WOODSIDE PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in Oulton Institute Hall.

**Members Present**

W. Marrs (Chairman) M. Mullett Mrs E. Lynch (Cumb. Cllr.)

D. Wright H. Barrow

Mrs A. Lewis J. Mattinson M.D. McCabe (Clerk)

Mrs C. Robinson

**Members of the Public Present**

## W.M. Robinson

**Apologies for Absence**

Were received from the following, and accepted. S. Connor – ill, T. Mattinson – away on business.

**The Minutes of the Last Meeting**

These were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Even though there were traffic lights in Oulton when a traffic speed survey was carried out, speeds were noted as being high. Provision of an illuminated warning is being seriously considered. This council has agreed to contribute towards this.

The water leak at Moorhouse is still causing problems. Apparently, a telephone cable is situated just above the leaking pipe, neither of which are far below the surface. A neighbouring farmer (Mr Watson) would have been prepared to use his excavator, but for the presence of the BT cable. There is a “Highways Buddy” attached to each Cumberland councillor. Cllr Lynch is to contact him and BT to try to move things forward.

Waste collection arrangements are going ahead as planned. Full information is on Cumberland Council website.

**Cumberland Councillor’s Report**

The first Family Hub has been set up in Whitehaven. It is planned that Wigton will have one soon.

Access to Wigton Baths is now via the new housing estate by the old auction site. The access via Tenters is now blocked to traffic.

“Borderlands” is undertaking small projects in and around Wigton. They meet every two weeks.

Provision of more car parking at Wigton railway station is being investigated. Talks are taking place with Network Rail about this.

The Emergency Group has had five volunteers come forward.

Cumberland Council are setting up apprenticeships at many academic levels to help local employment.

Consultation is taking place about having a mayor of Cumbria, who will be responsible for transport, economic growth, and the police commissioner among other things. They will be services being devolved from central government. Only nine areas in England are part of this pilot scheme.

If anyone has any social care issues, they should contact Cllr Lynch.

**Wigton Burial Joint Committee Report**

Until the new hedge at the cemetery house has grown sufficiently, a fence has been provided to maintain privacy. This does not go right down to ground level, to allow the hedge to grow.

**Vacancy for Councillor**

This still needs to be filled.

**Clerk’s Salary** It was agreed to follow recommendations for civil servants pay scales, as in the past, giving the clerk a salary of the equivalent of £29,093 pa (£15.08 per hour). 15.08 x 4 (hours per week) x 52.143 (weeks in a year) = £3145.19.

**On-line Banking**

Three on-line bank accounts are needed. 1) A current account for day-to-day transactions, 2) A savings account with instant or very short notice access and 3) A high interest savings account, which need not be instant access. Thresholds and interest rates need to be looked at, as well as a whole package, to include free banking. The Clerk is making enquiries. Unity Trust, Barclays, Lloyds, and Cumberland Building Society are all being considered.

**Correspondence**

**Barclays** is changing its terms and conditions. These should not affect this council.

**Glasdon** sent catalogue of their street furniture.

**The Clerk and** **Clerks & Councils Direct** were made available to the meeting.

**Bank Statements**

Statements from Barclay’s were checked and approved by the meeting.

**Applications for Planning**

**New Applications**

 None  **Decisions**

 None

**Accounts for Payment**

M.D.McCabe (Clerk’s ½ year salary) £1292.99 Chq 100691

H.M.R.C. (P.A.Y.E.) £ 323.40 Chq 100692

M.D.McCabe (Petty Cash Arrears) £ 69.10 Chq 100693

**Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting is provisionally Monday 12th May 2025. The meeting closed at 8.53 pm.