

PENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 19th January 2025
7pm
Parish Rooms

Minutes

Attendees	Mrs Athersmith Mrs Bell (Clerk) Mr Corbett	Mrs Corbett Mrs Slater Mr Squires	Mr Stretch Ms Brockbank 3 Members of the Public		
	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS	OWNER	DUE	
26-01/1 Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No apologies were received from council members Apologies were noted from Cllr Cooper and Cllr Brereton 				
26-01/2 Declarations of Councillors Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None noted 				
26-01/3 Exclusion of Press and Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 				
26-01/4 Vacancies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No vacancies were noted. 				
26-01/5 Previous Minutes dated 19/12/2025 and Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were approved and signed as a true reflection of the meeting 				
26-01/6 Public Participation by Question and Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One member of the public informed council of plans to run a community CPR course to be considered for spring time – to run at Pennington School and with a view to considering donations from attendees and the Parish Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to consider grant donations as received. 			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One member of the public informed council of their recent experiences with litter and litter picking around the Pennington and Loppergarth area. Consideration was requested for additional bins, litter picking days, competitions and collaboration with Pennington School and CLP action group. • The amount of dog muck in bags and hung in trees was noted along with the increase in dog fouling in the community as whole. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk to contact WAF to request if the litter picking scheme and access to equipment is still available. • YA to liaise with the resident for advertising the Litter picking Day in the CommChat publication. 		
26-01/7 District Councillors/ Elected Members Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to note. 			
26-01/8 Swarthmoor/ High Carley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter Picking as discussed at item 26-01/6 • Dog fouling as discussed at item 26-01/6 • It was noted that there is increasing numbers of dog walkers using the Wetland with dogs not on leads, not cleaning up after them and causing potential road safety hazards by parking in the layby and dogs running into the road. • It was noted that the telephone box book library is becoming increasingly filled with unsuitable books. • Options for other uses were made including a plant shelter – this however may cause visibility issues for residents pulling in and out of houses on Ulverston Road. The option to remove it completely was also made. • It was noted that Give Way signs at Park Field/ Park Signs are being discussed with Cllr Cooper. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk to contact WAF to discuss a community visit from the warden and to discuss ways to improve the issues. • Clerk to look into options 		
26-01/9 Pennington/ Loppergarth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the approved quote for playgrounds works has been followed up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk to chase confirmation 		

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<p>26-01/10 Sunnyside/ Parish Rooms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that there has been no update regarding the leak at Sunnyside. • It was noted that the roof repairs have been finished and report from the roofer states that the roof is in very bad repair and bordering on irreparable. Council have been advised to start budgeting for full roof replacement. • It was noted that the Parish Rooms Risk Assessment is still to be carried out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk to obtain quotes 		
<p>26-01/11 Planning Matters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025/2408/ FPA - erection of an agricultural storage building and ancillary concrete yards at Horace farm Pennington • 2025/ 2453/ FPA - erection of 29 dwellings (including 35% affordable housing provision) together with associated roads, footpaths, car parking, landscaping, biodiversity enhancements and infrastructure works - land to the east of Pennington Lane Swarthmoor • 2025/ 2460/ OPA - outline planning permission for the erection of up to 153 dwellings (including 35% affordable housing provision) together with associated roads, footpaths, car parking, landscaping, biodiversity enhancements and infrastructure works. All matters are reserved except for access - land to the east of Pennington Lane Swarthmoor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council resolved to comment as detailed in appendix 1 • The Council resolved to comment as detailed in appendix 2 • The Council resolved to comment as detailed in appendix 3 		
<p>26-01/12 Financial Matters</p>	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>Bank Statement Balance at 01/12/2025</p> <p><u>To resolve to note the following payments from Bank Statements</u> 01.12.25 – Waterplus Parish Rooms</p>	<p>£39,229.92</p> <p>£57.72</p>		

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	<p>03.12.25 – SSE Streetlighting 04.12.25 – Waterplus Allotments 05.12.25 – Ionos Website 22.12.25 – SLCC Membership 22.12.25 – Salary Backpay 29.12.25 - Salary 31.12.25 – Bank Charge 02.01.26 – Waterplus allotments 06.01.26 – Ionos Website</p> <p><u>To resolve to note the following receipts from Bank Statements</u> 10.12.25 – Room Hire 17.12.25 – Sunnyside Rent</p> <p>Balance at 12/01/2026</p> <p>Reserves Buildings Maintenance Bus Shelters Maintenance Election Fees Playground Maintenance Car Parks Footpaths Allotments CLP Grants General Reserves General Spends Total</p> <p><u>To discuss SSE Unmetered Supply and Lights</u></p>	<p>£28.98 £28.78 £10.80 £150.00 [REDACTED] £6.00 £13.39 £10.80</p> <p>£48.00 [REDACTED]</p> <p>£38,589.81</p> <p>£17,800.59 £1,913.73 £3,500.00 -£42.00 £900.00 £500.00 £900.00 £500.00 £752.00 £5,000.00 £6,865.49 <u>£38,589.81</u></p>		
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26-01/13 Policy Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was resolved to re-adopt the following messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-option Procedure - Non Compliance with Code of Conduct - Appraisal Policy - Recruitment Policy - Sickness and Absence Policy. 			
26-01/14 Appoint Internal Auditor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was resolved for the Clerk to engage an internal auditor. 			
26-01/15 School and Church Celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council were informed of plans to celebrate the churches 200 years in December and Pennington School's 150 in March. • Council were informed of the planned joint celebrations and potential activities. 			
26-01/16 Meeting Venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council were asked to consider holding a number of meetings at the Reading Rooms throughout the year to allow greater attendance and accessibility of Swarthmoor residents. • Council were informed that in line with LGA: as it owns a suitable room locally, it has to use that room and cannot use public money to hire a room for consideration or cost. 			
26-01/17 Precept and Budget Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was resolved to accept the proposed budget and to request a precept from Westmorland District Council of £18,561.44 as per the budget proposal. 			
26-01/19 Items for Future Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Cross • Age UK - presentation 			
26-01/18 Date of Next Meeting	The next ordinary meeting of the council back and was agreed for 9 th February 2026 – 7pm in the Parish Rooms.			

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Appendix 1

2025/2408/ FPA - Erection of an agricultural storage building and ancillary concrete yards at Horace farm Pennington

At a meeting of Pennington Parish Council held on 19th January 2026, planning application;

Application Number: 2025/2408/ FPA

Development: Erection of an agricultural storage building and ancillary concrete yards

Location: Horace Farm, Pennington

Was discussed and it was resolved that the Council had no comment to make.

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Appendix 2

2025/ 2453/ FPA - erection of 29 dwellings (including 35% affordable housing provision) together with associated roads, footpaths, car parking, landscaping, biodiversity enhancements and infrastructure works - land to the east of Pennington Lane Swarthmoor.

At a meeting of Pennington Parish Council held on 19th January 2026, planning application;

Application Number: 2025/2453/ FPA

Development: Erection of 29 dwellings (including 35% affordable housing provision) together with associated roads, footpaths, car parking, landscaping, biodiversity enhancements and infrastructure works

Location: Land to the east of Pennington Lane Swarthmoor.

Appendix 3

2025/ 2460/ OPA - outline planning permission for the erection of up to 153 dwellings (including 35% affordable housing provision) together with associated roads, footpaths, car parking, landscaping, biodiversity enhancements and infrastructure works. All matters are reserved except for access - land to the east of Pennington Lane Swarthmoor

At a meeting of Pennington Parish Council held on 19th January 2026, planning application;

Application Number: 2025/ 2460/ OPA

Development: Outline planning permission for the erection of up to 153 dwellings (including 35% affordable housing provision) together with associated roads, footpaths, car parking, landscaping, biodiversity enhancements and infrastructure works. All matters are reserved except for access.

Location: Land to the east of Pennington Lane Swarthmoor.

Was discussed and it was resolved that the Council **OBJECTS** to this application – the response to be based on previous objections and to be adapted to include the following:

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The impact on vehicular strain as identified in recent studies shows that in semi-rural locations the average car ownership is much higher and for individual dwellings may be up to 1 car per adult, per household, meaning a possibility of up to 85 additional cars for the 29 homes application – this does not include allowance for visitors or delivery vehicles.

2025/2460 Design and Access Statement

“Oakmere are a well-established regional house builder” We therefore request that they evidence how their travel plan will work and how successful their previous travel plans have been.

2025/2460 Outline Planning statement 10. “There are a number of local services provided in Ulverston and the wider Westmorland and Furness catchment. The Site is well served by existing amenities, including schools, doctors/hospital, shops and community centres”.

2025/2460 NHS commissioning. “The ICB has reviewed the application and decided that the impact brought about by the scheme will have a cumulative bearing on the Ulverston surgeries”(photo attached).

This does not realistically show how the services and amenities are declining in the area or identify how the additional strain on the same will be managed/ mitigated for example by the downgrading of Critical care at FGH, the decision to cut 18 beds from Furness General Hospital starting from 21st January 2026 both of which have received criticism from the local MP. The local Diabetic Clinic has been re-located with residents having to travel to Kendal. Bus services being reduced with routes cut at weekends – this does not support the Travel Plan.

In addition, the Ofsted report dated March 2014, identified potential risks to the safety of children having “identified considerable congestion outside the school at the beginning and end of the day”. It was noted that “too many drivers ignore the 20-mile-an-hour speed limit outside the school and as a matter of urgency, it was suggested that the local authority, the council highways department, the police, parents and the local community work with the school to ensure strict account is taken of implementing and maintain safety measures.

This potential risk to the safety of children at the school and nearby nursery can only be exacerbated by the increase in traffic volume from the proposed developments. Despite all these concerns voiced repeatedly, no-one in authority, particularly the Highways Agency, has formulated a solution.

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