

# CROSTHWAITE AND LYTH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Monday 10 February 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Room, Crosthwaite

**Present:** Cllrs A. Dobson (Chair), D. Atkinson, J. Perry

**In Attendance:** Cllr. S. Bavin (Westmorland & Furness Co.), Martin Curry (Clerk) and Malcolm Richardson (Responsible Finance Officer - RFO).

**135/24 Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Harnby, Sharp and Young

**136/24 Minutes of the meeting held on 02 December 2024:** Following agreement that the name Moss Lane be altered to Moss Side Lane at item 12424(b)viii, it was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 02 December 2024 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**137/24 Declarations of Interest:** No Declarations of Interest had been received.

**138/24 Requests for Dispensation:** No Requests for Dispensation had been submitted.

**139/24 Chair's Announcements:** There were no announcements from the Chair.

**140/24 Public Participation:** No issues were raised from the floor as no members of the public were present.

### 141/24 Reports:

**a) Meetings Attended by Councillors:** There had been no meetings attended by Councillors.

**b) Westmorland & Furness Council (W&FC):** Cllr. Bavin reported as follows:

- i) Bridge Closures: Brigsteer Bridge had been reopened to pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and motorised traffic with a 3-tonne weight limit on 31 January. Final clearance for the Underbarrow Bridge to re-open is hoped to be confirmed soon. Efforts are now being made to agree a longer-term solution for both, including discussion at Government level for funding commitments though this will take several years to secure.
- ii) Road works at Starthwaite are progressing and near completion. Further work is required on drainage issues. A complaint regarding anti-social behaviour linked to these works has been picked up by Cllr Bavin and referred to the contractors.
- iii) The installation of average speed cameras on the A590 is ongoing (currently between Brettagh Holt and Junction 36 of the M6). Occasional lane restrictions are imposed but the road remains open. There is no new update on larger scale road improvements.
- iv) Work on the A5074 is ongoing but many potholes remain to be treated. Possible work on the narrow section remains to be confirmed.
- v) The Lynster Farmers Group is looking to improve water flow in the River Winster, including outlet works within the Kent estuary. There is a consultation on this to be found on the Marine Management Organisation website at:  
<https://marinelicensing.marinemanagement.org.uk/mmofox5/fox/live/>  
- Case Reference: MLA/2024/00438.  
The Parish Council expressed itself as supportive of the scheme.
- vi) Waste collections appear to be working satisfactorily though a missed collection recently at the Argles Hall was noted.
- vii) Cllr. Bavin confirmed that he will provide support for the annual litter pick when details are confirmed.
- viii) The RFO referred to W&FC's initiative on footway lighting whereby it is offering to take over footway lights owned by Parish Councils. He has raised concerns that this will result in a financial disadvantage to those Parish Councils that don't have footway lighting, such as Crosthwaite and Lyth and had made this point at a webinar on 10 January. He has made the point direct to the Assistant Director of Finance but has yet to receive a response.

**c) Police:** Cumbria Constabulary has acknowledged that it does not have the capacity to enable PCSOs to attend Parish Council meetings on a regular basis except in the most exceptional circumstances. It does however wish to maintain its liaison with local communities and has launched its Neighbourhood Policing Pledge. This includes a commitment to host twice yearly virtual meetings with Parish Councils and has requested up to two nominations from each Parish Council. The Chair confirmed her willingness to attend, and a second representative will be identified and confirmed in due course. On more general matters, there was no specific report from the police other than items in the regular Newsletters that have been circulated.

## 142/24 Planning

- a) **Applications received:** Councillors noted the following planning applications received from LDNPA and circulated to Members of the Council since the last meeting:
  - i) **07/2024/5683: Broad Oak Farm, Crosthwaite LA8 8JL** – Application for change of use from agricultural to equestrian. Circulated 20/12/2024. Insufficient responses received: no comment submitted
  - ii) **7/2024/5724: Low Cartmel Fold Barn** – Proposed kitchen extension and vehicle access. Email responses received: **No Objection** submitted 27/01/2025 with observation that contractors' vehicles must not block the access lane to other properties. Decision pending.
- b) **Applications received since publishing the Agenda:** Councillors noted that no applications had been received since publishing the Agenda.
- c) **Responses submitted:** Councillors noted that with the exception of 7/2024/5724: Low Cartmel Fold Barn (see 142/24(a)ii above), no responses had been submitted to LDNPA since the date of the last meeting.
- d) **Decisions:** Councillors noted decisions on the following planning applications since the last meeting:
  - i) **7/2023/5683: The Lodge, Witherslack** – conversion of agricultural building to 4 dwellings for local occupancy. **No Objection submitted 15/12/2023. ACON 23/12/2024.**
- e) **Other Planning Matters:**
  - i) **Schedule of Developments:** The Clerk reported that there were no new additions to the Schedule and no updates to current cases. A potential new issue in the Lyth Valley was mentioned for follow-up.
  - ii) **4, Oak Fold, Crosthwaite:** The Clerk had requested an update on this case (Enforcement Reference E/2024/0041). The Chair undertook to speak direct to a planning officer on this.

## 143/24 Highways and Footpaths

- a) **Highways Matters not raised in the report from Cllr. Bavin:** No additional highways matters were raised.
- b) **Grass cutting, Footpaths and Tracks Matters:** Cllr. Perry confirmed that all footpaths had been attended to and were passable. Watery Lane was impassible, and some gullies were blocked but these are Highways issues and would be reported on HIAMS. Cllr. Bavin asked if he might receive copies of all HIAMS reports.

## 144/24 Trees, Woods and Hedges: The following matters were noted:

- a) **Hedge Cutting:** It was believed that all hedges have been attended to. The hedge on the roadside towards Jubilee Wood (Highways) is not looking in good condition and in need of laying. Cllr. Bavin noted this.
- b) **Oak Tree opposite Oak Fold:** This has now been pollarded.
- c) It was noted that W&FC has launched a Community Tree and Hedgerow Planting Grant Scheme with applications for grant to be submitted by 10 March. Consideration would be given to an application in the interim and discussed at the meeting on 03 March.

## 145/24 Parish Land

- a) **Letting of Vacant Parish Land:** Hubbersty Head remains untenanted, and it was suggested that this property might be better retained in-hand by the Parish Council for community enjoyment. The possible presence of asbestos remains to be confirmed and dealt with. Otherwise, all other letting properties were tenanted and with one exception rents were up to date. The RFO will send a further reminder for the outstanding rent.
- b) **Parish Property:** The Clerk reported on good progress with the addition of parish land to Parish Online. Photos, leases and changes to HMLR documentation are being added.
- c) **Inspection of Parish Land:** It was **Agreed** that the Parish Council will make an inspection of its properties in 2025, and a date will be confirmed at a subsequent meeting.
- d) **Noticeboard at the Old Post Office:** The Chair confirmed that the new noticeboard had been delivered to her. Cllr Atkinson will contact Andrew Metcalfe with a request to install.
- e) **Wi-Fi in the Parish Room** – It was **Agreed** to pursue this facility to increase the effectiveness of the Parish Room as a 'warm room' as part of the Emergency Plan. The Chair will check on options with Broadband for the Rural North (B4RN).
- f) **Generator for the Parish Room:** The Clerk confirmed that the text for an application for funding to ENWL under their Storm Arwen Community Resilience Fund was complete but that technical specifications for and costs of an appropriate generator were required. The Chair undertook to try to source these. The RFO noted that if successful, grant finding might take Parish Council income over the £25,000 threshold and require a more detailed audit at additional cost.

**g) Storage Space in the Parish Room:** The Landowners of Crosthwaite and Lyth had submitted a written enquiry as to whether there was any storage capacity for archive documents in the Parish Room as their current arrangement was terminating. The Parish Council was sympathetic to this request and the Chair undertook to meet with Martin Casson in the Parish Room to discuss what might be available.

**146/24 Neighbourhood Plan:** The Clerk reported that all the responses from the Parish Council agreed at a meeting on 13 January had been sent to Louise Kirkup (LK) and incorporated in a revised Draft V7. This had not been circulated yet pending the return of maps identifying Safeguarded Land and Green Spaces. It was suggested that the former might be removed from the plan pending liaison with owners. This remains work in progress but was nearing completion, together with the explanatory table. LK's advice that that the Draft go to informal consultation was noted and **Agreed**. A tentative timescale of late March / early April was proposed, and it was noted that this would require publicity to include flyers and bookings of the Argles Memorial Hall for public sessions. Dates are to be confirmed and further advice on process will be sought from LK, to include a Teams meeting with her before the event(s). The local Design Code has been sent to LDNPA for comment.

**147/24 The Annual Parish Meeting:** Provisional dates for the 2025 meeting were discussed and will be confirmed. The Chair will do a report of the Parish Council year, and the Clerk will publicise and ask village organisations to offer presentations or reports on their recent activities.

**148/24 Environmental Initiatives:**

- a) Annual Litter Pick:** The Parish Council were pleased to accept the offer from Mary Harkness to coordinate the annual litter pick once more with support from Cllr. Perry. Cllr. Bavin has offered his support. An advert had been placed in Two Valley News promoting the event for the end of March and asking for volunteers.
- b) Community Orchard:** Efforts to source funding continue.
- c) Other Environmental Initiatives:** Councillors had noted the circulation of various updates in environmental initiatives by CALC and W&FC. The Chair reported that CLEAN continues to be active with involvement in several events and initiatives.

**149/24 Finance:** The RFO reported as follows:

- a) Receipts:** Councillors noted the following receipt (other than investment income) since the last meeting: Rent received: £ 15.00
- b)** There had been no receipts since publishing the agenda.
- c) Npower Payments:** Councillors noted the following Npower payments for November and December 2024 which were:
  - i) November: £ 48.10
  - ii) December: £ 41.70
- d) Payments made between Meetings:** The following payments made between meetings were **Approved:**
  - i) M R Curry – Salary and Expenses December 2024: £ 450.97
  - ii) M R Richardson – Salary and expenses October - December 2024: £ 582.00
  - iii) HMRC – PAYE on above salaries: £ 215.00
- e) Payments to Approve:** Councillors **Approved** the following payments:
  - i) M R Curry – Salary and Expenses January 2025: £ 450.97
  - ii) HMRC - PAYE on above salary: £ 103.80
  - iii) CALC – Chair training: £ 104.00
  - iv) A2A Advertising Ltd – Annual Web hosting: £ 90.00
  - v) Parish Online – Annual subscription: £ 57.60
- f)** There were no payments to approve since publishing the agenda
- g)** Councillors noted the bank balance at 31 January 2025 as £28,607.88p and the Chair was authorised to counter-sign the bank statement.

**150/24 Correspondence:**

- a) Updates from CALC and other Agencies:** Councillors noted that these had been circulated as appropriate.
- b) Specific items of correspondence:** No specific items of correspondence, other than those raised during the meeting, were reported.
- c) Correspondence received since publishing the Agenda:** No additional correspondence had been received since publishing the Agenda.

**151/24 Items 'for Information':** Councillors noted that Cumbria has been allocated 1 pair of tickets for the Royal Garden Party on 7 May 2025 via CALC and bids are requested before the deadline of 14 February.

**152/24 Councillors' Issues to be Raised:** Other than matters raised during the meeting, no other Councillors' issues were raised.

**Date of the Next Meeting:** It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 03 March 2025**

The meeting finished at 9.23 p.m.

**Signed as a correct record:**

**Date:**