WOODSIDE PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in Oulton Institute Hall.

**Members Present**

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

D. Wright S. Connor

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

**Members of the Public Present**

None

**Apologies for Absence**

Were received from the following, and accepted. Mrs C. Robinson – in hospital, H. Barrow – ill.

**The Minutes of the Last Meeting**

These were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The water leak at Moorhouse has still not been repaired. Apparently, a telephone cable runs above the leaking pipe, meaning repairs would be difficult. The drain at the junction in Moorhouse is cleaned by suction, but there is compacted ,material still impeding the flow. It was agreed to report both these matters to Cumberland Highways Dept. The dog waste bin has gone missing from Moorhouse.

**Cumberland Councillor’s Report**

The Family Hub opened on 17th April on Greenacres estate. It has been successful so far.

There are measures in place to deal with social problems. West Cumberland has one of the highest suicide rates in England. Yewdale Ward at Hensingham is to close, but more beds are being made available at Carleton Clinic. Carlisle. There will also be a mental health centre in Whitehaven town centre. Homelessness and domestic abuse are other issues which are being tackled. Disability grants are being made easier to access, and any families which qualify for free school meals will no longer have to apply for them. There is a shortage of bungalows, which are particularly needed by older people. The rising percentage of elderly people will add to this.

There was a high response rate to a recent bus survey, most comments being favourable. Carlisle Southern By-pass should open by December 2025.Wigton is one of very few towns which does not have public electric vehicle charging points. Provision of these is being looked at.

School maintenance cost are dramatically rising.

Cumberland Council are struggling with their budget. This is partly because of financial problems with previous councils.

**Wigton Burial Joint Committee Report**

There are on-going discussions about the fence / hedge at the cemetery house. CCTV has been installed at the entrance, which seems to have reduced the number of incidents. A parking space for one disabled persons vehicle has also been provided.

**Vacancy for Councillor**

This still needs to be filled. However, application can be made to the Electoral Dept. of Cumberland Council to reduce the number of councillors.

**2024/25 Accounts** The 2024/25 accounts were presented to the meeting. The Annual Governance Statement and then the Accounting Statements were considered, approved, and signed. As the qualifying criteria have been met, it was agreed to certify the Council as exempt from a limited assurance review.

**Internal Auditor**

As previously minuted, Scott Thornley has been appointed to carry out the internal audit. The accounts will be made available to him**.**

**Banking**

The signatories on the Barclays accounts are now Cllrs Marrs, Wright, and Mrs Robinson. Once this change is seen to have been successful, on-line banking will be discussed.

**Donations**

In addition to the donations already agreed and precepted for, two further donations will be made this year. Wigton Baths are asking for support. The Council have donated in the past. A new initiative in Wigton is the CommuniTea Hub. The clerk had discovered this. It is run by volunteers. It consists of a café, meeting rooms, and a charity shop. Activities are arranged six days a week, aimed at people of all ages. People can sit and chatter if they like. It is a safe place, open all day. Good value, freshly cooked food, and very friendly welcoming staff. It was agreed to give the Baths and the Hub £100 each.

**Oulton Institute Hall**

It has been confirmed that hire of the Hall is at the rate of £10 per hour. Invoices for the work done on the Hall were supplied.

**Correspondence**

**Barclays** is reducing the interest rate from 1.35% to 1.25% from 13th May 2025. Due to a mis-calculation by the clerk, the community account became overdrawn. Therefore, a charge of £0.55 has been added.

**Great** **North** **Air** **Ambulance** thank the Council for the £50 donation, and ask that we consider donating again.

**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. The Council has no other accounts.

**Applications for Planning**

To Consider Applications for Planning and Formulate Comments to the Planning Authority in respect of the following cases:-

**New Applications**

FUL/2025/0024 Rudd, The Grassing’s. Roof over silage pit.

FUL/2025/0064 F.Mattinson, Bridge House. Slurry store and hard standing.

HOU/2025/0091 Lightfoot, Oulton Hall. Replacement of side extension.

**Decisions**

 None

**Accounts for Payment**

Oulton Institute Hall (Building Works) £2221.00 Chq 100692

Wigton Burial Joint Committee ( 1st Payment 2025/26) £ 418,82 Chq 100693

Cumbria Association of Local Councils (2025/26 Subs.) £ 221.18 Chq 100694

The invoice for WBJC is headed Wigton Town Council. Payment has been made out to WBJC.

**Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting is provisionally Monday 14th July 2025. The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.