

# Muncaster Parish Council

Clerk to the Council  
David Boyd

Chair to the Council  
John Chapman

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Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2024 starting at 7.15 pm in Muncaster Parish Hall, Ravenglass.

**Present:**

Cllr John Chapman, Chair  
Cllr Mike Parr, Vice Chair  
Cllr Martin Harrison  
Cllr Richard Johnson  
Cllr Mike Walden

David Boyd Parish Clerk/RFO  
Members of public

1	Apologies for absence	Cllr Ewan Frost-Pennington
2	Declarations of Interest	As notified / on record,
3	Minutes of previous Council Meeting	The draft minutes of the 8 October 2024 meeting were approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.
4	Public Forum	(a) Queries re Transparency Code - the Chairman said he had looked into these and could see no non-compliances save relating to publishing all individual financial transactions.
5.	Finance	(a) RFO Reports etc had been tabled by the Clerk and were approved, along with specific bank cheque payments to authorise (as attached).
6	Planning Matters	- None current
7	Council Correspondence	The Chairman said he had received a note from a resident expressing appreciation for the recent war memorial works and he would pass this to the Clerk. Draft new
8	Parish Hall	Cllr Frost-Pennington had noted with his apologies that the draft new lease was now unexpectedly delayed as a result of unanticipated complications relating to Energy Performance Certificates. This was noted.



9	Councillors' Reports and Progress for Information	(a) Cllr Parr reported that he had attended a Lake District National Park Authority meeting relating to introducing their new Chief Executive to community organisations.
10	War Memorial	The Clerk reported that the necessary works had been completed save for some minor surface reinstatement. The costs should largely be defrayed by a pending donation from the LLWR at Drigg. Depending on any remaining funds from this, it was hoped that some kind of visitor signage and/or site landscaping could be added.
11	Clerk's Resignation	(Considered in closed session owing for confidentiality reasons.)
12	Parish Footpaths	<p>Cllr Parr reported that LDNPA had agreed to undertake outstanding maintenance needs but when this might happen was dependent on their available resources. Meantime, he was continuing to pursue the matter of drainage etc to the footpath by the railway road bridge. Ith</p> <p>Councillors noted and warmly welcomed that unknown persons had recently cleared another obstructed footpath.</p>
13	Footbridge over Railway	<p><i>The Chairman said he had been advised by Network Rail that their press release relating to the footbridge had been delayed by operations relating to the recent severe storms but that it was now in final draft form for imminent release.</i></p> <p><b>NOTE FOLLOWING MEETING : text of above press release:-</b></p> <p><i>Network Rail has announced plans to fully refurbish the footbridge at Ravenglass station on the Cumbrian Coast Line.</i></p> <p><i>The much-loved footbridge, first constructed in 1849, was due to be repaired this autumn with the timber deck being replaced. However, when engineers started work on the bridge, they found the condition was worse than expected and so a full refurbishment and repair is needed.</i></p> <p><i>Work will start on site in February 2025, with the whole structure removed and transported to a repair facility to be worked on. This includes being fully repainted, restoring it to how it looked in its historic heyday. Doing this work away from the station means we don't have to close the line and trains can continue to run.</i></p> <p><i>The footbridge will then be brought back to site and reinstalled at the station, with the timber deck replaced, safety checks carried out and then reopened to passengers and the public in May 2025.</i></p>



		<p>Unfortunately, this means the footbridge will have to remain closed until the repair work is fully complete.</p> <p>Network Rail have worked with Cumberland Council and the Lake District Council to put in pedestrian diversion routes, with signage and safety barriers so people can still access both platforms during the work. Access to Raveglass and Eskdale Heritage Railway remains unaffected.</p> <p>Chris Pye, Network Rail's North West Route Infrastructure Director said: "We are sorry to disrupt passengers and the local community longer than we have planned to. We're working hard to keep the disruption to a minimum, including taking the bridge off-site to work on it which will be quicker than working on site."</p>
14	Muncaster Emergency Plan	<p>Cllr Parr had located and circulated a past Muncaster Parish Emergency Plan, which clearly now required considerable updating and revision ( although having any Plan was not actually mandatory),</p> <p>It was agreed that all councillors would consider this and discuss further at the next PC Meeting,</p>
15	Defibrillator	<p>This matter had been placed on the Agenda to check current provisions for checking and maintenance of the equipment at Pennington Arms. Cllr Johnson confirmed that he currently undertook all necessary work on this.</p>
16	Parish Precept 2025/26	<p>The Clerk reported that Cumberland Council required notification of the required Precept immediately following the January 2025 PC Meeting; background financial data to assist this process had been circulated to councillors. This was discussed, and final determination would be made in January.</p>
17	Date of Next Meeting	<p>Next regular meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 14 January 2025.</p>

(Meeting closed 8.15 pm)



PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL 10/12/24 - MUNCASTER PC BANK ACCOUNT						
Date	Details	Voucher No.	Reference	Receipts	Payments	Amount
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				£	£	£
12-Nov-24	Clerk salary Nov 24	2424	300090		176.30	-176.30
12-Nov-24	Grass cutting Oct. 24	2425	300091		108.00	-108.00
12-Nov-24	Parish Hall hire	2426	300092		21.00	-21.00
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>-305.30</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>						
10-Dec-24	Clerk salary Dec 24& mileage	2427	300093		375.71	-375.71
10-Dec-24	HMRC tax Q3	2428	300094		180.20	-180.20
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>-555.91</b>