

CROSTHWAITE AND LYTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Monday 02 February 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Room, Crosthwaite

Present: Cllrs A. Dobson (Chair), G. Harnby, E. Sharp, H. Young

In Attendance: Cllr. S. Bavin (Westmorland & Furness Council), Martin Curry (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

Note: Reference to the Parish Council may be shortened to the 'PC' in these Minutes.

134/25 Apologies: Apologies submitted by Cllrs. Atkinson, Perry and Mr M R Richardson (RFO) were received and reasons for absence were accepted and noted. Councillors offered congratulations to Cllr Perry and family on the birth of his daughter.

135/25 Previous Minutes: It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 01 December 2025 be signed by the Chair as a true record.

136/25 Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Sharp declared an interest in Item 11(a): Approval of new rents

137/25 Requests for Dispensation: No Requests for Dispensation had been submitted.

138/25 Chair's Announcements: No announcements were made from the Chair

139/25 Public Participation: Two members of the public spoke in favour of speed limit zones for the village and asked for an update on the process. The Chair confirmed that the PC feels strongly about this matter and that Cllr. Perry is leading on this. Cllr. Bavin said that it is normally for the PC to propose a scheme for consideration by Highways, and it was confirmed that a report from Cllr Perry had been submitted. This contains proposals for 30 and 20-m.p.h zones from the Smithy through to Starthwaite including Mill Lane and Moss Side Lane. Cllr Bavin reported that this was being assessed by Highways though this may take some time. In the meantime, he is looking for funding though usually such schemes are funded by the Parish Council.

It was **Agreed** that Cllr Perry's Report should go on the PC website and be publicised through the Parish Magazine and at the Annual Parish Meeting.

140/25 Reports:

- a) **Reports from Councillors attending meetings:** Cllr. Dobson reported that the joint meeting of neighbouring Parish Councils which was due to be held on 15th January had been postponed and will be re-scheduled.
- b) **Westmorland & Furness Council (W&FC):** Cllr. Bavin reported as follows:
 - i) **Funding Settlement:** In mid-December, W&FC had received provisional notice of its Funding Settlement from central-Government. It presented significant financial challenges, and the Council has had no choice but to recommend the implementation or increase in charges in several service areas. Recommendations have yet to be approved but currently include:
 - A 4.99% increase in the Council's share of Council Tax
 - A new annual charge of £60 per bin for garden waste collections - only applicable to residents who choose to use the service.
 - An increase in car park charges of 10%.It is also likely that there will be a reduction in the grants available for local initiatives.
 - ii) **Potholes:** With the amount of rain and cold conditions, potholes are prevalent once again. Cllr Bavin urged all to report potholes via the HIAMS system.
 - iii) A funding package has been secured for improvements to the A5074 for the 2026-27 year. Cllr Bavin is lobbying for improvements to smaller lanes in the Parish.
 - iv) Improvements to roadside drainage beyond Starthwaite are scheduled for the period 02-13 March but the junction of Oak Lane with the road opposite the Argles Memorial Hall has not yet been addressed. He will push for attention to the latter.
 - v) **Road gritting:** several parish councils are working together to create a joint fund to cover additional costs of gritting by Highways. He will report back with further details of how Crosthwaite and Lyth might participate should it wish to do so.
 - vi) Concerns about the parking of trailers on the A5074 lay-by near Gilpin Bridge have increased with some pollution noted. The authorities are in touch with the owners about this and Cllr. Young continues to liaise with them.
 - vii) United Utilities have confirmed that proposed investment in the water supply will include an upgrade of the existing pipes in the Valley.

c) **Police:** There was nothing to report from Cumbria Constabulary.

141/25 Planning (ACON = Approved with Conditions)

a) **Applications Received:** The following planning applications (and, where applicable, decisions) received and circulated since the last meeting were noted:

- i) 7/2025/5652: **Fox Fell, 5, Starnthwaite Ghyll Cottages** – Detached garage, associated groundworks. Not circulated by oversight. **ACON** 13/01/2026
- ii) T/2025/0223: **Cragg Howe, Lyth, Kendal, LA8 8DF** – Halo thinning around veteran trees etc. Forwarded 11/12/2025. No response submitted. **ACON** 23/01/2026
- iii) 7/2025/5676: **Ghyll Head Farm, Crosthwaite LA8 8JB** - Conversion of remaining section of barn – no objection submitted to the first stage previously approved. Forwarded 11/12/2025. No response submitted. Application still being considered.
- iv) 7/2025/5670: **Witherslack Lodge, Witherslack LA11 6SJ** – Replacement of septic tank & treatment plant. Forwarded 11/12/2025. No objection. Application still being considered.
- v) 7/2025/5264: **Plum Tree Cottage, Lyth LA8 8DD – Appeal** against refusal of consent for change of use of land to a garden (refused 14/08/2025). No Objection submitted on 10/07/25 subject to conditions. It was **Agreed** to submit the original response to the Inspector by the deadline of 19/02/2026.

b) **Applications Received since publishing the Agenda:** No new applications had been received.

c) **Responses:** The following responses had been submitted:

- i) 7/2025/5463: **Field near Broadoak LA8 8JL** – Amendments to previous application: change of siting of field shelter for two ponies. **No Objection** submitted 03/12/2025. **ACON** 09/12/2025
- ii) 7/2025/5624: **5, Starnthwaite Ghyll Cottages, Fox Fell LA8 8HZ** – Erection of porch to existing dwelling with permitted development rights. **No Objection** submitted 03/12/2025 **ACON** 10/12/2025

d) **Decisions notified:** The following decisions (not referred to above) on planning applications received since the last meeting were noted:

- i) T/2025/0194: **Old School, The Howe, Lyth LA8 8DF** – Application to fell 30 ash trees with die-back. Neutral response submitted 13/11/2025 with observations. **ACON** 03/12/2025

e) **Other Planning Matters**

- i) Schedule of Developments: The Clerk had circulated a Schedule of Developments potentially without planning consent. The only updates were as follows:
 - Highways Ref: EI/264793 – Posts on verge at Mirk Howe: It was noted that the posts have been replaced with small boulders. It is unlikely that there can be any further action on this.
 - Field, west side of the A5074: Previous report to LDNPA acknowledged but no Case No. yet allocated. There is now a static caravan on site, and it was **Agreed** to submit a further report.

142/25 Highways and Footpaths

a) **Highways matters:** There were no other matters to add to Cllr Bavin's earlier Report.

b) **Speed Reduction Project:** There were no further comments to add to the discussion recorded at Minute 139/25.

c) **Public Transport:** Councillors noted a letter in the Sunday Telegraph on 07/12/2025 from a local resident referencing the lack of public transport in the area. Cllr Harnby had forwarded this to Two Valleys News to gauge evidence of demand. Cllr. Bavin reported that funding had been secured for a service through Crook but the weight limit on the A591 bridges is currently a constraint for a proposed Crosthwaite service.

143/25 Trees, Woods and Hedges: The following matters were noted:

a) **Trees and Woods:**

- i) Orchard, Jubilee Wood: The Clerk reported that following meetings with Saskia Harnby, Graham Nicholson (W&FC Principal Arboricultural Officer)) and Jane Davies he had concluded that considerable management of the site was required for its own sake and in order for it to take orchard trees. As a result, he had requested an extension of the deadline for completion of the Orchard to 31 March 2027, and this had been granted. Councillors **Agreed** this course of action and that it was now essential to put a Management Plan in place. The Clerk will circulate an email to agree a date for a site meeting of interested parties. 20 tree guards have been secured by Cllr. Young and this was noted with thanks. More might be available if required.
- ii) Lyth Valley Damsons – Reviving Plum Sunday: Cllr. Harnby's initial call for support has received a number of positive responses but was not yet conclusive enough to establish a working party or commit to an event in 2027. Further exploration of this idea will continue. It was also suggested that the profile of the Valley and awareness of its unique damson heritage could be achieved by roadside 'Welcome' signs on the A5074. It was acknowledged that Highways consent would be required, based on location

and design. Councillors **Agreed** to investigate this initiative further and Cllr Harnby will look for suitable designs and costs.

- b) **Hedges and Grass:** The Chair and Clerk had met on 19 January and agreed the sections of roadside verges and hedgerows that should be attended to by the PC. The sections identified will be transferred to a definitive map on Parish Online.

144/25 Parish Land

- a) **Rents:** Cllr. Sharp declared an interest in this item as a tenant of the PC and did not participate in the formal decision making. A rent review had been circulated by the Clerk. The outcomes were based on estimated rental values for property and location but primarily on the inflationary trend since individual rents were initially set. In general terms most rents would increase by 100% subject to review every 2 years. The proposals were **Approved** and the Clerk will write to tenants individually to advise them of the outcome.
- b) **Leases:** The revised lease format as previously circulated was **Approved**. A draft had been circulated to tenants and there had been no adverse reaction. The tenant of Ulverston Road Quarry had advised that he wished to terminate his lease, but this was not as a result of a reaction to the updated lease.
- c) **Maintenance of Parish Assets** The preparation of a condition review and maintenance schedule remains work in progress. Window painting and a boon day at the Parish Room would be organised for the Spring. It was noted that the encroaching cotoneaster on the path had been trimmed as requested and thanks were expressed to the Church for arranging for this.
- d) **Managing Assets Training Course:** The Clerk's attendance on this CALC course was **Approved**

145/25 Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council Strategic Plan:

- a) **Neighbourhood Plan:** The Clerk continues to seek possible sources of funding to complete the Plan, but with no success to date. As a result, the Plan is formally on hold until such time as financial resources enable it to be completed.
- b) **Strategic Plan:** Following an informal Working Group meeting of Councillors on 19 January initial amendments to the original draft were agreed and Version 2 had been circulated. The Clerk explained the structure of the document and Councillors were requested to review the framework and contents for any further amendments to be made. The draft V3 would then be approved at the March meeting before public consultation. This would include publication as a draft on the website and in other ways with the facility for comment. It would also be publicised at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.
- c) **Joint Meeting of Parish Councils:** Already reported as postponed at 140/25(a) (Reports) above.

146/25 Finance: The Clerk gave the following report prepared by the RFO:

- a) Receipts: Councillors noted that there had been no receipts, other than investment income, since the last meeting.
- b) Receipts since publishing the agenda: None
- c) Npower payments: Councillors noted and **Approved** the following payments:
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|--------------------|---------|
| i) November 2025: | £ 55.76 |
| ii) December 2025: | £ 51.75 |
- d) Payments:
- The following payments made between meetings were **Approved**:
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|---|----------|
| i) M R Curry - Salary and expenses December 2025: | £ 480.72 |
| ii) M R Richardson – Salary, part overtime and expenses October to December 2025: | £ 976.58 |
| iii) HMRC – PAYE & NIC on above salaries: | £ 347.22 |
- The following payments due were **Approved**:
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|---|----------|
| iv) M R Curry – Salary and expenses January 2026: | £ 472.97 |
| v) HMRC – PAYE & NIC on above salary: | £ 130.02 |
| vi) Parish Online – Annual subscription: | £ 57.60 |
- e) Payments due since publishing the Agenda: None
- f) Councillors noted the bank balance of £24,060.86 at 31 December 2025 and authorised the Chair to countersign the bank statement.

147/25 Governance:

- a) **Assertion 10:** The Clerk reported that compliance with Assertion 10 is nearing completion and summarised as follows:
- Website Upgrade to WCAG2.2AA accessibility standards: Completed by A2A including an Accessibility Statement.
 - Migrate all email accounts to a council-owned domain: New email addresses have been circulated and Councillors requested to complete the formalities to activate.
 - GDPR and ICO requirements are completed.

iv) The Transparency Code and approved IT Policy have been uploaded to the website.

b) Freedom of Information Policy: Councillors **Approved** the draft Freedom of Information Policy and this will now be uploaded to the website

c) Community Governance Review: Phase 1 of the CGR has been completed and recommendations published. No changes in either the number of Councillors or Parish boundaries are proposed for Crosthwaite and Lyth.

148/25 Correspondence:

a) Updates from CALC and other Agencies: Routine updates had been circulated as appropriate.

b) Specific items of correspondence: The Clerk had circulated a Schedule of Correspondence received which excluded any matters dealt with on the Agenda. The following were of note:

i) CALC 19/01/2026: Advice of Royal Garden Party: Nominations by 11 February. No proposals were made

ii) CLEAN 19/01/2026: Expressing willingness to work with PC on environmental matters

c) No further correspondence had been received since publishing the Agenda.

149/25 Items 'for Information' No matters were raised.

150/25 Councillors' Issues to be Raised: No additional issues were raised.

Date of the next meeting: It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 02/03/2026

The meeting finished at 9.14 p.m.

Signed as a correct record:

(Chair)

Date: