

CROSTHWAITE AND LYTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

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

Present: Cllrs A. Dobson (Chair), D. Atkinson, J. Perry, E. Sharp, H. Young

In Attendance: Cllr. S. Bavin (Westmorland & Furness Council), Martin Curry (Clerk). No members of the public were present.

Note: Reference to the Parish Council may be shortened to the 'PC' and Westmorland and Furness Council to 'W&FC' in these Minutes.

151/25 Apologies: Apologies submitted by G. Harnby were received and reasons for absence were accepted and noted. Mr M R Richardson (RFO) had indicated that there was nothing substantive on finance that required his attendance.

152/25 Previous Minutes: It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 02 February 2026 be signed by the Chair as a true record.

153/25 Declarations of Interest: No declarations of interest were offered.

154/25 Requests for Dispensation: No Requests for Dispensation had been submitted.

155/25 Chair's Announcements: The Chair advised members that a generator was to be acquired by the Argles Memorial Hall for use as part of the local Emergency Plan. A quote for installation had been agreed, and it was anticipated that installation would be done in the late Spring / Summer.

156/25 Public Participation: No members of the public were present.

157/25 Reports:

a) Reports from Councillors attending meetings: No Councillors had attended external meetings.

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

- i) Funding Settlement: In response to significant financial challenges presented by the Funding Settlement from central-Government a number of decisions had been confirmed for the 2026-27 financial year which included:
 - 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%.Internal re-organisation had also been agreed which will result in the loss of a number of posts, including at senior level.
- ii) A new consultation on a Home to School Transport Policy has been launched and will run until 21 April.
- iii) The speed reduction initiative for Crosthwaite and Lyth is included on a list for consideration in 2026-27. He had spoken with representatives from Underbarrow and they are content that, if approved, the 30-m.p.h. zone might start within Underbarrow Parish. Further discussion on this was held to item 9(b) of the Agenda.
- iv) Potholes: Highways have committed to patching work on all potholes though in many cases a full repair is required.
- v) Starthwaite Road is closed again for further work on drainage issues; this work should be completed by the 13th, but it will be closed again for BT work in May.
- vi) The parking of trailers on the A5074 lay-by near Gilpin Bridge remains of concern and the Clerk read a letter received from a local resident on this issue. Cllr. Bavin confirmed that work is ongoing to resolve this matter.
- vii) The idea of a welcome sign promoting the Lyth Valley as the home of the Westmorland damson was discussed and Cllr. Perry will liaise direct with Highways to establish terms and conditions associated with the proposal.

c) Police: There was nothing to report from Cumbria Constabulary. It was **Agreed** to remove this as a standing item on the Agenda and only include if and when there are specific matters for discussion.

158/25 Planning (ACON = Approved with Conditions)

a) Applications Received: It was noted that no new planning applications had been received since the last meeting to the date of publishing the Agenda.

- b) Applications Received since publishing the Agenda:** The following application had been received since publication of the Agenda:
 7/2026/5038: **Dodds Howe, Crosthwaite LA8 8HX** - Part demolition of existing building; erection of two storey extension, including extending over part of existing dwelling. Councillors considered that the plans appeared to propose a large and relatively dominant structure in the context of the local built environment. There were concerns about the impact on several specimen trees and Councillors were also aware of concerns from neighbours about overlooking, overshadowing and water treatment facilities. It was **Agreed** unanimously to **Object** to the plans as presented but noted that that local discussion was underway that might amend the proposal. It was **Agreed** to reconsider this application if amended plans were submitted.
- c) Responses:** It was noted that no responses had been submitted to LDNPA since the date of the last meeting.
- d) Decisions notified:** The following decision received since the last meeting was noted:
 i) 7/2025/5676 – **Ghyll Head Farm, Crosthwaite, LA8 8JB:** Conversion of remaining section of the attached barn and replacement of existing link extension. No objection from C&LPC. **ACON** 19/02/2026.
- e) Other Planning Matters**
 i) APP/Q9495/X/25/3376174 - **Plum Tree Cottage, Lyth LA8 8DD: Appeal** against refusal of Change of Use of land to a garden. C&LPC opinion (no objection subject to conditions) submitted to Planning Inspectorate 16/02/2026.
 ii) Schedule of Developments: The Clerk had circulated a Schedule of Developments potentially without planning consent. The only updates were as follows:
 • Field, west side of the A5074: In response to an enquiry, LDNPA had responded that the original report had been investigated under Case No. E/2025/0155 which had confirmed that there was a breach of planning control but that, due to its characteristics, it had been deemed not in the public interest to take enforcement action. In response to the subsequent report about a static caravan, LDNPA Enforcement has confirmed (email 24/02/2026) that they have raised a new case in respect of this (E/2026/0040) and will investigate / update accordingly.

159/25 Highways and Footpaths

- a) Highways matters:** In addition to those matters reported in Cllr Bavin's earlier report it was noted that the hedge along the road edge at the Parish Walkway needed cutting back. It was **Agreed** to place this on HIAMS for Highways attention. A local contractor would be asked to trim up the inside edge along the path.
- b) Speed Reduction Project:** In addition to Cllr. Bavin's report at 157/25(b)(iii) it was confirmed that Cllr. Perry's report and proposals had been placed on the Crosthwaite and Lyth website at www.crosthwaiteandlyth-pc.gov.uk
- c) Public Transport:** There was no update reported on this item.

160/25 Trees, Woods and Hedges: The following matters were noted:

- a) Trees and Woods:**
 i) Orchard, Jubilee Wood: Following the agreement to extend the deadline to 31 March 2027, the Clerk has submitted a Change Request Form to W&FC's Climate and Nature Partnership Fund. He will now circulate an email to agree a date for a site meeting of interested parties.
 ii) Lyth Valley Damsons – Reviving Plum Sunday etc: In the absence of Cllr. Harnby it was agreed to defer discussion on this matter to the next meeting.
- b) Hedges and Grass:** The Clerk has yet to mark up the map with sections for attention as discussed with the Chair on 19 January.

161/25 Parish Land

- a) Leases / Rents:** The Clerk has written to all tenants with a new lease containing the revised rents payable per annum from 01 April 2026. No adverse comment has been received.
- b) 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 will be organised for the Spring.
- c) Managing Assets Training Course:** The change of date to 04 March was noted.

162/25 Annual Litter Pick: Councillors noted that there appeared to be a considerable amount of litter around the parish this year which had also been noted by parishioners on social media. Litter included cans and bottles along certain stretches of road and dog bags left on hedges or road verges. It was **Agreed** that the Spring litter pick would take place week commencing 23 March (until 29th) and that an Autumn event would be held week commencing 21 September. Cllr. Bavin will supply high viz vests and pickers.

163/25 Annual Parish Meeting: It was **Agreed** that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 20 April in the Argles Memorial Hall to commence at 7.00 p.m. The Clerk will arrange for the formal Notice, advertising and invitations to local groups to be issued as usual.

164/25 Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council Strategic Plan:

- a) **Strategic Plan:** Draft V3 had been circulated and there were no additional comments. It was **Agreed** that this will now be uploaded to the website and launched at the Annual Parish Meeting when details of public consultation will be confirmed.
- b) **Joint Meeting of Parish Councils:** There was no further update on a future meeting of this informal group.

165/25 Finance: The Clerk gave the following report prepared by the RFO:

- a) Receipts: It was noted that there had been no receipts other than investment income since the last meeting.
- b) Receipts since publishing the agenda: None to report.
- c) Npower: Councillors noted the Npower payment for January 2026: £ 67.68
- d) Payments: The following payments were **Approved**:
 - i. M R Curry - Salary and expenses February 2026: (including an additional expenses payment (postage of £15.75) notified after publication of the Agenda)): £ 503.57
 - ii. HMRC – PAYE and NIC on above salary: £ 130.02
- e) No payments had fallen due since publishing the agenda.
- f) Financial Risk Assessment: Councillors received and reviewed the 2026/27 Financial Risk Assessment which was **Approved**.
- g) Councillors noted the bank balance at 28 February 2026 as £21,519.41 and **Authorised** the Chair to countersign the bank statement.

166/25 Governance:

- a) **Assertion 10:** The Clerk reported that compliance with Assertion 10 is nearing completion. All documents have been uploaded to the new website and the old one will be phased out shortly.
- b) **Adoption of new Email Addresses:** The final requirement is for all Councillors to open new email accounts before 31 March 2026 as per the instructions previously circulated. The Clerk will assist where there is difficulty doing this.
- c) **Councillor Vacancy:** The Clerk reported that W&FC (Member Services) had confirmed that the appropriate Notice period had been given and that the Parish Council is now at liberty to co-opt at will. It was **Agreed** that a local Notice of vacancy will be published and Councillors agreed to consider if there were any potential candidates who might be approached.

167/25 Correspondence:

- a) Updates from CALC and other Agencies: Routine updates had been circulated as appropriate.
- b) Specific items of correspondence: There were no specific items of correspondence received other than as discussed during the meeting.
- c) No further correspondence had been received since publishing the Agenda.

168/25 Items 'for Information' No matters were raised.

169/25 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 13 April 2026 in the Parish Room at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting finished at 9.11 p.m.

Signed as a correct record:

(Chair)

Date: