**Torver Parish Council**

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Schoolroom.

on Thursday 22 October 2026.

Present:

Chair: Cllr C Bradley

Deputy Chair: Cllr T Stergiakis

Councillors: M Feather, J Ward

Clerk: C Sargeant

Members of the public: Rev Brian Streeter, C Barr

Telephone call: CCllr Suzanne Pender, R Graham

| Minute No. | |
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| 079/26 | **Apologies for Absence:**<br>Apologies were received from Cllr R Graham due to infection. Cllr Graham attended by telephone. |
| 080/26 | **Declarations of Interest:**<br>No declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests were made. |
| 081/26 | **Requests for Dispensation:**<br>No requests for dispensations were received. |
| 082/26 | **Minutes of Previous Meeting** held on 2 July 2026:<br>**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 September 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by Cllrs C Bradley and T Stergiakis. |

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| **083/26** | **Public Participation:**<br>The Revd B Streeter supported the Schoolroom Committee's request for advice on an accessible composting toilet, an emergency community hub and a generator for power cuts. Guidance was sought on grants, insurance, emergency planning, safety and practical responsibilities. It was reported that the kitchen floor required attention and that the Schoolroom would close during January, and possibly into February, while works were undertaken. C Barr offered to provide information on possible funding sources.<br>**Resolved:** The Schoolroom Committee to be invited to the next Council meeting. |
| **084/26** | **Reports from External Partners:**<br>Cllr S Pender reported that Electricity North West had suspended planned road closures pending review; comments had been requested on proposed care-home closures; and bus services 11 and X12 had been reinstated, although Blueworks had not yet received a contract. Westmorland and Furness Council's financial position and the likely impact on taxpayers were noted. A drop-in surgery would be held at Undercrag at 11.00 am on Thursday 29 October. An extension to the Fibrus contract was also noted. |
| **085/26** | **Finance & Governance:**<br>(a) Bank balances at 29 September 2026 were noted: Business Current Account, £500.00; Business Savings Account, £11,159.55.<br>(b) **Resolved:** The 2027–28 Precept submission limited to reflect inflation.<br>(c) No budget-monitoring or internal-audit updates were applicable.<br>(d) The Clerk reported that the collation of legally required documents was nearly complete.<br>(e) **Action:** The Clerk would review the Financial Regulations, Risk Management Policy and Document Retention Policy and report to the next meeting.<br>(f) **Resolved:** Payment of £1,014.00 to the Clerk for salary for quarters 1 and 2 was approved.<br>(g) **Resolved:** Reimbursement of £70.00 to Cllr M Feather for a beck-monitoring camera was approved. |
| **086/26** | **Planning:** |

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| | (a) It was noted that, as at 15 October 2026, no new applications were listed on the Lake District National Park Authority website.<br>(b) Application 7/2026/5218, Garth Nook, remained under consideration; the applicant's response to the Council's objection was noted.<br>(c) **Action:** The Clerk would seek clarification from the Authority on the Parish Council's role where private development activity might not comply with planning controls.<br>(d) The existing arrangements for Torver's representation on Westmorland and Furness Council would be maintained. |
| **087/26** | **Parish Infrastructure, Maintenance & Projects:** (a) Cllr M Feather would purchase Perspex to repair the bus shelter windows.<br>(b) Highways approval was awaited for siting the new noticeboard on the verge near the road from the A593 to the Wilson Arms.<br>(c) An approach would be made to arrange removal of lower branches from the village green trees.<br>(d) Highways approval was awaited regarding shrubs to deter parking on the green.<br>(e) Highways advice was awaited on the speed warning indicator within the proposed £500 budget.<br>(f) No progress was reported on footpaths, verges and planting areas. **Action:** The Clerk would contact Colton Parish Council about its lengthsperson arrangements.<br>(g) Reimbursement for monitoring equipment had been approved under minute 7(g).<br>(h) Cllr M Feather reported on discussions with South Cumbria Rivers Trust concerning flood-risk reduction and Torver Beck. The Trust favoured slowing water upstream, including possible management of Bull Head Moss, and was willing to undertake survey, calculation and design work. Any scheme would require funding, landowner co-operation and local support. Possible measures included tree removal, improved flow beneath Hollis Bridge and small ponds at the Mill. The importance of farmers' concerns about loss of land was recorded. An open afternoon and reconsideration of a hydro scheme were suggested. The Trust was willing to provide water-testing kits. A landowner was willing to install a camera and gauge, and rainfall data from the Mill would be published on the Council's website. **Action:** C Barr would contact Staveley regarding comparable work. |
| **088/26** | **Clerk's Report & Correspondence:** |

**a. Electricity North West road closures**
The Council noted that new road closures, including the proposed A5084 closure, had been paused pending review. Works would continue under traffic-light control where practicable. A revised plan was expected by the end of November.

**b. Fibrus**
Completed and outstanding works, together with letters of complaint, were noted. Alternative providers were discussed.

**c. 'Declarations of Interests' forms:**
Cllr T Stergiakis to provide the Clerk with a model Declaration of Interests form for circulation by email.

**d.Parish Plan revision**
Consideration was deferred to the next meeting. It was suggested that beck and flood-prevention work should be central to the Plan and that consultation could include a drop-in session and an online survey.

**e. Remembrance Sunday and support for veterans**
**Resolved:** The Clerk would arrange for a Council-donated wreath to be laid in Coniston on Sunday 8 November, within a budget of £50.
**Action:** Cllr M Feather to investigate a village-green display, within a budget of £100.

**f. Schoolroom**
The matters concerning funding opportunities, community use and emergency provision were considered under minute 5.

**g. United Utilities: Coniston Wastewater Treatment Works upgrade**
It was reported that the transport of new equipment to the site had been completed without incident.

**h. Correspondence**
The correspondence received at clerk@torverparishcouncil.gov.uk during October 2026, as listed below, was noted.

| FROM | DATE | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| AGAR | 261006 | TPC "fully compliant" |
| Bev Lewis | 261012 | Updates from the Schoolroom Committee |
| Clare Davison | 261002 | Fibrus fibre broadband |
| Clare Davison | 261004 | Fibrus and Brocklebank Ground and Undercragg |

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| | Clare Davison | 261013 | Fibrus query |
| | Coniston Business Forum | 261012 | ENW proposed road closures |
| | David Bergen | 261005 | Fibrus |
| | Diane Malley | 261001 | Invoice Payroll Services |
| | Hazel Bowness | 260921 | Torver Schoolroom |
| | John Fagan | 261017 | Free Asset Register template |
| | Karen Wood | 261007 | Vacancy at Matterdale PC |
| | Katherine Gatt | 261016 | Age Friendly Newsletter |
| | Lindsay Nicholson | 261001 | CCTV experience in parishes |
| | Lindsay Nicholson | 261001 | Toilet Cleaning Contractors |
| | Lindsay Nicholson | 261007 | Branch Member Event |
| | Lindsay Nicholson | 261009 | Community Green Spaces |
| | Lindsay Nicholson | 261013 | Reminder Branch Member Event |
| | Lindsay Nicholson | 261015 | Reminder Branch Member Event |
| | Lindsay Nicholson | 261019 | Reminder Branch Member Event |
| | Mark Hodgkiss | 260930 | Update on bus services 11 and X12 |
| | NALC | 260923 | Star Council Awards 2026/27 |
| | NALC | 260924 | Chief Executive Bulletin |
| | NALC | 260930 | Chief Executive Bulletin |
| | NALC | 261005 | Meet NORA - NALC AI assistant |
| | NALC | 261006 | NALC Events |
| | NALC | 261008 | Chief Executive Bulletin |
| | NALC | 261013 | NALC Events |
| | NALC | 261015 | Chief Executive Bulletin |
| | NALC | 261016 | Your Assest Register |
| | NALC | 261019 | AnnualConference tickets |

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| | NALC | 261020 | Events Newsletter |
| | NALC | 261022 | Chief Executive Bulletin |
| | Nobbut | 261006 | Schoolroom letter |
| | Nobbut | 261012 | October article from Citizens Advice |
| | of Local Councils | 261005 | CALC AGM 10 October |
| | of Local Councils | 261006 | Monthly lake views and news |
| | of Local Councils | 261014 | Training opportunities |
| | Parish Council Pigeon | 261021 | Cut price web hosting |
| | Rachel Kelly | 260923 | Weekly Bulletin |
| | Rachel Kelly | 260928 | Meet Miranda Cannon Chief Exec W&F Council |
| | Rachel Kelly | 260928 | Parish & Town Council Forum |
| | Rachel Kelly | 260928 | Parish Election Engagement |
| | Rachel Kelly | 260929 | Independent Carers Allowance campaign |
| | Rachel Kelly | 260929 | Legal Bulletin 28 September |
| | Rachel Kelly | 260929 | Local Council Toilet Provision survey |
| | Rachel Kelly | 260930 | Local Council National Park Forum |
| | Rachel Kelly | 260930 | Weekly Bulletin |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261005 | CALC 2026 Membership Survey |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261005 | CALC Partner Bulletin October 2026 |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261005 | New Proper Practices for Smaller Authorities |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261006 | LD Parish & Town Council Forum |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261007 | CALC Autumn 2026 Training programme |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261007 | CALC Weekly Bulletin |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261007 | Meet Miranda Cannon Chief Exec W&F Council |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261007 | Prpearing for Martyn's Law |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261012 | LDNPA Planning for Parishes |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261012 | NALC Legal update session |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261013 | Help shape future CALC AGMs |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261013 | Investing in training |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261014 | Be a councillor 2027 campaign |

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| | Rachel Kelly | 261014 | CALC Weekly Bulletin |
| | Rachel Kelly | 261021 | Weekly Bulletin |
| | Rev Brian Streeter | 261020 | Torver Schoolroom |
| | South Lakeland Area Support | 260923 | Newsletter/ Magazine Contacts |
| | South Lakeland Area Support | 260928 | Activities and Training Opportunities |
| | South Lakeland Area Support | 261007 | Flood Action Week 12-18 October |
| | South Lakeland Area Support | 261008 | Fibrus Community Fund |
| | South Lakeland Area Support | 261008 | Upcoming Cumbria CVS events |
| | South Lakeland Area Support | 261013 | SP ENW Drop in event 19 Oct |
| | South Lakeland Area Support | 261013 | Tour de France/JOY impact programme |
| | South Lakeland Area Support | 261020 | Energy saving and renewables |
| | South Lakeland Area Support | 261021 | Locality Working in W&F - Town & Parish Council Briefing |
| | SP ENW | 260923 | Upgrade to Coniston's power supply |
| | SP ENW | 261002 | Coniston Stakeholder update |
| | SP ENW | 261008 | Coniston Stakeholder update |
| | SP ENW | 261009 | Coniston investment update |
| | SP ENW | 261019 | Automatic reply to TPC |
| | SP ENW | 261019 | Upgrade to Coniston's power supply |
| | SP ENW | 261022 | Coniston Investment Update - closures paused |
| | Suzanne Pender | 260924 | Back at work |
| | Suzanne Pender | 260926 | Microsoft Teams Meeting 22 October |
| | Suzanne Pender | 260928 | ENW plans to close A5084 |
| | Suzanne Pender | 260930 | Update on bus services 11 and X12 |
| | Suzanne Pender | 261005 | Only rainwater into Windermere |
| | Suzanne Pender | 261008 | Fibrus leaving the area |
| | Suzanne Pender | 261009 | Met Office Community Resilience |
| | W&F | 260928 | Field of Poppies |
| | W&F | 261006 | Cumbria Bus Reform Pilot Study |
| | W&F Council Member Support | 260925 | Cllr Doug Rathbone Chair of W&F Council |
| | W&F Highways | 261002 | Problem E1/307369 (speed indicators) |

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| | W&F Highways | 261009 | Temporary Traffic Regulation - Rectory Lane 19 October |
| | W&F Highways | 261012 | Problem E1/308398 (verges) |
| | W&F Member Support | 261014 | Through the Lens project |
| | Wonderwall Sales | 261005 | Purchase of Noticeboard |
| | Zurich Insurance | 260929 | Five checks for autumn |
| | Zurich Insurance | 261005 | Adding extra protection |
| | Zurich Insurance | 261006 | Five checks for autumn |
| | Zurich Insurance | 261012 | Adding extra protection |
| | Zurich Insurance | 261021 | Get prepared for Storm Austen |
| | Zurich Insurance | 261021 | The UK's most remarkable benches |

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| **089/26** | **Items for Information / Future Agenda Items:**<br>No additional items were raised. |
| **090/26** | **Date of Next Meeting:**<br>**Resolved:** The next ordinary meeting to be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 19 November 2026 in the Schoolroom. |
| **091/26** | **Closure:**<br>There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.15 pm. |

**Signed** **Date**

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