

CROSTHWAITE AND LYTH PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Monday 06 July 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Room, Crosthwaite

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

In Attendance: Cllr. S. Bavin (Westmorland & Furness Co.), Martin Curry (Clerk), Malcolm Richardson (RFO) and one member of the public (part).

40/26 Apologies: All Councillors were present – no apologies had been received.

41/26 Minutes of the meeting held on the 01 June 2026: It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 01 June 2026 be signed by the Chair as a true record.

42/26 Declarations of Interest: No declarations of interest were submitted.

43/26 Requests for Dispensation: No Requests for Dispensation had been submitted.

44/26 Chair's Announcements: The Chair reminded Members that the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) had officially adopted its new strategic management plan on 24 June, establishing a long-term vision for the National Park through to 2051. Additionally, the Home Office will host a Microsoft Teams webinar on 20 July 2026, to provide further details on the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 (commonly known as Martyn's Law).

45/26 Public Participation: Chris Smith reported that local grass cutting was underway, including several pathways under the National Park's remit. He noted a disappointing volume of dog waste encountered while clearing paths around Jubilee Wood. It was **Agreed** to source and install signage at the woodland entrances urging dog owners to clean up after their pets. Mr Smith announced his retirement effective at the end of August, noting he will attempt to find a successor. He agreed to attend a mapping meeting to identify all current maintenance zones for the transition. The Clerk will acquire a large-scale map and coordinate a meeting date. The Chair extended thanks to Mr Smith for his recent efforts and expressed the Parish Council's sincere appreciation for his years of support.

46/26 Reports:

- a) **Reports from Councillors attending meetings:** No meetings had been attended.
- b) **Westmorland & Furness Council (W&FC):** Cllr. Bavin reported as follows:
 - i) **W&FC Local Plan:** He confirmed that on 30 June the Council had given formal notice of its intention to commence preparation of its new Local Plan - being the statutory document that sets out the vision, policies and framework for the future development and use of land. He made the point that for Crosthwaite and Lyth this is primarily for information as the planning authority for the Parish is the LDNPA. For those interested, there is a Consultation on the new Plan running from 01 July to 11 August.
 - ii) **Sewerage Issue:** A sewerage issue has been reported regarding a tank on land near the River Gilpin and which is potentially linked to the start of an adjacent development. The Environment Agency (EA) suspects the problem stems from a breach in the mud bund rather than a structural crack in the tank itself. Remediation will likely be the responsibility of the property owner; however, the landowner must grant site access to facilitate any repairs.
 - iii) **Half-Joint Bridges:** W&FC is preparing a central government funding application to support the full repair or replacement of the Underbarrow Road and Brigsteer Road bridges over the A591. In the interim, the 6'6" width restriction will remain in place. However, the temporary concrete block restrictors will be replaced with more visually appropriate alternatives.
 - iv) **Scheduled road repairs** will require temporary traffic lights on the Crosthwaite to Underbarrow Road in the coming weeks. Flooding on the road to Underbarrow just east of Broom Lane will be addressed in September when the road will be closed for the duration of the works. Councillors agreed that signs indicating "Not Suitable for HGVs" would be appropriate for roads leading from the A5074 to Row and Howe.
 - v) **A590:** A meeting with National Highways took place on 05 June when they indicated that the installation of speed cameras and other mitigations have had a significance positive impact. As a result, there are currently no plans to take forward proposals for a roundabout at the Gilpin Bridge junction.
 - vi) **Garden Waste collection:** Bin stickers are currently being distributed to residents who have registered for the new service, with a delivery timeframe of up to two weeks. It was noted that several properties at Starnthwaite are currently missing from the system; Cllr. Bavin will investigate this.

47/26 Planning (ACON = Approved with Conditions)

- a) **Planning Applications Received:** Councillors noted that no new planning applications had been received since the previous meeting.
- b) **Planning Applications Received after Publishing the Agenda:** It was noted that no planning applications had been received since publication of the Agenda
- c) **Responses Submitted:** Councillors noted that no responses had been submitted to LDNPA since the last meeting.
- d) **Decisions:** Councillors noted the following decisions on planning applications since the last meeting:
 - i) 7/2026/5210 - **Lyth Valley Hotel, Lyth LA8 8DB:** Change of Use from hotel to a residence or short-term holiday letting accommodation. No Objection submitted 21/05/2026. **Granted** 05/06/2026
 - ii) 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. **Objection** submitted 14/04/2026. **ACON 03/07/2026**
- e) **To note any other Planning Matters:**
 - i) To consider any actions in relation to the land between Tower Hill and Cross Howe, Crosthwaite (subject of planning applications 7/2018/5506; 7/2019/5809; 7/2022/5094). The Clerk reported that LDNPA had provided the following response from a planning officer to an enquiry on this matter: "We undertook a compliance investigation in 2024 regarding this site and concluded that a commencement of the 2018 application had occurred prior to the expiry of the planning permission, so (in my view) there remains an extant permission."
 - ii) **Schedule of Other Developments:** No new additions were made to the Schedule. Notwithstanding LDNPA's preference against requests for routine updates, it was noted that multiple cases have remained with Enforcement for a considerable duration. It was therefore agreed to seek progress updates for these outstanding cases.

48/26 Highways and Footpaths

- a) **Highways matters:** Matters raised in Cllr. Bavin's earlier report had been noted. The Chair reported that she had received complaints that Oak Lane was impassible due to overgrown hedges. Oak Lane is a byway open to all traffic and technically a matter for Highways (who are unlikely to attend to this until September) and the local landowners. The Parish Council has commissioned work on Oak Lane in the past and Chris Smith said he would look at it and the drain at the bottom end to see what might be done.
- b) **Speed Reduction Project:** It was **Agreed** to review this matter in the early part of the new year.
- c) **Public Transport Initiatives:** It is unlikely that any progress can be made on this, and it was **Agreed** to leave it off the Agenda for the time being.

49/26 Trees, Woods, Hedges and Grass: The following matters were noted:

- a) **Trees and Woods:**
 - i) **Community Tree and Hedge Planting Scheme:** It was confirmed that a site meeting will be held in Jubilee Wood in September.
- b) **Hedges and Grass:** The Clerk has prepared an initial Schedule of Work, and this will be further reviewed at the proposed meeting with Chris Smith. Drain clearance will be included as a component of future planning.

50/26 Parish Land and Property

- a) **Leases and Rents:** All matters are currently up to date.
- b) **Ulverston Road Quarry:** The decision to leave Ulverston Road Quarry unlet for the time being was confirmed.
- c) **Parish Room:** Cllr. Sharp will advise the contractor to commence the external painting of windows for completion during the summer.

51/26 Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council Strategic Plan: The Clerk confirmed that he had requested feedback on the draft Strategic Plan via Two Valleys News and the website. The results of this local consultation will be considered at the September meeting. In response to a parishioner's written question, the Clerk confirmed that government grants totalling £11,382.98 had been received for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and he thanked the RFO for providing this information. In addition, administrative expenses, including Clerk's costs, stationery etc., have been incurred.

52/26 Finance: The Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) presented his finance report and Councillors noted:

- a) **Receipts:**
 - i) That there had been no receipts other than investment income since the last meeting.
 - ii) That there had been no receipts since publishing the Agenda.

- b) Npower: The Npower payment for May 2026 was: £ 48.96
- c) Payments: The following payments were **Approved**:
 - i) M R Curry – salary and expenses June 2026: £ 502.97
 - ii) M R Richardson - Salary and expenses - April to June 2026: £ 556.86
 - iii) HMRC – PAYE and NIC on the above salaries: £ 248.27
- d) Payments due since publishing the Agenda: The following payment was **Approved**:
 - i) Cllr H Young - Expenses re: window cleaning, Parish Room: £ 12.00
- e) Budget Comparison 2025/26: The RFO presented the Budget Comparison 2025/26. He referred to the changes in the earmarked funds (a reduction of £3,588.00) and a reduction in the general funds of £399.68 - the difference between the balance at 31st March 2025 of £17,128.10 and the 31st March 2026 balance of £16,728.42. The £399.68 reduction was due to an increase in the Clerk's and RFO's salaries due largely to overtime on the Neighbourhood Plan and banking arrangements less an underspend on budgeted parish maintenance, other small variances and increased income over budget.
- f) The cash deficit shown for the year of £4,192.34 was the £3,588.00 plus the £399.68 plus VAT not yet recovered of £204.66.
- g) Bank Balances: The following bank balances were noted:
 - 31 May 2026: £33,052.71
 - 30 June 2026: £32,601.19
 The Chair was authorised to countersign the bank statements.
- h) Grant Budget: The RFO presented a review of grants awarded over the previous two years and confirmed that nothing had so far been awarded from the budget of £1,000 available in the 2026-27 financial year. Several potential recipients were discussed and Cllr. Harnby wondered how many local organisations were aware that small grants are available from the Parish Council. It was **Agreed** to add this to the September Agenda for further discussion.

53/26 Governance

- a) Policies Review: The review of Policies is ongoing and should be complete for presentation to the October meeting.
- b) Assertion 10: It was confirmed that there are no outstanding issues relating to Assertion 10.

54/26 Correspondence:

- a) Updates from CALC and other Agencies: Councillors noted that these had been circulated as appropriate.
- b) Specific items of correspondence: In addition to the correspondence received regarding the costs of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) referred to above, the Clerk referred to a second response to the draft Strategic Plan suggesting that the PC should add a line confirming that it will keep funding availability for the NP under review. Other than that, there were no other items of correspondence considered.

55/26 Items 'for Information': It was confirmed that an Autumn litter-pick will be held on 07 September 2026. Cllr. Perry will look at promotion opportunities including via Facebook and will coordinate other arrangements.

56/26 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 on 07 September 2026.

The meeting finished at 8.46 p.m.

Signed as a correct record:

(Chair)

Date: