

BROMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Committee Room, Blencogo Village Hall on Thursday 26 March 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs. A. Cozens, J. Ferguson, J. Lee, W. Miller and M. Underwood.

Also Present: J. Rae (Clerk)

Members of the Public: None

Cllr M. Underwood in the Chair

896/25 Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. R. Davison. The reason for absence was noted and accepted. An apology for absence was also received from K. Thurlow, Cumberland Councillor.

897/25 Declarations of interest

Cllr. A. Cozens declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall.

898/25 Requests for dispensations

None.

899/25 Minutes - Meeting 29 January 2026

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2026 are a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

900/25 Public Participation

No members of the public were in attendance.

901/25 Reports from Outside Bodies

Cumberland Council - Cllr K. Thurlow was not in attendance.

Village Hall Committee – A written report had been received and circulated:

“We have finalised the lease of the hall with the Diocese for the inevitably increased rent level. This will allow us to explore the sustainability of the hall at this rent level and give us more time to try and secure capital funding to complete a purchase, necessary for the long-term future of this community asset. We have been exploring the potential of some additional users but with no firm arrangements as yet. Hopefully will have some updates on this in the next report. Harry's Quiz was a successful evening with a full room of local people enjoying the quiz, pie and pea supper. £750 was made in profit which helps towards the rent cost. Our team of thespians are busy rehearsing for the next murder mystery event on 20 March, with ticket sales going well. Although there are still some tickets left if anyone on the Parish Council would like to come please let one of us know. We also have our Spring reset pamper evening on the 27th March with treatment demos and a chance to take some time for yourselves. We are very excited to be hosting a Country Music Night on 3rd April with Kerry Weir. She has quite a local following so we are hoping for a lively night. We have a full house of vendors coming in for our Spring fair on 4th April where we are also planning an easter egg hunt to encourage the younger members of our parish into the hall. We are also trying out a jigsaw competition evening on 18th April to see how this goes down with the community. As a committee we have plans to clear out the storage room and complete our annual deep clean in early May, we will share this date with our followers closer to the date to encourage other attendees. We have had an offer of support from a resident to complete some maintenance work on the building which is greatly appreciated as under the new lease we are still responsible for all repairs as well”.

902/25 Financial Statement

The financial statement as at 28 February had been circulated with the agenda and was noted by members. Balance 28 February 2026 - £2,510.69.

903/25 Payments and Receipts

(a) Income Received: None

(b) The following accounts were authorised for payment:

Clerk's account Quarter 4	£462.38
HMRC PAYE Quarter 4	£115.60
Clerk's expenses Quarter 4	£ 38.94

904/25 Planning Matters

(a) Applications Received:

FUL/2026/0023 - Low Aketon Farm, Wigton CA7 0BP

Proposal: Conversion of the attached barn to form an extension to the existing dwelling. No objections

OUT/2026/0002 - Land to the rear of Croft Barn, Blencogo, Wigton

Proposal: Outline application with access for a new residential development

Observations were noted regarding the drainage, access onto the highway and whether the proposed development falls within the designated settlement boundary.

(b) Decisions:

FUL/2025/0194 - Bromfield Hall, Bromfield, Wigton CA7 3NB

Proposal: Extension of existing cattle building (no increase in livestock) GRANTED

FUL/2025/0193 - Bromfield Farms Ltd, Bromfield Hall, Bromfield, CA7 3NB

Proposal: Extension to existing silage pit GRANTED

905/25 Correspondence

The following correspondence received was noted:

CALC - Cumbria Combined Authority - briefing - 25 February

CALC - Community Emergency Hubs Launch

Cumberland Council - Supported Housing Strategy – Consultation

CALC - Royal Garden Party - Friday 8 May 2026

CALC - Connecting Cumbria Unveils Digital Infrastructure Strategy 2026–2030

CALC - Cumbria Community Transport Conference - 10th March

Cumberland Council Newsletters

CALC News

Cumberland Council - Parish Council Shelters

CALC - Parish & Town Council Play Areas

Cumberland Council - Fells & Solway Community Panel Meeting

Great Cumbrian Litter Pick 27-29 March

Cumberland Council Aspatria, Silloth, Wigton and the Surrounding Area TRO - Informal Consultation

906/25 Highway Matters

A report had been received from Highways regarding an issue reported in 2023 relating to blocked culverts on the Bromfield to Scales road. The Highways Team had inspected the drains at the reported location and this has been added to their list of planned future drainage works.

Cllr Davison had raised that the drain at Langrigg Bank is still overflowing, spilling sewage across the road. This issue had been forwarded to Cllr K. Thurlow to follow up with Highways.

Issues with the road surface breaking up and pot holes at Langrigg were reported.

907/25 Items for Discussion:

- **Adoption of IT/Email Policy**

The draft IT/Email Policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. In order to comply with Assertion 10 of the Practitioners Guide it was resolved to adopt the Policy.

- **Appointment of Internal Auditor/Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit**

Resolved to appoint Mr. T. Gear to carry out the internal audit of the accounts for the financial year 2025-26. The review of the effectiveness of the internal audit was noted.

- **Defibrillator, Langrigg**
Former councillor J. Clark had advised that an intermittent alarm is sounding on the defibrillator at Langrigg. This had been reported to the appropriate body and advice is awaited. It was suggested that the guardianship of the defibrillator should be the responsibility of the Parish Council. Cllr J. Lee agreed to take over the role from former councillor J. Clark.
- **Aspatia, Silloth, Wigton and the Surrounding Area TRO - Informal Consultation**
Members considered Proposal No 12 C2046 and C2010 Blencogo proposed 7.5t weight restriction, except for access and had no objections to the proposal.
- **Purchase of Village Hall/Possible Parish Council Contribution**
Cllr A. Cozens updated Members regarding the potential purchase of the Village Hall and the possibility of the Parish Council providing a contribution. Members resolved that a decision would be made in the next financial year.
- **Vacancies**
There are still vacancies on the Parish Council. Anyone interested in joining the Parish Council should contact the Clerk for further information.

908/25 Items for the Next Agenda

Purchase of Village Hall/Possible Parish Council Contribution

909/25 Date and time of next meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Village Hall, Blencogo on Thursday 28 May 2026.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.31 pm