

## CROSTHWAITE AND LYTH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Monday 13 April 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Room, Crosthwaite

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

**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.

**170/25 Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllrs. E. Sharp and H. Young and reasons for absence accepted and noted. Mr M R Richardson (RFO) had indicated that there was nothing substantive on finance that required his attendance.

**171/25 Previous Minutes:** It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 02 March 2026 be signed by the Chair as a true record.

**172/25 Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest were offered.

**173/25 Requests for Dispensation:** No Requests for Dispensation had been submitted.

**174/25 Chair's Announcements:** The Chair noted that new email addresses had been issued and have been brought into use as required under Assertion 10.

**175/25 Public Participation:** No members of the public were present.

#### 176/25 Reports:

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

**b) Westmorland & Furness Council (W&FC):** Cllr. Bavin reported on the following matters:

- i) Garden waste bins: The new annual subscription rate of £60 per bin for garden waste collections will come into effect by the end of June. This charge will only be applicable to residents who choose to use the service.
- ii) Litter Pick: He expressed his thanks to all those involved in the recent litter pick. He had noted a suggestion to repeat this in the Autumn and will be happy to supply equipment once again.
- iii) Lyth Valley road sign: Highways had advised that this initiative did not align with national guidelines which required signage to relate to a specific 'destination.' He suggested that there might be some appropriate private land that could be considered – though planning consent might be required.
- iv) Road repairs: There have been several short-term road closures and over 60 potholes have been treated recently.

**c) Police:** It was noted that the Community Liaison meetings are now open to any Councillors and not restricted to specifically nominated representatives.

#### 177/25 Planning (ACON = Approved with Conditions)

**a) Applications Received:** The following planning applications received from LDNPA since the date of the last meeting were considered:

- i) 7/2025/5682 – **Land at St Mary's Church, Mill Lane, Crosthwaite:** Retrospective permission for Change of Use of former agricultural land to community memorial forest & associated access improvements. Councillors expressed concern about this proposal from a number of perspectives including the fact that it was retrospective, that access was along what is classed as a dangerous lane and that works have disrupted local drainage leading to flooding on the road. It was noted that Highways had expressed concerns, and it was **Agreed** to Object on similar lines.
- ii) 7/2026/5153 – **Starnthwaite Ghyll Weir, Starnthwaite LA8 8LP:** Demolition of partly collapsed weir. For information only – no provision for consultation.
- iii) 7/2026/5152 – **Land off Woodside Road, Crosthwaite:** Erection of self-build agricultural dwelling: variation of conditions on consent 7/2025/5331 relating to Conditions 2 (plans), 5 & 9 (materials). It was **Resolved** not to object to this application.
- iv) 7/2026/5143 - **Flodder Hall, Lyth, LA8 8DG:** Discharge of net biodiversity gain condition on 7/2025/5283 (Erection of slurry tower). No provision for consultation – for information only.

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

**c) Responses:** The following responses had been submitted to LDNPA following consideration by the Parish Council:

- i) 7/2026/5038 – **1, Dodd’s Howe, Crosthwaite, LA8 8HX**: Part demolition of existing building. Erection of two storey extension, including extending over part of existing dwelling. **Objection** submitted 03/03/2026 (See Item 8(d) below).
- d) **Decisions**: The following decisions on planning applications notified by LDNPA since the last meeting were noted: (ACON = Approved with Conditions):
  - i) 7/2026/5038 – **1, Dodd’s Howe, Crosthwaite, LA8 8HX**: Part demolition of existing building etc: ACON 02/04/2026 (by Committee due to C&LPC Objection).
- 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. There was no update to report.
  - ii) Schedule of Other Developments: (Schedule to be circulated). The Clerk had circulated a Schedule of Developments potentially without planning consent. The only updates were as follows:
    - Field on west side of A5074 nearly opposite Gilpin Cottage - Hard core surfacing, fencing and sheds and static caravan: Enforcement had concluded that the surfacing, fencing and sheds were in breach of planning but that it was not in the public interest to pursue this. A new case has been opened in respect of the static caravan (E/2026/0040)

### 178/25 Highways and Footpaths

- a) **Highways matters**: In addition to those matters reported in Cllr Bavin’s earlier report, the following were noted:
  - i) Potholes were particularly bad between Crosthwaite and Underbarrow. Cllr. Bavin is aware of these but also advised individuals to report on HIAMS.
  - ii) Highways are considering applying Parking Regulations on roadside lay-bys at the southern end of the Lyth Valley.
  - iii) The large size of a new road sign on the top of Totter Bank was commented upon. This relates to the weight restriction on the bridge over the Kendal By-pass. It was acknowledged that the sign needs to be large to be seen but Cllr. Bavin would query whether the location was the most appropriate.
- b) **Speed Reduction Project**: Nothing had yet been heard back from Highways on Cllr. Perry’s Report advocating for 30-m.p.h. zones. There was some debate about the possible acquisition of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs).
- c) **Public Transport**: There were no further developments on this item.

### 179/25 Trees, Woods and Hedges: The following matters were noted:

- a) **Trees and Woods**:
  - i) Orchard, Jubilee Wood: The Clerk has prepared an outline Management Plan with input from Jane Davies. It was **Agreed** that a Working Group should be formed to take this forward with Cllrs. Harnby and Atkinson to lead. A site meeting will be arranged.
  - ii) Lyth Valley Damsons – Cllr. Harnby reported that he had sensed little support to revive the Plum Sunday idea. Cllr. Dobson thought it still worth pursuing on the basis of starting small and would speak to the Memorial Hall to see if there was enthusiasm for an event.
- b) **Hedges and Grass**: The Clerk has collated a schedule of areas to be managed and will meet with the Chair to confirm these and transpose onto a definitive map.

### 180/25 Parish Land

- a) **Leases / Rents**: New leases had been sent to tenants, and several had been returned duly signed. Rent requests are being issued. A new tenant for the Ulverston Road plot (£40 p.a.) will be sought.
- 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**: It was **Agreed** to refund the cost of this course to the Clerk.

**181/25 Annual Litter Pick**: It was noted that the litter pick had gone well and thanks were relayed to Cllrs. Perry, Bavin and all volunteers involved. Cllrs., however, regretted that the general situation seemed to be deteriorating, and it was **Agreed** to conduct a second litter pick in the Autumn.

**182/25 Annual Parish Meeting**: It was confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on 20 April in the Argles Memorial Hall to commence at 7.00 p.m. The Clerk had arranged for the issue of the formal Notice, advertising and invitations to local groups.

### 183/25 Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council Strategic Plan:

- a) **Strategic Plan**: Draft V3 had been uploaded to the website and would be launched at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**184/25 Finance:** The Clerk gave the following report prepared by the RFO:

- a) Receipts: Councillors noted the following receipts (other than investment income) since the last meeting:  
Rents received: £ 70.00
- b) Receipts since publishing the agenda: There had been no receipts since publishing the agenda.
- c) Npower: The Npower payment for February 2026 was: £ 53.05
- d) The following payments made between meetings were **Approved**:
  - i) M R Curry - Salary and expenses March 2026: £ 478.37
  - ii) M R Richardson - Salary, overtime and expenses - quarter to March 2026: £ 794.90
- e) The following payments were **Approved**:
  - i) HMRC – PAYE and NIC on above salaries: £ 311.42
  - ii) H Young - Parish Room window cleaning: £ 12.00
- f) Payments due since publishing the agenda: None had fallen due.
- g) Financial Risk Assessment: The 2026/27 Financial Risk Assessment was **Approved**.
- h) To note the bank balance at 31 March 2026 and authorise the Chair to counter-sign the bank statement:  
Due to an omission on the part of the Clerk, these were not presented.

**185/25 Governance:**

- a) **Assertion 10:** The Clerk reported that compliance with Assertion 10 was complete and that the new email addresses would now be adopted.
- b) **Councillor Vacancy:** Councillors agreed to consider if there were any potential candidates who might be approached.

**186/25 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.

**187/25 Items 'for Information'** No matters were raised.

**188/25 Councillors' Issues to be Raised:** No additional issues were raised.

**Date of the next meeting:**

It was noted that the first Monday of May was a Bank Holiday and that therefore the next meeting of the Parish Council, which will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting, will be held on 11 May 2026 in the Parish Room at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting finished at 8.54 p.m.

**Signed as a correct record:**

**(Chair)**

**Date:**