BOWNESS ON SOLWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Peter Streatfeild
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The Draft Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Bowness on Solway Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Wednesday **7th OCTOBER 2026** in The Lindow Hall, Bowness on Solway.

Present
Chair Pauline Hinks
Vice Chair James Graham
Councillors Steve Hinks, Ian Hutchinson, Annette Martin, Neil Price and John Wills
Clerk Peter Streatfeild

Three members of the public were present.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Neil Price who was recently co-opted onto the parish council.

1. **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.**

There were apologies from Councillors Anthony Graham and Marian Carruthers. No reasons were given for their absence.
Councillor Harrington was absent.
There were no declarations of interest.

2. **To suspend the Standing Orders for this meeting only.**

It was agreed unanimously that the standing orders be suspended for the meeting.

3.1. **To Review and Acceptance of the Code of Conduct.**

The Chair explained the reason for calling the Extraordinary Meeting was the fact that there has been and is much conflict within the parish council which is totally unacceptable hence the review of the Code of Conduct. After some discussion it was decided unanimously that the code was important, and it was accepted without amendment. Furthermore, everyone agreed to sign the Councillor's Statement of Assurance confirming that they will:

- Adopt the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- Behave respectfully towards others, including those they disagree with.
- Uphold the values identified in the council's Code of Conduct.
- Attend training required by the council as part of their role as councillors.

The Councillor's Statement of Assurance was signed by the following Councillors:
Councillors Pauline Hinks (Chair), James Graham (Vice Chair), Steve Hinks, Ian Hutchinson, Annette Martin, Neil Price and John Wills.
The three absent Councillors will be invited to sign the Councillor's Statement of Assurance when they next attend a parish council meeting.

3.2. **Council Conduct and Behaviour.**

Continuing with the topic of conflict within the parish council the Chair reiterated that the problem had escalated after the July meeting when the Council appointed a contractor to pollard two ash trees in Glasson Play Park for safety reasons. The decision to pollard the trees had been taken and minuted at the March meeting. It had come to a head when Councillors Marian Carruthers, Anthony Graham and John Harrington had signed an undated petition strongly opposing the parish council's decision to pollard the ash tree growing on the route of the Vallum and playpark in Glasson. Furthermore, it was reported that last month 14th September two of the three councillors prevented the tree surgeon from carrying out his duties safely which resulted in him walking away before completing

the assigned works. The contractor wrote and reported that he felt uncomfortable after some of the arguments and attacks directed at him for doing the job!

After a long discussion Councillor Ian Hutchinson **proposed a vote of no confidence** in Councillors Marian Carruthers, Anthony Graham and John Harrington for bringing the parish council into disrepute and trying to overturn a democratic decision by their unacceptable behaviour and actions. Councillor Neil Price **seconded** the motion which was **approved unanimously** by the other five councillors.

4. **Ratification of Recent Actions Taken**

On hearing about the stoppage at Glasson Play Park, the Clerk reported that he had approached M/s Ian Hunter who had agreed to complete the works for £1,000.00. After consulting the Chair and the Vice Chair it was agreed that M/s Hunter be requested to finish the pollarding of the two trees in Glasson.

The Chair proposed that the Actions taken by the officers be ratified and it was **unanimously approved.**

4. **To note the date of the next meeting.**

The Chair noted that the next meeting will be at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 14th October 2026, in a week's time, in The Lindow Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was brought to a close at 8.30pm.