Wigton Cemetery Payments

Wigton Town Council PAYMENTS LIST

07 April 2026 (2026-2027)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
7	Childrens Play Areas	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	Parts for repairs	Invoices	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	S	2,975.61	595.12	3,570.73
3	Park Maintenance	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	Hypochlorite	Invoices	Tynedale Farm Services	S	25.00	5.00	30.00
5	Equipment/Materials	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	Posts	Invoice	Laversdale Timber	S	114.96	22.99	137.95
6	Equipment/Materials	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	Posts	Invoice	Laversdale Timber	S	13.78	2.76	16.54
12	Equipment/Materials	10/04/2026		Town Council Main		Invoices	Saundersons	S	106.95	21.39	128.34
16	Equipment/Materials	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	Line marking paint	Invoices	Fleet Line Markers	S	50.02	10.00	60.02
4	Internet, phones and mobiles	10/04/2026		Town Council Main		Invoices	System IT	S	9.00	1.80	10.80
9	skip hire	10/04/2026		Town Council Main		Invoices	Aspahia Skip Hire	X	840.00		840.00
17	Equipment/Materials	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	Paint pitches	Invoice	Fleet Line Markers	S	552.93	110.59	663.52
19	WB3C Grounds Maintenance	10/04/2026		WB3C Current		Invoice	Alan Lightfoot	S	392.00	78.40	470.40
20	WB3C Grounds Maintenance	10/04/2026		WB3C Current		Invoice	Alan Lightfoot	S	1,195.83	239.17	1,435.00
21	WB3C Grounds Maintenance	10/04/2026		WB3C Current	Weath removal	Invoice	Alan Lightfoot	S	406.00	81.20	487.20
22	Subscriptions	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	CALC/NALC subscr	Invoice	CALC	E	853.73		853.73
23	Christmas Lights Costs	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	FULL INVOICE 202	Invoice	Blachere Illumination	S	10,138.50	2,027.70	12,166.20
1	Building Repair and Maintenance	10/04/2026		WB3C Current	Gate lock & 5 keys	Invoice	Dave Longcake Locksmith	X	218.00		218.00
2	Fire Extinguisher Checks	10/04/2026		WB3C Reserves Acco	Extinguisher check	Invoice	Beacon Fire Protection Ltd	S	200.50	40.10	240.60
8	Printing	10/04/2026		Town Council Main		Invoice	Infinity Print Solutions	S	6.60	1.32	7.92
10	Machinery Maintenance	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	Ride on maintenanc	Invoice	Lloyd Ltd	S	91.94	18.39	110.33
11	Machinery Maintenance	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	Machine parts	Invoice	Lloyd Ltd	S	15.00	3.00	18.00
13	Building Repair and Maintenance	10/04/2026		WB3C Current	Grass seed	Invoice	Saundersons	S	7.08	1.42	8.50
14	New Machinery	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	Chainsaw and bar/	Invoice	W M Plant	S	769.00	153.80	922.80
14	New Machinery	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	Chainsaw and bar/	Invoice	W M Plant	S	64.75	12.95	77.70
15	Machinery Maintenance	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	Chainsaw mix oil	Invoice	W M Plant	S	12.60	2.52	15.12
18	Machinery Maintenance	10/04/2026		Town Council Main	Battery line marker	Invoice	Fleet Line Markers	S	274.05	54.81	328.86
Total									19,333.83	3,484.43	22,818.26

7.2 To consider and approve the purchase of a second mobile contract at the value of £14 per month so each parks vehicle and team have access to a phone.

Members were advised that an additional mobile phone should be provided to grounds staff so that each team and vehicle has access to a phone in the event of an emergency. It was proposed that a contract be taken out with EE, the Council's current provider, at a cost of £14 per calendar month.

RESOLVED: That a second mobile phone contract be purchased from EE at a cost of £14 per month.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED.

7.3 To consider approving a payment of £25 per day for the opening, closing and cleaning of the public toilets on Saturdays, and for the Wigton Park toilets to be opened, closed and cleaned each weekend during the summer season, subject to weather conditions.

Members were advised that, following the refurbishment of the park public toilets, a plan had been developed for their operation. The Clerk had sourced a contractor to open, close, and clean the park toilets during weekends and bank holidays throughout the spring and summer season. The contractor will operate the facilities on days where weather conditions are deemed suitable, at their discretion. The town centre public toilets will also be opened, closed and cleaned on Saturdays.

Members discussed the potential introduction of a payment system for both sets of toilets, which may help reduce vandalism and generate a small income. The Clerk will investigate associated costs and report back to a future Full Council meeting.

In the interim, the proposed arrangement was considered.

RESOLVED: That the proposed arrangements be approved, including payment of £25 per day, on a temporary basis pending further consideration of a payment system.

VOTED IN FAVOUR

FC/08/2026 Annual Parish Meeting

Members considered a date for the Annual Parish Meeting and agreed that the meeting would provide an opportunity to present and explore the results of the public survey, which will inform the development of the Town Council's 5-year plan.

RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Monday 1 June 2026 at 18:30. Members of the public will be invited to attend, review the survey findings, and share their views to support the development of the 5-year plan.

FC/09/2026 Town Plan

Members received an update from the sub-committee established to develop the 5-year Town Plan. An online survey had been created and circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

Members provided the following feedback on the survey:

- The inclusion of an “N/A” option within questions
- Amending age ranges to distinguish pensioners
- Whether a paper copy should be distributed to every household in Wigton

Members noted that distribution to every household would incur a significant cost. It was agreed that, should the survey response rate be low, alternative methods of engagement would be considered. A representative sample of the population was preferred.

FC/10/2026 Grounds Report

Nothing to report.

FC/11/2026 Town Mayor’s Engagements

MAYOR’S ENGAGEMENTS 12th MAR -8th APRIL 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Wednesday 25 th March	p.m. Attended NADT’s Celebration Event at <u>Devenby Hall</u> , with Cllr Hodson.
Tuesday 31 st March	p.m. Attended the WAERG AGM, Cornerstones M Chapel.
Wednesday 8 th April	a.m. Judged Easter eggs/bonnets competition at Wigton Food Pantry. p.m. Councillor Training: Code of Conduct.
	Wigton Town Council. Attended most sub-committee meetings.
CORRESPONDENCE	Wigton resident’s comments & concern re: change of use of a neighbouring property.

Anne C Jackson 8th April 2026

FC/12/2026 Clerk’s Report

The Clerk reported that a request had been received from Lowmoor Nursery for a raffle prize to support fundraising for improvements to their outdoor play area. Members considered a proposal to provide an Amazon voucher.

RESOLVED that two £25 Amazon vouchers be purchased for this purpose. Members further suggested that Lowmoor Nursery be advised of the opportunity to apply for funding through Wigton Town Council’s grant procedure.

FC/13/2026 Member Reports

Cllr Jackson – along with Cllr Hodson, attended the NADT event at Dovenby Hall. Also was the judge for the Food Pantry's Easter Egg competition.

Cllr Crouch – Attended the Borderlands meeting.

Cllr Speksnyder – Members were informed that the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy has been launched.

Members were reminded of the Council's duty under Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to consider biodiversity in its decision-making and, where possible, take steps to protect and enhance it.

It was noted that this can be supported through actions such as enhancing existing habitats, supporting local initiatives, and monitoring and reporting on biodiversity activity.

There was also a request to speak with HE from Cumberland Council to confirm when Borderlands meetings are.

Cllr Ferriby – Commented that environmental initiatives could be included in the Town Plan.

Cllr Hodson – Attended the NADT event at Dovenby and the WAERG.

Cllr Clark – mentioned the notice board at the cemetery had been vandalised.

Future agenda items:

Expense Policy

Meeting Closed: 20:45

Next meeting 13 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		
Organise litter pick	EI/SC and councillors	End April		
Research Autospeedwatch devices	EI/SC	ASAP		
Expense Policy	EI/SC	July		

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