

# CROSTHWAITE AND LYTH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Monday 07 July 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Room, Crosthwaite

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

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

**45/25 Apologies:** Cllr. Cartmell.

**46/25 Minutes of the meeting held on the 02 June 2025:** It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 02 June 2025 be signed by the Chair as a true record.

**47/25 Declarations of Interest:** Councillors noted the following Declarations of Interest:

- a) Cllr. E. Sharp in respect of item 8(c)(i) – Planning Application 7/2025/5283: Flodder Hall
- b) Cllr. A Dobson in respect of item 8(b) – Planning application received after publication of the Agenda: 7/2025/5331 – Land off Woodside Road.

**48/25 Requests for Dispensation:** No Requests for Dispensation had been submitted.

**49/25 Chair's Announcements:** The Chair referred to a note from the Clerk of Lindale and Newton-in-Cartmell Parish Council suggesting a joint meeting of neighbouring parishes for the purpose of discussing issues of local interest. It was **Agreed** to participate in this initiative.

**50/25 Public Participation:** No members of the public were present.

**51/25 Reports:**

- a) **Reports from Councillors attending meetings:** No meetings had been attended.
- b) **Westmorland & Furness Council (W&FC):** Cllr. Bavin reported as follows:
  - i) Road works are planned at a number of locations including:
    - Starnthwaite - Cllr. Bavin has asked for the reason but has not yet had an answer;
    - Drainage works are taking place at the top of Broom Lane
    - Hubbersty Head (11-12 July)
    - Tarnside Lane (11-13 August)
    - Starnthwaite Lane (14 August – BT)
    - Between the Punchbowl and the Mill Lane junction for drainage and patching works (15-19 Sept)
  - ii) The path at Watery Lane has now been cleared though a couple of trees are leaning and will be reported;
  - iii) Cllr. Bavin asked Councillors and residents to report any issues with waste collection and particularly green bin services;
  - iv) Vodafone and Three UK are merging which could result in better signal coverage locally;
  - v) He is looking at possible options for Neighbourhood Plan funding.
- c) **Police:** The Clerk reported that there was nothing in recent Police Focus Newsletters of direct relevance to Crosthwaite and Lyth.

**52/25 Planning**

- a) **Planning Applications received:** Councillors noted the following planning applications received from LDNPA and circulated to Members of the Council since the last meeting:
  - i) 7/2025/5264: **Plum Tree Cottage, Lyth, LA8 8DD** – Change of Use to a garden. The deadline for comment has been extended to 08 July. Following consideration, it was **Resolved** to submit **No Objection** with the proviso that the land should be maintained as a garden and not be used for development purposes.
  - ii) 7/2025/5307: **Mireside Farm, LA8 8BT**: Replacement agricultural access on to A5074. The deadline for comment has been extended to 08 July. Councillors expressed concerns about road safety issues and noted that Highways have objected on the same grounds. Following Highways position, it was **Resolved** to object on the grounds of road safety.
  - iii) 7/2025/5322: **Valley View, Johnscapes, Lyth Valley LA8 8DG**: Change of use for siting of residential caravan for residential use. Deadline for comment: 09 July 2025. Following consideration, it was **Resolved** to submit **No Objection** to this application.
- b) **Planning Applications received since publication of the Agenda:** The following planning application was received and circulated to Members of the Council after publishing the Agenda:

7/2025/5331 - **Land off Woodside Road, Crosthwaite**: Erection of a self-build agricultural workers dwelling. Cllr. Dobson declared an interest in this item and Cllr. Sharp took the Chair whilst the item was considered. Cllrs. considered a number of aspects of the application at length including necessity, provision of services and size of the proposed building. Whilst of concern, these matters were not felt to be sufficient in themselves to warrant an objection. However, Councillors were concerned that this application was for a new development on a green field site and **Resolved to Object** on this basis and that if allowed and subsequently sold, it must be tied to the agricultural holding.

- c) **Responses submitted to LDNPA following consideration by the Parish Council:**
  - i) 7/2025/5283: **Flodder Hall, Lyth LA8 8DG** – Erection of Slurry Tower. Following consideration on 02 June, **No Objection** was submitted on 16/06/2025.
- d) **Applications Determined:** To note the following decisions since the last meeting:  
7/2025/5195: **Long Green Cottage, Crosthwaite, LA8 8HX**: Alterations and extension to existing outbuilding for an annex associated. **ACON** 26/06/2025
- e) **Other planning matters** – the following matters were considered:
  - i) Enforcement Case E/2024/0236 at Starthwaite: The Clerk has again requested a response from LDNPA on the circumstances under which planning fees may not be payable.
  - ii) Circus vehicles – It was noted that the trailers that had been parked in the Gilpin Bridge lay-by recently had been moved. Cllr. Bavin had enquired about ‘No Overnight Parking’ signs, but the lay-by was valued by HGV drivers who needed to take a break. It was **Agreed** that the situation would continue to be monitored especially in the winter.
  - iii) For sale notice boards on public land – It was agreed that the proliferation of estate agent’s signs on highway verges, often nowhere near the property in question and remaining in place for a considerable time after sale (and acting as advertising boards for the relevant estate agent) was of increasing concern. Cllr. Perry will place a report on HIAMS and the Clerk will notify LDNPA of this issue.
  - iv) The Clerk reported that LDNPA had given early notice of the commencement of its revision of the Local Plan for the National Park with details of the process.
  - v) The Clerk undertook to check progress with a couple of items on the Schedule of Developments (potentially without planning consent) and update at the next meeting.

#### **53/25 Highways and Footpaths**

- a) **Highways matters:** Other than matters raised in Cllr. Bavin’s earlier report there were no other Highways matters raised.
- b) **Footpaths / Tracks Matters:** Cllr. Perry has attended to the internal verge on the Parish Walkway otherwise there were no other matters of report.

#### **54/25 Trees, Woods, Hedges and Grass:** The following matters were noted:

- a) Trees and Woods: Community Tree and Hedgerow Grant: It was **Agreed** that the initiative to plant orchard trees at Jubilee Wood should proceed notwithstanding the recent purchase of the field adjacent to the Recreational Field for community use. The Planting Fund has confirmed a grant of £2,000 and a Funding Agreement has been signed. Plans for ground preparation and planting will be discussed at a site meeting that the Clerk will arrange, and plans will be confirmed at the September meeting.
- b) Hedges and Grass: Further work will now be undertaken in the Autumn.

#### **55/25 Parish Land**

- a) **Matters Relating to Property Management:** Following the tour of parish properties held on 28 May and the completion of the property review using Parish On-line, the Clerk proposed several ‘next steps’:
  - i) Leases: All the existing leases require revision, renegotiating and renewing. This should be based on property valuations to inform the process and as a matter of due diligence. It was **Agreed** that Cllr. Sharp and the Clerk should meet to discuss the process and possible opportunities from environmental land management schemes.
  - ii) HM Land Registry documents: The contact details for each registered property are out of date and it was **Agreed** that application should be made to HMLR to update these.
  - iii) Cllrs **Agreed** with the Clerk’s suggestion that in the longer term, property management plans should be prepared for those properties retained in-hand.
  - iv) The Clerk confirmed that he had used the BT helpline to report the growth of trees through overhead lines at Scale Hill. His submission had been acknowledged as Case No. AF-TPD-2757794832.
- b) **Maintenance of Parish assets:** The Clerk had circulated a Schedule of Property Assets and asked if Councillors would review it and confirm the accuracy of its contents (e.g. number of benches, hedges and verges maintained by the Parish Council etc.). It was **Agreed** that, once complete, it would be used as the basis for a maintenance schedule to be prepared.
- c) **Wi-fi in the Parish Room:** This remains work in progress.

**56/25 Neighbourhood Plan:** The Clerk confirmed the notification received from NALC on 23 June that due to the Government's spending review, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) has halted funding for the neighbourhood planning support programme. This means that there is no funding for the next (and final) stages of the Crosthwaite and Lyth Plan being the formal consultation and examination before approval. AECOM have also confirmed that proposed amendments to the Design Code would be chargeable, but again, without external funding it is unlikely that the amendments can be made. The Clerk has discussed the situation with Louise Kirkup who advised that she was due to discuss the situation with colleagues and would provide guidance when possible options have been identified. Cllr. Bavin offered to explore possible funding streams via W&FC. It was **Agreed** to defer progress pending review at the September meeting.

**57/25 Environmental Initiatives:** CLEAN continues its work locally but there were no new initiatives to note. The Environment Agency has launched a new, online service enabling anyone to report water and odour pollution instantly via: [www.gov.uk/report-environmental-problem](http://www.gov.uk/report-environmental-problem).

**58/25 Finance:** Councillors noted the following report submitted by the Responsible Finance Officer:

- a) Receipts: There have been no receipts other than investment income since the last meeting.
- b) There had been no receipts since publishing the agenda
- c) Npower: It was noted that that the Npower payment for May 2025 is: £ 33.56
- d) Payments: The following payments were **Approved**:
  - i. M R Curry – Salary and expenses June 2025: £ 343.97
  - ii. M R Richardson - Salary and expenses April - June 2025: £ 543.36
  - iii. HMRC – PAYE and NIC on above salaries: £ 326.05
  - iv. Chis Smith – Lengthsman: £ 312.00
  - v. Groundwork UK - repayment of unused grant (Neighbourhood Plan): £ 6,575.28
- e) No payments had fallen due since publishing the agenda.
- f) To receive and approve the Budget Comparison 2024/25: The RFO presented the Budget Comparison 2024/25. He explained that the increase in non-earmarked funds was £789.21 - the difference between the balance at 31st March 2025 of £17,128.10 and the 31st March 2024 balance of £16,338.89. The cash surplus shown for the year of £6,967.21 was after the repayable Neighbourhood Plan grant of £6,988.00 (net) and the unused road gritting budget of £800.00 (this year and last year). Use of £1,610.00 of the earmarked Parish Projects fund left the increase of £789.21, which was due to a reduction in spending on Parish Maintenance compared to the budget plus / less other smaller variances.
- g) Bank Balance: Councillors noted that the bank balance at 30 June 2025 was £35,570.83 and authorised the Chair to countersign the bank statement.

#### **59/25 Policies and Procedures**

- a) Approval of Policies: New policies on Sexual Harassment and Bullying and Harassment, together with a Job Description for the Chair, having been circulated, were **Approved**.
- b) The Clerk reported that all Declarations of Interest as required by W&FC were up to date.

#### **60/25 Correspondence:**

- a) Updates from CALC and other Agencies: The Clerk had circulated a list of correspondence from all sources and Councillors noted that these had been circulated as appropriate. The Clerk referred to the unwieldy number of duplications and reminders about events received from CALC and W&FC.
- b) Specific items of correspondence: There were no specific items of correspondence to report that had not been considered during the meeting.
- c) No further correspondence had been received since publishing the Agenda.

**61/25 Items 'for Information':** The Chair reported that the Argles Hall has will host a generator for use in emergency situations and act as a village hub should the need arise. Cllr Harnby confirmed that he is willing to act as Parish Council representative on the hall committee. In addition to the repainting of the windows at the Parish Room (as previously identified) it was noted that the Parish Room could do with a spring clean and external grass needs strimming.

**62/25 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 01 September 2025.

The meeting finished at 9.34 p.m.

**Signed as a correct record:**

**(Chair)**

**Date:**