WOODSIDE PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held Monday 13th January 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 M.D. McCabe (Clerk)

**Members of the Public Present**

## None. However, three wrens flew into the meeting room, causing a little amusement and apprehension amongst those present. They were encouraged to leave, which took some time!

**Apologies for Absence**

Were received from the following, and accepted. S. Connor – in hospital, T. Mattinson – away on business, Mrs C. Robinson – recovering from illness, J. Mattinson – at another meeting.

**The Minutes of the Last Meeting**

These were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Cllr Lynch had arranged for a speed survey to be carried out in Oulton, which took place towards the end of last year. Unfortunately, this was partly at a time when there were temporary traffic lights which affected the speeds at which vehicles were travelling. Cllr Lynch will contact the Highways Dept to discuss the results, perhaps involving the police.

**Cumberland Councillor’s Report**

There have been problems with traffic congestion in Wigton. Bollards have been erected by the fountain to prevent people from parking there. Provision of a new pedestrian crossing opposite the Throstle’s Nest is being considered.

Funding has been made available to increase the Carlisle to Workington bus service from every 60 minutes to every 30 minutes. Most buses run on to Whitehaven and then to either Thornhill or Frizington. A service has also been restarted between Silloth and Maryport. These improvements were welcomed by the Council.

Children’s Services has recently been inspected and the rating has moved from “inadequate” to “good.” A family hub has been set up in Whitehaven to help

Families with problems. If this is successful, hopefully one will be provided in Wigton.

A waste review has taken place. Collections of household waste will be fortnightly, which is in line with the rest of Cumberland, and most other areas of England. Extra or larger bins will be available to those who need them. Unlike most other areas there will be no charge for the collection of garden waste.

The Cumberland Council budget for 2025/26 will be at a similar level to 2024/25.

An inclusion policy is being pursued for all children. Cumberland Council is in debt on special needs.

The perennial leak near Moorhouse has surfaced again (pun intended). There seems to be some doubt as to whose responsibility it is to fix it. Cllr Lynch urged as many people as possible to report it. It is a traffic hazard, especially when it freezes over.

The uncashed cheque made out to Wigton Wiza Club is no longer valid. The clerk contacted the club, and a change of treasurer had taken place. A cheque for this year and last was sent to the new contact.

**Wigton Burial Joint Committee Report**

A dying hedge has been removed and replaced. The tarmacking at the entrance to the cemetery has been completed.

**Vacancy for Councillor**

This still needs to be filled.

**Internal Auditor**

Scott Thornley carried out Woodside’s internal audit for 2023/24. He is willing to do this again for 2024/25.

**Precept 2025/26**

It was agreed that the precept for 2025/26 should not be less than that for 2024/25, though a small increase would be acceptable if necessary. The figures agreed form part of these minutes. It was suggested that the donations given by the council be increased by around 15%. The clerk requested that Oulton Institute Hall send an annual invoice for room hire, to keep the accounts separate from the donation. One payment would, however, suffice.

**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**

**H.M.R.C.** had fined the Council for sending in employee returns late. However, there had been no payments due, so the fine was cancelled.

**Cumberland Community Foundation** is asking forfinancial support for its “Winter Warmth Appeal.” This would be for older people within Cumbria. It was decided not to donate at the present time.

**Barclays** is reducing the interest rate payable on this council’ssavings account from 1.4% to 1.35%.

**Wigton Area Emergency Response group** (WAERG) has been established to assist the local community in an emergency. Volunteers are required. Two drop-in sessions are being held in Wigton.

**Great North Air Ambulance** thank the Council for its financial support and request that this may continue.

**HugoFox** has sent details of its parish websites for about £10 per month. This includes monitoring planning applications and a .gov website.

**Glasdon and Marmax** have both sent catalogues 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**

TEEC Ltd (Website) £ 200.76

Hospice at Home (Donation) £ 100.00

Great North Air Ambulance (Donation) £ 50.00

Oulton Institute Hall (Meeting room & Donation) £ 438.00

Society of Local Council Clerks (2025 Membership) £ 80.00

Scott Thornley (2023/24 Internal Audit) £ 75.00

Wigton Wiza Club £ 100.00

**Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting is provisionally Monday 3rd March 2025.