

Caton with Littledale Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 13th January, 2026 at 7pm at Victoria Institute, Caton

Present Cllr Boland, Cllr Carter, Cllr Gibbons, Cllr Heywood (Chair), Cllr Powell, Cllr Rei, Laura McGowan (Clerk)
City Councillor Joyce Pritchard, County Councillor Shaun Crimmins
No Members of the public

1/26 Open Forum

No discussion

2/26 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Walmsley
Cllr Wright

3/26 To consider and approve the minutes of the meetings held Tuesday 9th December 2025

It was **resolved** that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair.

Proposed by Cllr Rei

Seconded by Cllr Powell

4/26 To receive declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Carter declared an interest in any item regarding Lune Valley Community Land Trust as a member of the steering group & Caton Project Co-ordinator

Cllr Gibbons declared an interest in any item regarding the Victoria Institute as a trustee

Cllr Powell declared an interest in any item regarding Caton Primary School as a volunteer.

Cllr Rei declared an interest in any item regarding Lune Valley Community Land Trust as a trustee.

5/26 To consider planning applications and matters

No planning applications received

6/26 Accounts and finance

Payments

Cllr Walmsley (Christmas Lights Switch-on refreshments purchase)	£19.57
Npower (Un-metered electricity for Hornby Road Car Park)	£13.54

Regular Payments

Easyweb website hosting (S/O) (Dec)	£47.52
Victoria Institute (Contribution Jan)	£800.00
Victoria Institute (room hire Dec)	£24.00
Clerks Wages (Jan 2026)	£705.05
Clerk Expenses (Dec – inc VI lock)	£77.00
Bank service charge (Dec)	£6.00
O2 (Clerks Mobile Dec)	£8.00

Receipts

Bluebird Care Company (Christmas Lights Switch-on sponsorship)	£323.06
Halton Hydro Donation	£1500.00

Balance at end of Dec 2025

Unity Bank Instant Account	£58,392.88
Unity Bank Savings	<u>£10,000.00</u>
Total	£68,392.88

It was **resolved** that the payments be made.

Proposed by Cllr Powell

Seconded by Cllr Gibbons

7/26 To consider and approve the precept for 2026/2027

It was resolved that the parish council set the precept at £44,752 (Band D £39.31)

8/26 To consider approve budget for 2025/2026

The draft budget for 2026/2027 was distributed for review in advance of the meeting following discussions at the December 2025 meeting. The council **resolved** to accept the proposed budget.

9/26 To consider small grant application for Caton Primary School

It was **resolved** to agree in principle the requested £400 to Caton Primary School for the trip to France for 8 residing pupil within the Caton-with-Littledale parish at £50 per pupil. However, this application would need to be submitted in the next financial year. Clerk to inform school.

10/26 To consider the update on the Fell View playpark repair and maintenance

- To consider update on the progress of repairs

Quote for removing the sleepers £400 and removal of gate and make surface good £300. Clerk to check original quotes and analyse existing costs incurred.

- To consider latest safety report received

Clerk has been in conversations with groundsman from Halton to see if he would give an assessment on costs and perhaps quote rather than just an hourly rate.

- To consider any LEF funding update

A successful bid by Cllr Walmsley again. The forms have been completed to transfer funds. The amount awarded is £9246. Any VAT can be claimed back thus raising the amount to £12,328 by the time VAT is claimed.

Additional funding from the Wilson Fund for £1,500. Many thanks for the hard work in securing this funding.

- To consider update request for funds from Playpark Action Group

Defer to February meeting with Cllr Walmsley absence.

11/26 To consider any highways and/or footpath matters

- To consider the costs relating to SPiDs Pole

Highways have quoted a cost of £603.75 to install another pole and should traffic control be required, this would add £220.00 to the cost. It was **resolved** to instruct these works to improve safety through the village. A site inspection of correct location to be undertaken. Clerk to share what3words of proposed site location with councillors.

Proposed Cllr Rei

Seconded Cllr Boland

- To consider footpath signage quote(s) and budget

One quote £120 per sign and another for £1080 in total. Grant of £500 was received in relation to PROW.

Cllr Gibbons to update requirements to what is needed per location for accurate quotations.

- To consider complaint for accident near Moorlands 5/1/26

Noted and discussed regarding emails sent and received.

- To consider road safety barriers after Bullbeck accidents x 2 January 2026

Site visit planned for Thursday 15th January 3pm Cllr Boland and the Clerk and Cllr Crimmins to assess situation.

- To consider planter removal quote(s) at Sycamore Road

2 quotations have been received.

One for £800, One for £1240 – Clerk to ask Mark Dawson for a 3rd quote

12/26 To consider any parish management and maintenance matters

- To consider update from bench placement survey re: bus stops and shelters

This would require installation by an approved contractor to continue maintenance on the bench otherwise a contractor must have £10m public liability insurance and cover maintenance costs be met by PC. Await confirmation of contractors from County Council before proceeding. Examples of bench have been shared with them.

- To consider update on display of materials in Memorial Garden Notice Board

Cllr Powell met the 2 bursars from the primary schools and they are collaborating termly to use the display including a display inside the VI post-Remembrance Day service.

- To consider maintenance of cobbled area around the Fish Stones.
- Await Historic England. Clerk to chase.

13/26 To consider any parish management relating to Victoria Institute

- To consider drafting a new funding agreement in respect of the Victoria Institute administration grant.
- It was agreed in principle that councilors would draft a new funding arrangement with any new information arising from a paper being circulated to the VI Committee.

14/26 To consider the update and status on the Greenway

- To consider update on any works
- Cllr Powell will be meeting Tim Blythe to discuss on-going works. The windows had been cut in to the hedges and looked well.
- To consider community orchard replacement potential for vandalised tree.
- Clerk advised that these were on Roman Crescent and not the Greenway and to advise that should funds be required by Grow Caton, they could apply for a small grant to replace if required.

15/26 To consider an update on the passive housing development/Lune Valley Community Land Trust

Cllr Rei presented an update on the potential land. The housing needs survey results were being processed in a user-friendly format to encourage engagement.

16/26 To consider update on provision for young people of the parish inc. engagement Activities

No information to report.

17/26 To receive items for consideration for a future agenda and Any Other Business

- To consider councillor details on parish website.

Cllr Carter presented his resignation from the Parish Council prior to the meeting to the Clerk. The Chair and fellow Councillors thanked him for his contribution and dedication and wished him well.

Clerk to advise the Democratic Support Officer.

18/26 Date and time of the next parish council meetings

- Tuesday 10th February, 2026 – 7pm VI

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed **Date.....**