

MINUTES of the **ARTHURET PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held at the **COUNCIL OFFICES, 9 ESK STREET, LONGTOWN** on **MONDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY 2026** at **7PM**

PRESENT

Councillors Sir JFS Graham (Chair), G Routledge (Vice Chair), C Johanssen, E Jeffrey, M Irving, M Gunson and R Graham

ALSO PRESENT – Parish Clerk and RFO

APOLOGIES – Councillors N Turrell, C Adams and Cumberland Councillor T Pickstone

Minute Number	
155/26	<p>Apologies for Absence To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence</p> <p>RESOLVED that apologies were received from Councillors N Turrell, C Adams and Cumberland Councillor T Pickstone</p>
156/26	<p>Declaration of Interest To receive declarations by elected and co-opted members of interests in respect of items on this agenda</p> <p>RESOLVED that a declaration was received from Cllr M Gunson</p>
157/26	<p>Public Participation To receive representation from members of the public on issues relating to items on this agenda. <i>Members of the public are permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes (this is the total time for public participation) and are not permitted to speak at any other time during the meeting unless invited to do so by the Chair</i></p> <p>Member of the public number 1 would like to bring the following to the Councils attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding on Netherby Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is mainly lorries and vans going to The Peth <p>RESOLVED that the member of the public was advised that a Community Speed Watch Group could be set up if there were 3 or more members and to contact the Police who would train them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog mess on Netherby Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is dog fouling everywhere in town and is especially bad on Netherby Road, the member of the public said that there are 3 main culprits for this area <p>RESOLVED that the Clerk to contact the Enforcement Officers again</p>

	<p>Member of the public number 2 wanted to ask what the Council are doing about the apple trees on Dolly's Brae</p> <p>RESOLVED that they were informed that this would be on the agenda for the meeting in March</p>
158/26	<p>Minutes</p> <p>To authorise the Chair to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 8th December 2025</p> <p>RESOLVED to authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 8th December 2025</p> <p>To authorise the Chair to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 12th January 2026</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cllr. G Routledge would like an addition to the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 12th January 2026</p>
159/26	<p>Cumberland Councillor Report</p> <p>To receive a report from Cumberland Councillor T Pickstone</p> <p>RESOLVED that the following report was read out at the meeting</p> <p>Hespin Wood</p> <p>There have been a lot of complaints about what seems like a significant increase of activity at Hespin Wood, mostly with regard to the tip itself. I know that an inspection has taken place by Cumberland Council and the Environment Agency and will report back on their conclusions.</p> <p>A7 Westlinton</p> <p>Gordon asked me to investigate this. Connect Highways have agreed to develop options for how works can take place to address the serious flooding there, which can be very dangerous. In the meantime, drains have all been cleared.</p> <p>Borderlands</p> <p>You have the written update from Lorraine. More information at your March meeting.</p> <p>Bus Shelter outside the Nursery</p> <p>As you know the agreed plan is that this is to be completely removed because of anti-social behaviour.</p>
160/26	<p>Cumbria Community Forest</p> <p>To receive a presentation on the planting of new trees/hedgerows</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cumbria Community Forest sent their apologies for the meeting</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cllr. M Irving had been on a site visit with Raise Cumbria so that they could assess the areas that the Parish Council had suggested</p> <p>RESOLVED that Lochinvar field can be planted even though it is a very wet area and that Dolly's Brae could have the hedges removed and replanted around the play area and a pathway with planting in the meadow area</p>

	<p>RESOLVED that Raise Cumbria will provide their plans to the Council later in the year as this is their busy planting time of year</p>
161/26	<p>To receive a report from representatives on other bodies</p> <p>Longtown Community Centre Board of Trustees – Cllr Sir JFS Graham RESOLVED that nothing new to report</p> <p>Allotment Committee – Cllrs M Gunson and C Adams RESOLVED that packs are being prepared and the collection of the annual rents is due to start RESOLVED that an Allotment Committee meeting is being held on Wednesday</p> <p>Village Veg – Cllrs C Johanssen and E Jeffrey RESOLVED that Cllr. E Jeffrey is working with the volunteers to create a Valentines Day display and that previous displays have been very well received</p> <p>RESOLVED that a report from Cllr. C Johanssen was read out (<i>copy herewith</i>)</p> <p>CAP Initiative – Cllrs G Routledge and C Johanssen RESOLVED that no more information had been received and that this item is to be removed from future agendas and items raised as and when they occur</p> <p>Borderlands Project – Cllr M Gunson RESOLVED that there had been 2 meetings since the last Parish Council meeting RESOLVED that the Community Centre plans are to take place first with the A7 being looked at afterwards RESOLVED that there is strong opposition to close the road by the memorial RESOLVED that Cllr. M Gunson has raised concerns regarding the parking plans</p> <p>Borderlands Project – Community Representative Cllr C Johanssen RESOLVED that Cllr. C Johanssen had also attended the meetings and that the Community Centre is at the heart of the town RESOLVED that an update had been sent to Councillors via email</p>
162/26	<p>SID's To receive a report regarding installation</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Clerk/RFO to contact Keiron from Highways regarding siting of SID on Moor Road before the school</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Clerk had contacted J Minns MP regarding the siting of the remaining SID's and no response had been received to date</p>
163/26	<p>Brampton & Longtown ICC (Integrated Care Community) – Cllr. C Johanssen To receive an update from Cllr. C Johanssen</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cllr. C Johanssen read out a report (<i>copy herewith</i>)</p>
164/26	<p>Play Areas – Cllr. C Johanssen To receive a report from Cllr. C Johanssen</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cllr. C Johanssen read out a report (<i>copy herewith</i>)</p>

165/26	<p>Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) – Cllrs. C Johanssen & C Adams To receive an update on the NPT</p> <p>RESOLVED that a report from Cllr. C Adams was read out (<i>copy herewith</i>)</p>
166/26	<p>Nature Recovery – Cllr. E Jeffrey To receive a report from Cllr. E Jeffrey regarding Cumberland Nature Recovery Strategy meeting</p> <p>RESOLVED that a report from Cllr. E Jeffrey was read out (<i>copy herewith</i>) RESOLVED that Cllr. E Jeffrey to contact Eden Rivers Trust</p>
167/26	<p>Changing Rooms - Clerk To receive a report from the Clerk regarding moving the water meter (<i>copy herewith</i>)</p> <p>RESOLVED to move the water meter to inside the building and the Clerk to contact WaterPlus</p> <p>To receive a report from the Clerk regarding cleaning of the changing rooms (<i>copy herewith</i>) RESOLVED to advertise for Caretakers as soon as possible</p>
168/26	<p>A7 – Westlinton Flooding To receive a report from Cllr. G Routledge</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cllr. G Routledge had emailed Cumberland Councillor T Pickstone regarding the flooding at Westlinton and that this is covered in the above Cumberland Councillor report</p>
169/26	<p>Dolly’s Brae – Clerk To receive and agree to quotes for the removal of the hedge between the under 7’s play area and the wooden play area</p> <p>RESOLVED that the quote for £850 from S Nicholson was agreed</p>
170/26	<p>Age Friendly Community – Cllr. E Jeffrey To receive a proposal from Cllr. E Jeffrey regarding Age Friendly Community (<i>copy herewith</i>)</p> <p>RESOLVED that the proposal was agreed by the Council</p>
171/26	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>171.1 Budget / Precept 2026/2027 To agree the budget / precept for 2026/2027</p> <p>171.2 Bank Reconciliation to end of January 2026 – to receive a report from the RFO (<i>to follow</i>)</p> <p>171.3 Financial Transactions to end of January 2026 – to receive a report from the RFO (<i>to follow</i>)</p> <p>171.4 Expenditure to Approve to end of January 2026 – to receive a report from the RFO (<i>to follow</i>)</p> <p>RESOLVED that all the above were agreed</p>

<p>172/26</p>	<p>Church Grant To receive a request from the Church regarding a grant for grass cutting</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cllr. M Irving would like it noted that 6 new trees at a cost of £200 each had been planted at the churchyard and that the house in Arthuret Drive, belonging to the Church, is currently empty</p> <p>RESOLVED to grant the Church £3,500</p>
<p>173/26</p>	<p>North West Recycling Appeal To consider the correspondence from the Chair of Rockcliff Parish Council (<i>sent via email</i>)</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Parish Council want to support Rockcliffe Parish Council in their objection to the Incinerator and that the Clerk is to send a letter of objection to the Planning Inspectorate</p>
<p>174/26</p>	<p>Reports To receive and note a report from the Clerk detailing what has been worked on in December 2025 and January 2026 (<i>copy herewith</i>)</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report was received and noted</p>
<p>175/26</p>	<p>Planning (<i>circulated prior to meeting</i>) To consider the following planning applications</p> <p>App Ref: 25/0711 Proposal: Change Of Use Of Land To Extend Existing Caravan Park To Accommodate 30no. Units Location: Camelot Caravan Park, Longtown, Carlisle, CA6 5SZ</p> <p>The Parish Council agree with the Highways response that visibility splays of 215m provided in both directions and back by 2.4m to the nearside edge, and at a height of 1.05m above the carriageway. Drivers need to be able to see obstructions 2m high down to a point 600mm above the carriageway. The latter dimension is used to ensure small children can be seen.</p> <p>Within the visibility splay or sight line envelope there should be no obstructions to vision such as walls or vegetation etc within the vertical profile.</p>

Village Veggers/Bobbin Mill

What a busy few days I have had. Very positive ones though.

The Village vegger, Jacky asked me should we do Valentines Day at the raised beds. After a discussion I agreed so we are in the process of creating items for the raised beds which will possibly be in Place Thursday 5th February and will remain there approx. 2 weeks.

From that I needed some items to enable me to create some wooden crafts so I visited Rebuild.

Whilst I was there I asked do they offer anything for Community areas. They said yes and if I fill in a form I can get up to £75.

Needless to say I filled in the form and the next day I received an email confirming the acceptance and to call in to discuss.

As, I knew Jacky was free we went to Rebuild. Unfortunately, they could not provide some of the items requested. However, we could have bird boxes for the communal area. So, we were given 7 bird boxes, to assemble.

These, after a lot of carry on, have been made up and ready to be put up.

I have also been contacted by Gleasons who have offered more assistance to the Village Veggers and the Bobbin Mill Community area. I have replied to the email and we have to fill in a form which I have informed Nikki about and we have agreed for her to follow up the form filling criteria. Hopefully we will be offered something on the list we submitted.

I will inform you of any communications.

Tim Pickstone sent me an email, thanking me for the Newsletter and offered help with the Village Veggers and Bobbin Mill Community area. So, I was not sitting on that offer.

I have been to Whitesykes Garden Centre and have got a quote for 3 benches. Laurence, the Manager, recommended Mike Bell to do the bases and fittings as that is who he uses for his customers.

I phoned Mike Bell and he called at my home the next day and he is going to quote for these fittings. Mike has all the insurances etc and is a local person.

As soon as I receive this quote from Mike, I will forward these two quotes to Tim and hopefully this will be accepted.

I will inform you of any communications.

Village Veg – Cllr. C Johanssen

Community Update

Project Impact

The Village Vegger continues to be a cornerstone for the local health and wellbeing, bridging the gap between local businesses and residents through a shared interest in sustainable growing

Engagement Success

The project has hosted a series of highly successful themed displays over the recent months, fostering a strong sense of local spirit and collaboration

Growth and Future Plan

As the primary planting and growing season approaches, the project is moving into an exciting new phase with fresh fun themed displays and educational planting initiatives scheduled for the coming months

Commendations

A special recognition is given to the volunteers for their visionary leadership, creative planning and tireless dedication to the community

Recommendations

Could I ask the Parish Council to formally record its thanks to the volunteers and local businesses for the contribution to the towns aesthetic and social landscape

CAP Initiative – Cllr C Johanssen

The term CAP in context of UK Community Policing refers to 2 distinctive but related collaborative initiatives.

1. Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP)

- Focusses on reducing alcohol related harm to young people
- Collaboration: the partnerships bring together Parish and Town Councils, local Police (often neighbourhood policing teams), Trading Standards, Schools and Retailers
- Objectives: Tackling underage drinking, alcohol related anti-social behaviours and proxy purchasing (adults buying alcohol for minors)
- Local Action: Each CAP is tailored to specific areas and involve multiple local stakeholders to reduce youth disorder

2. Community Advisory Panels (CAP)

- Collaboration: these are formal groups where residents, including Parish Councillors, meet regularly with their local neighbourhood policing team
- Objectives: these panels identify and prioritise the local crime concern (speeding, anti-social behaviour, drug use, etc) for Police to focus on over the following quarter
- Governance: they are often lead by a Community Chair, and act as a crucial friend to the Police, holding them to account for results

ICC – Cllr C Johanssen

- Suggested that the ICC apply to the Parish Council for a funding grant
- I have told the ICC that the Parish Council are unable to use community volunteers for removing shrubbery on school grounds due to strict health and safety liabilities, insurance requirements and safeguarding regulations. Other reasons include lack of risk assessments for public liability and contractual obligations requiring professional contractors

Play Area Report – Cllr. C Johanssen

Summary

Health and Safety of Dolly's Brae continues to be a danger/hazard and not to be used. This area of play equipment urgently requires full removal for the safety of our community's health and wellbeing. The Crescent and Lochinvar play areas reported addressed the replacement of 4 swings, 2 in each, this also requires urgent attention to be actioned.

The play areas in use only minor aesthetic issues identified and equipment condition findings are structurally sound.

There is significant build up of algae in areas that require addressing and actioning.

Low Risk – monitor for further deterioration

Medium Risk – repair as soon as budget/contractor allows

High Risk – Immediate action for safety

Maintenance and Remedial Works

Completion of play equipment implemented and further works necessary for the long term and upcoming budgetary needs.

Procedures for Effective Action

Follow established policy – as the authorised and trained person can I ask the Chair if we have a playground and maintenance policy?

If not – as a Councillor urge the council to adopt one based on the national standards

Engage the Community

Using our Parish Council website and social media to inform the community about the importance of the checks – S106 money, how are we getting funding.

When a trained Parish Councillor carrying out weekly safety checks and is obstructed by outside influences or community members, they are effectively being prevented from fulfilling their statutory duty.

Seek Council indemnity and support

The Council as a corporate body is responsible to its members safety and legal protection while they perform their official duties.

Carlisle North and East Rural Neighbourhood Police Meeting

6pm 15th December 2025 via Teams

Present

Andrew Leather Chairman

Chris Savory, Carrie Buchanan, Craig Nicholson, Ian Blythe, Steven Higgs,
Christine Johanssen and Carol Adams

The Meet was opened with introductions and continued with a statement that:

- Antisocial and rural crime is low at the moment, but wildlife crime is prevalent.
It was noted that the antisocial behaviour was probably not reported, as it is perceived that nothing is done about it. Must encourage people to report or looks as if not problems
- In Wetheral auto speed watch cameras have been in use and they are currently analysing the data.
- There is now an automated version of the safety camera van, but on a tripod, cost about £1000 and can request the use of it.
- Also as having problem with speeding on certain road coming into Longtown can request for a traffic survey to be commissioned.
- Andrew did say that if the police thought there was a need for traffic calming measure it would be done at no cost to the parish council
- There is also £2500 funding through the Police and Crime Commissioner, Paul Jobson, but not sure if applicable for this purpose.
- Also discussed was the lack of Public Space Protection orders in Longtown.
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The Meeting Held Lakes Hotel, Penrith

Cumbria Local Nature Strategy Plan

Pre Meeting, we were encouraged to discuss with other attendees.

I was sat at a table with Representatives from:-

Forest England

United Utilities

Manager for Yorkshire Dales Nature Strategy Plan, NPA

I explained that we as a Parish Council were new to this Strategy and we needed all the help an assistance from their experience.

For the issues over Lochinvar playing field being now a boggy area because of incorrect drainage of the Burn. I was strongly advised to contact the Eden Rivers Trust first to get their assessment and advice of how to go forward. After that we should contact the Environment Agency. This issue falls under this Nature Strategy Plan.

Jody Ferguson, Cumbria Local Nature Partnership (email jodyf@cumbrianaturepartnership.org.uk) gave me her details to contact her for any assistance and advice for any issues.

Meeting Proper

This is a truly comprehensive document for Nature and a Launchpad for action.

Congratulations for this launch in Cumbria, we are facing real pressures, farming is not easy so this is the best decision The Landscape Management Scheme.

We have at the moment £500 million for nature recovery.

The Panel consists of

Cumberland Council

Lake District N.P.

Yorkshire Dales NPA

Natural England

The roadmap for action is

Bring Nature back

Cleaner rivers

Thriving wildlife.

Create woodland

Create hedgerows

Restore bog and Vally Mire

Enhance lowland
Restore and create grassland.

The Scheme must work for landowners and businesses which will ensure a plan and deliver, action on the ground, a call to action making a real change for nature and wildlife.

This document is a not to gather dust, this is to cover nature protecting our landscapes which is needed in Cumbria. This is a fabulous document and is the beginning. We need your support for nature.

This has to be done to maintain and enhance existing habitats for wildlife rich places making space for nature. Nature is more than a walk, fresh water and fresh air as we need to prevent the depletion of species which Councillors have ignored. We are failing to restore nature. Cumbria can do this by turning the page and working together.

The Mayor will lead the campaign and we all need to get on and show the Mayor our commitment and get her support.

Cumberland is one of 48 areas in England following this scheme and strategy and is for the next 3-10 years which Defra has funded.

Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy Booklet is available on line where you can zoom into areas which have a lot of data. These areas can be altered if new areas are identified. (The QR code is enclosed in this write up)

The Launch today is just the beginning and communication of this plan is important.

Information

There is a scheme where it is an objective to plant one tree per resident. If interested contact the Forestry Commission Penrith (Planting trees) Tel 03000674029 or email nwwm@forestrycommission.gov.uk

There is a problem with Himalayan Balsam which this scheme is wanting to address.

Farming and coastal issues are the Key Themes. Farning and land management is most important there are too many sheep depleting the nature. There are no grants for farmers so the Government needs to get their act together or we are losing our goals.

390 wildlife species are identified as needing assistance.

Securing long term habitat management which is including flooding.

Try to engage younger persons and join communities in community spaces.

Elizabeth Jeffrey

January, 2026

Changing Rooms

Report for moving the water meter

Currently the water meter is situated beneath a manhole cover in the middle of the road just as you turn off Mary Street



There is an obvious health and safety issue with this when the supplier requests a meter reading. The other issue being that it is too heavy for me to lift and that if it does get opened what happens if there is a problem with it not re-siting correctly.

I am also not convinced that the meter is reading correctly and that we are being overcharged. I think that this has come up as an issue in the past before I started as Clerk. A temporary meter was installed inside the building, and it is reading hardly any water is being used by the football club.

I believe that re-siting the meter to inside the changing rooms would give accurate readings and will be easily accessible to monitor. Also, this will also save us money in the long run.

Costs

Site survey - £176.09

Re-location - £670.06

TOTAL £846.15

Health and Safety and Cleaning of the Changing Rooms

All the health and safety works have now been carried out. Whilst these were in progress the cleaning was also being done. This was agreed by the Council at a meeting on 23 June 2025.

Now that the H&S is finished the cleaning and weekly flushing through of the water has now also stopped (last clean w/c 26 January 2026).

I would like to arrange a meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss the possibility of employing a caretaker(s), since no one showed any interest in the tender that was advertised.

However, the advertising and interviewing will take time and there will be no one on cleaning duty during this period.

Do you, the Councillors, have any suggestions regarding the cleaning for this period between now and employment of a caretaker?

In the email sent on 22nd from NALC titled

CENTRE FOR AGEING BETTER: FIVE WAYS PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS ARE MAKING THEIR COMMUNITIES AGE-FRIENDLY

Parish Councils and Councillors are requested to make facilities for the older persons over 50 and how we should be celebrating this and assisting in schemes for the older person which are age friendly. Some of the schemes are

- Social Car Scheme
- Pop In Cafes
- Health and wellbeing days
- Community Toilet Scheme
- Community Agents

There is a scheme that we can easily assist with and this is a Pop in Café.

If we team up with the Longtown Memorial Hall Community Centre (LMHCC) where their new Café area can be utilised for a Pop in Café for over 50's where there is free tea, coffee and biscuits.

Here there is a friendly, welcoming, warm place where there is no time limit on visiting and available all LMHCC open hours.

I propose that this could be a start of something which will help the elderly, lonely or anyone wanting to see a different four walls.

I am putting forward that if the Parish Council will provide the Tea, coffee and biscuits that the centre Staff, if agreeable will provide the service.

This proposal, encouraged by Nalc, will show that The Arthuret Parish Council is trying to help its residents.

Costs approximately:-

Tea bags 1,100 PG tea bags £27.50 from Amazon

Instant Coffee, Gold Blend 750g tin £29.49 from Amazon

Fresh milk

Sugar 6 bags £9.98 from Amazon

Biscuits Bronte Traditional Mini packs assortment 100 individual packs. £20.58 from Amazon

To begin, this would cost the Parish Council less than £100 to begin the Scheme. The cost and provision of the milk could be arranged by agreement with LMHCC

This could be advertised on our Website, Facebook page and our newsletters.

We could also provide table entertainment. Scrabble , dominoes, cards, printed quiz sheets, books or crossword magazines, **this idea is limited only by the imagination.**

If this is agreed I will approach the LMHCC to hopefully agree their participation

ARTHURET PARISH COUNCIL - DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2026/2027

PRECEPT INCREASE	6%		PROJECTED			2025-26	VARIANCE	2026-27	
	2025-26	APR-DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH	TOTAL		PROPOSED BUDGET	Comments
RECEIPTS	BUDGET	ACTUAL							
Precept	99,016.68	99,016.68				99,016.68			
Allotment Rents - £180relates to previous year		180.00			1285.00	1465.00	1465.00		As allotment rents are ring-fenced for allotment use only - not included within budget provision
Grants received		11348.25				11348.25	11348.25		
VAT claim	0.00	5475.20			1500.00	6975.20	6975.20		
Xmas Party	0.00		130.00			130.00	130.00		
Insurance Claim		4248.24				4248.24	4248.24		
Utility Refund						0.00	0.00		
Bank Interest		689.26			30.00	719.26	719.26		150.00 Interest rates to decrease - therefore lower amount to be received
Playing field/Changing room hire - How is this received?	1100.00				1100.00	1100.00	0.00		
	100,116.68	120,957.63	130.00	0.00	3,915.00	125,002.63	24,885.95		150.00

PAYMENTS	2024-25		APR-DEC			2024-25	VARIANCE	2026-27	
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	JAN	FEB	MARCH	TOTAL		PROPOSED BUDGET	Comments
Salaries	32926.08	24840.40	3080.54	2530.54	3596.54	34048.02	-1121.94	32926.08	Assumed 60p p/h inc on current SCP & NIC/pension liability for employer
Clerks Gratuity	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	No longer applicable
Cleaners Salary	1378.00	619.25				619.25	758.75	1378.00	Assumed SCP 4 with 60p per hour increase x 2 x 52 - will this cover the council rooms and changing rc
Council room rates	0.00				300.00	300.00	-300.00	0.00	Confirmed no rates on council rooms
Council Room Electric	720.00	1172.17	600.00	150.00	150.00	2072.17	-1352.17	720.00	Estimated £60 per month
Council Room Oil/Service	1200.00				1000.00	1000.00	200.00	0.00	The boiler condemned so moved to electric this will cover extra electric
Council Room Water	1000.00	707.60			351.52	1059.12	-59.12	1000.00	Estimated on current years costs but seems high
Council Room misc - no repairs to be carried out til post y/e	1000.00	5626.46				5626.46	-4626.46	1000.00	Due to replacement of heating system
Bungalow Rates	940.00	914.15				914.15	25.85	940.00	Small increase
Bungalow Electric	500.00	1296.79			300.00	1596.79	-1096.79	500.00	This was high this year as we had to have heat blowers and de humidifiers after the burst pipe
Bungalow Water	1000.00	979.51			80.00	1059.51	-59.51	1000.00	Estimated similar cost
Bungalow misc	400.00	1050.00			1079.31	2129.31	-1729.31	400.00	Provision for repairs
Stationery	500.00	471.36			242.44	713.80	-213.80	500.00	Estimated - lower than current year as we had to purchase a chair etc
Phone/Broadband	1495.80	1001.98	88.95	88.95	88.95	1268.83	226.97	1495.80	As current year - cannot get out of contract without paying a £4k penalty
Meeting room hire	0.00	172.25				172.25	-172.25	0.00	Had to use community centre due to heating issue now rectified
Sec 137	23.00				23.00	23.00	0.00	23.00	Assumed similar cost for poppy wreath
Special Projects	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	No provision - assumed any costs will be covered by grants eg VE Day 80
Petty Cash	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	No provision - any spending would be allocated to the relevant budget heading
Grant to APCC	3000.00	3000.00				3000.00	0.00	4000.00	Church have asked if we could at looking to give them more
Internal Audit Fee	150.00	160.00				160.00	-10.00	160.00	Should stay the same
External Audit Fee	420.00		631.50			631.50	-211.50	650.00	Per Moore UK audit fees for 26/27
Allotment subs and misc reps	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	No provision to come from earmarked funds
Insurance	4000.00	3713.90				3713.90	286.10	4000.00	Estimate - a full review of cover to be carried out
Information Commissioner	47.00	47.00				47.00	0.00	47.00	To stay the same
Play area inspections	300.00				284.97	284.97	15.03	300.00	Small increase
Play equipment maintenance & repairs	1000.00	180.99			600.00	780.99	219.01	1000.00	Estimate to cover all play areas - perhaps needs to be increased
Grass cutting	4500.00	1600.00	2160.00		800.00	4560.00	-60.00	12330.00	This is per tender as it was required to bring up to a better standard
Hedges & BMX track maintenance	200.00				200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	Included in above budget
Flowerbed maintenance and planting	5200.00	4743.12			400.00	5143.12	56.88	5200.00	Assumed costs will increase
Tree maintenance	3000.00	1965.00			840.00	2805.00	195.00	3000.00	Estimated £800 to cover inspection; £500 to cover maintenance and £1700 for tree contract
Riverside cleaner	5800.00	4113.00	414.00	414.00	414.00	5355.00	445.00	5800.00	Assumed increased costs to ensure correct disposal of waste
Waste bags for riverside	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	Included in above budget
Maintenance of land adj to bridge	500.00					0.00	500.00	300.00	To be confirmed re maintenance of wildflowers

CALC subscription	474.62	481.26		481.26	-6.64	481.26 Per CALC
Members - Training & mileage	250.00	53.70	250.00	303.70	-53.70	250.00 Estimate
Clerk/RFO training & mileage	300.00	98.00		98.00	202.00	300.00 Estimate
Assets	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00 Assumed purchases will come from grants
Website	650.00	430.00		430.00	220.00	450.00 Per parish online fee table
Maintenance of Assets (not play area equipment)	1000.00	721.67		721.67	278.33	1000.00 To cover maintenance & repairs of bins, seats, SIDS, noticeboards etc
Misc repairs	0.00		2000.00	2000.00	-2000.00	0.00 Should be covered by designated budget lines above
Election costs	1000.00		2000.00	2000.00	-1000.00	1000.00 Requires provision over the next 2-3 years to have an ear-marked reserve
Christmas Lights	1500.00		1650.00	1650.00	-150.00	1500.00 Will only cover the column lighting - no provision for solar powered trees
Christmas Party	2000.00		2000.00	2000.00	0.00	0.00 Per previous years budget provision
VAT	0.00	3325.15	1200.00	4525.15	-4525.15	
				0.00	0.00	
	78,374.50	63,484.71	6,974.99	3,183.49	19,850.73	93,493.92
					-15,119.42	83,651.14

Total Bank Balances at 24.12.25	55,746.89
Projected Income to 31.3.26	4,045.00
Less Projected Expenditure to 31.3.26	(30,009.21)
Projected Balance c/f @ 31.3.25	29,782.68

Balance breakdown

Allotment ear-marked balance	1,875.94	£3636.48b/f less year to date expenditure
Community Pot balance	5,014.56	
Ear marked reserves	2,000.00	Put £2k in election costs - as this needs to be there incase of election costs
General Reserves	20,892.18	Negative balance - this needs rectified
	29,782.68	

GENERAL RESERVES BALANCE

General Reserves are funds which do not have any restrictions on their use. They cushion the impact of uneven cash flows, offset budget requirements, if necessary, or can be held in case of unexpected events or emergencies. Setting the level of General Reserves should be agreed with the Annual Budget.

JPAG (March 2024 edition) advises:

The generally accepted recommendation with regard to the appropriate minimum level of a Smaller Authority's General Reserve is that this should be maintained at between three (3) and twelve (12) months Net Revenue Expenditure (NRE). NRE (subject to any planned surplus or deficit) is effectively Precept/Levy less any loan repayment and/or amounts included in Precept/Levy for Capital Projects and transfers to Earmarked Reserves. The reason for the wide range (3 to 12 months) is to cater for the variation in sizes of individual authorities. The smaller the authority the closer the figure should be to 12 months NRE, the larger the authority, the nearer to 3 months.

Community Pot FOR INFORMATION

3,405.81	Balance b/f
6614.65	Received for 202/26
(800.00)	Paid to E Mylnek for grounds mnce
(250.00)	Community Centre
(500.00)	Football Club
(100.00)	Flower show
(500.00)	Longtown school early years
(430.00)	VE day celebrations
(319.45)	Christmas party - wine/gift
(1,031.66)	Christmas party - meal
(240.00)	Christmas party - hall hire
(220.00)	Christmas party - entertainment
(480.00)	Longtown primary xmas gifts
(134.79)	Christmas party extras
5,014.56	

ARTHURET PARISH COUNCIL

APPENDIX 1

PRECEPT 2026/27

Proposed expenditure budget for 25/26	83,651.14	
Less proposed income budget for 26/27	(150.00)	
Towards a reserve balance **	15,515.54	Towards the reserves so we have a 6mth reserve of precept as per JPAG
Precept required	<u><u>99,016.68</u></u>	
Current precept	99,016.68	
Difference on above	0.00	Equates to 0% increase

NRE calculation

83,651.14	Expenditure per proposed budget
<u>(150.00)</u>	Income per proposed budget
<u>83,501.14</u>	Net revenue expenditure calculation

6,970.93 Monthly Net Revenue Expenditure (NRE) for 25/26 = Net revenue calculation of £83,651.14 divided by 12

15,515.54 NRE x 2 months - This is the minimum reserve balance per JPAG

ARTHURET PARISH COUNCIL

BANK RECONCILIATIONS AT 23rd DECEMBER 2025

BARCLAYS CURRENT ACCOUNT - 70122297

Balance b/f at 26/11/25	-79.16		
Transfers from 40479306	15,120.10	Transfers to 40479306	55,516.63
Income	55,516.63	Expenditure	16,574.56
		Balance c/f	-707.00

W/off

Waterplus 705343	76.62		
Community Centre	550.00		
Cumbria Education	200.00		
	<u>71,384.19</u>		<u>71,384.19</u>

Bank Reconciliation

Balance per statement @ 25.11.25 1,453.00

Less o/s cheques

S Nicholsc 705368 2160.00

(707.00)

BARCLAYS PREMIUM ACCOUNT - 40479306

Balance b/f at 26/11/25	57,073.11		
Transfers from 70122297	55,516.63	Transfers to 70122297	69,907.12
Income			
Interest Received	201.61		
		Balance c/f	42,884.23
	<u>112,791.35</u>		<u>112,791.35</u>

BARCLAYS GRATUITY ACCOUNT - 90167215

Balance b/f at 26/11/2025	912.94		
Interest Received	2.66		
		Balance c/f	0.00
	<u>915.60</u>		<u>0.00</u>

	<u>Balance B/F</u>	<u>Balance C/F</u>
Account -	(79.16)	(707.00)
Account -	57,073.11	42,884.23
Account -	912.94	0.00
	<u>£ 57,906.89</u>	<u>£ 57,906.89</u>

I certify that I have checked the above figures and am satisfied, to the best of my belief and knowledge, that they accurately represent the financial position of the Parish Council at the end of the year indicated.

EXPENDITURE TO APPROVE/RATIFY

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report details the expenditure to approve since the last meeting of the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the undernoted expenditure of £4,855.79 is **APPROVED**

3. REPORT

3.1 The following expenditure transactions require to be approved/ratified*:-

		net	vat	gross
Community Centre	xmas lunch room hire	240.00		240.00
Direct TanksDumfries	Removal of oil tank	250.00	50.00	300.00
Smartest Energy	Electric Bungalow	113.37	5.67	119.04
D Beattie	Riverside cleaner	414.00	48.96	414.00
Grenke	Photocopier 3 mth charge	110.70	22.14	132.84
Grenke	Equipment protection	110.00	14.19	110.00
N Rushworth wages/reimburse	Wages and xmas party	1252.56		1252.56
T Robinson	Wages	1049.35		1049.35
The Sycamore Tree	Pensioners xmas lunch	1031.66	206.34	1238.00
		<u>4571.64</u>	<u>140.96</u>	<u>4855.79</u>

Councillor signature.....

Councillor signature.....

Clerks Report – December 2025 & January 2026

Correspondence from Parishioners

Numerous emails have been dealt with

Dealing with contractors for quotes

General admin duties

Finalising the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

Council Rooms

Oil tank and boiler – The oil tank has now been removed.

Issues Reported to Relevant Authorities

Cumberland Council

Weeds and grass overgrown	Public toilets, Bank Street	01/07/2025	02-Jul-25	Enquiry reference: EI/250069
2x 1 tonne bags of stones	Public toilets, Bank Street	01/07/2025	11-Jul-25	EI/250071 - CC reported as complete - not done and reported 7 July 2025
Flytipping of Settee	Lochinvar play area	01-Aug-25		Unique Reference Number: 00337875
Street/Pathway cleaning	Esk Street, A7, Netherby Street - leaves	20-Oct-25		Reference: NH3148

Highways

Blocked drains	A6071 from Burn Street to St Michaels Drive	21/10/2025		Enquiry reference: EI/263231
Blocked drains	Netherby Road to The Peth	09/12/2025	12/12/2025	Enquiry reference: EI/272286

The following documents have also been circulated: -

Cumberland Council - FW: Parent and Carer Champion leaflets and poster

CALC - FW: Anti bullying

NALC – Events newsletter

CALC - CALC Training January - July 2026

NALC - Chief executive's bulletin - 11 December 2025

CALC - Exciting Training Opportunities for CALC Members – Jan to July 2026!

CALC - FW: Protect Where We Play - request for support

CALC - Equality and diversity training

CALC - Letter from David Wilson, CALC Cumberland Branch Chair regarding Boundary Proposals

NALC - Events newsletter

NALC - Chief executive's bulletin - 18 December 2025

CALC - FW: Family Help, Partnerships & Youth Justice | December Update

National Grid - Harker substation project newsletter: December 2025

NALC - Events newsletter

Cumberland Council - Save the Date: Community Food Growing Spring Event

CALC - CALC AGM 2025 notes and Guest Speaker presentation slides

NALC - our chair has penned an open letter to parish and town councils

Border & Fellside - Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel's Resilience Network Event - 12 February 2026

NALC – NALC Events

CALC - Weekly update - 7 January 2026

CALC - FW: Book onto Centre For Ageing Better Webinar [Zoom] - Age Friendly Communities Parish & Town Council Guide - 10:00 - 11:15, 29/1.

CALC - Procurement Thresholds FSCS and Tax January 2026,

NALC - NALC events

National Grid - Harker substation – Upcoming Supergrid Transformer (SGT) delivery
National Grid - Cross Border Connection – January 2026 update
CALC/NALC - FW: The Future of Local Democracy – Devolution and the Need to Empower Town and Parish Councils.
ICC - Longtown MUGA Jan 2026 notes and actions
CALC - Exciting Training Opportunities with Breakthrough Communications & Cloudy IT
CALC - Local Councils and Climate Action training session
Cumberland highways - North Cumberland Speed Limit Review – Request for Feedback
CALC - FW: Cumbria Local Nature Partnership News
CALC - CALC and Cumberland Health Determinants Research Collaboration Event - Wednesday 25 February 2026 at 7pm via Teams
CALC - FW: Have your say on our budget proposals for next year
NALC - Fwd: Chief executive's bulletin - 15 January 2026
CALC - Weekly update - 21 January 2026
CALC - CALC News
NALC - Chief executive's bulletin - 22 January 2026
Request for Scoping Opinion - Wyseby Hill Energy Farm - ECU00006312
Cumbria Police - Your Policing Update: Carlisle
CALC - Cumbria Community Transport Conference - 10th March, 10am - 4.00pm
CALC - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training – 2 March, 7pm
CALC - Connecting Cumbria Unveils Digital Infrastructure Strategy 2026–2030
CALC - Upcoming Training Sessions for Town and Parish Councils
CALC - CALC Vacancies: Director and Treasurer
CALC - FW: NALC Legal bulletin - 26 January 2026

Planning Notices – x 1