

Minutes of the Club Council Meeting

Monday 15th December 2025 at 18.00 in the Blencathra Room

	Present: Les Balmer (Chair) (LB), Chris Malpas (President) (CM) Club Captain Mike Davidson (MD), Ladies Captain Pat Varty (PV), Club Vice Captain Steve Ingram (SI), Club Manager Tim Dykes (TD), Gavin Oliver (GO), Stephen Johnson (SJ), Derek Furness (DF), Kelvin Dixon (KD) Joan Armstrong (JA),	ACTION
1.	Apologies Richard Hellon	
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting The minutes were circulated to all attendees of the Council meeting held on 24 th November and were agreed as a true record of the meeting and sent for publication on Monday 8 th December 2025.	
3.	LB opened the meeting by congratulating Chris Malpas on being elected to the position of Club President, and he welcomed him to his first Council meeting. LB went on to congratulate everyone for being re-elected to the Council, and he also congratulated JA on being elected as Council Member No.1 following the end of her term of president.	
4.	LB explained that this meeting had been called firstly to address any relevant issues following our 2025 AGM, and secondly to agree a strategy for moving forward following the recent membership vote in favour of progressing to "Stage 2" of the process regarding the possible sale of some of our surplus land. Any "Matters Arising" from the Council meeting held on 24 th November 2025 are deferred until the next Council Meeting on 26 th January 2026.	
5.	AGM LB said that following the AGM the only matter requiring action from the Club Council was to consider the co-option of two members to the Council to fill the vacant roles of Comms/IT Chair and Council Member No.3. LB went on to say that following the AGM our retiring Captain Chris Rebanks (CR) had volunteered to be co-opted back to the Council in one of the vacant positions, and following a discussion LB proposed that CR be co-opted to the Council, this was seconded by MD and when put to a vote the proposal was carried unanimously. LB agreed to contact CR to confirm his co-option to the Council for a period of one year. A discussion was then held regarding the second vacant position and it was generally felt that in order to improve diversity on the Council it would be ideal if we could identify a suitable lady member who would be willing to serve on the Council, and following that discussion JA suggested that Lesley Dobinson (LD) was someone who she thought would be an ideal Council member. It was therefore agreed that LB and PV would meet with LD and report back to the Council. PV was also asked to think of other suitable candidates from the lady's section should LD not wish to join the Council.	LB LB/PV

	<p><i>Post Meeting Note: LB & PV had a meeting with LD and after giving thought to the matter LD confirmed that she would like to accept a position on the Council as a co-opted member for a period on twelve months.</i></p> <p>A discussion regarding the composition of the Golf and Greens Committee's then took place, and in the case of the Golf Committee DF said that he was quite happy with committee members that he already had (including existing co-opted members), so no changes were necessary.</p> <p>GO said that ideally, he would like the membership of the Course Committee to be more diverse and he would like to have both the ladies and senior sections represented on the committee. A number of names were suggested and GO will consider further. Additionally, PV will also see if she can identify a member from the ladies' section who would be willing to put their name forward for consideration.</p>	GO/PV
6.	<p>Stage 2 – Possible Sale of Some of Our Surplus Land</p> <p>LB first of all confirmed that the result of the recent membership “electronic vote” was 206 members in favour, 173 members against, and 8 abstentions.</p> <p>Following the result, it is therefore incumbent on the Council to move forward with “Stage 2” of the process.</p> <p>SI said that to move forward we should form two steering groups, one group should co-ordinate with the external consultant and the interested developers, and the second group should be charged with the development of an ongoing vision and strategy for the club, and whilst this should be based on the possibility of a substantial financial gain being achieved following the possible sale of some land, the vision and strategy should also be retained for the future development of PGC even if the membership decline to proceed with the sale of some land.</p> <p>Following a discussion, it was agreed that LB/MD/SI would form the “Consultants/Developers Group” and JA would head-up the “Vision & Strategy Group” assisted by the Chairs of House & Course. It was further agreed that both of these groups could where required co-opt additional members from the general club membership.</p> <p>LB said that in addition to these steering groups SJ in his role of Finance Manager should seek external advice on the creation of an investment fund to securely ringfence an appropriate and substantial amount of any income gained from the possible sale of some land.</p> <p>MD proposed that we should now proceed with the appointment of an external consultant and his recommendation would be to appoint Edwin Thompson to act on our behalf, as not only were they the consultant who had proposed the “No Sale - No Fee” arrangement, but in this personal experience they were also very professional and would be ideally suited to act for us. MD’s proposal was seconded by SI and when put to a vote the proposal received unanimous approval.</p> <p>It was agreed that MD would notify Edwin Thompson of their appointment, and once all terms have been notified and agreed he will then notify the remaining consultants that they have not been successful.</p>	LB/MD/SI JA/GO/RH SJ MD

	<p>LB said that following the confirmed appointment of Edwin Thompson then he would write to all the interested developers with an update.</p> <p>MD said that we should also try to seek advice and guidance from any golf clubs similar to ours who had gone through the same process of the disposal of some land for development purposes. A number of ideas of who to contact were made and these suggestions will be progressed.</p>	LB All
7.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) LB gave everyone a copy of the proposed meeting dates for 2026. b) LB said that in the interests of continuity and efficiency he would like to re-appoint Carol Slinger as our Minutes Secretary, assuming she wished to continue in the role. This was agreed and LB will speak to Carol. c) SJ said that the House Committee had asked for permission to refurbish the snooker room, function room toilets and gent's locker room with a budget of £2,300. KD proposed approval, this was seconded by JA and when put to a vote approval was unanimous. d) DF said that it had been brought to his attention by a non-member visiting the club for Sunday lunch that the acoustics in the 1890 lounge were very poor, and in addition they had expected to have been sitting in the Dining Room where they could have enjoyed views of the Lakeland fells. GO said that on days when Sunday lunches were being served in the 1890 room rather than the dining room then it was difficult for any member who wanted to sit in the 1890 bar. It was agreed to raise these points with the House committee. 	LB RH LB/RH
8.	Meeting closed at 19.30hrs	
9.	Date of Next Meeting – Monday 26 th January 2026 in the Blencathra Room	