

## Loweswater Parish Council Meeting

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Loweswater Village Hall.**

Meeting opened: - The chair declared the parish meeting open at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D Robinson(chair) K Leck, P Battrick, R Thompson (vice-chair),  
L Meadley, C Todd.

Cumberland Councillor, not present.

Clerk, Mike Milner. One member of the public.

Apologies. Cllr M Astley. (LPC). Cllr Jill Perry, (CC)

**818.00 Apologies for absence,** as noted above.

**819.00 Declarations of interest.** None

**820.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025, as a true record.**

820.01 Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

**821.00 Public Participation.** One member of public present. Just observing.

**822.00 Police Matters.**

822.01 No police reports. Clerk had circulated the police e-newsletters. Clerk attending Police Teams meeting November 12<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm.

**823.00 Applications for development.**

823.01 confirmation 7/2025/2167, Latterhead House, new track to manage and maintain an agricultural unit, approved.

**824.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor.**

824.01 councillor not present and no written report submitted.

**825.00 Receive internally audited 6 months parish accounts ending 30/9/2025. Docs circulated prior to the meeting.**

825.01 clerk had circulated copies of the accounts, which had been audited and signed off as correct. Cllrs unanimously accepted the accounts.

**826.00 Discuss current year's budget, and proposed budget for financial year 2026/27. Documents circulated prior to the meeting. Precept to be resolved at January meeting.**

826.01 clerk had circulated a copy of the current budget position and also the proposed budget for the next financial year. There was brief discussion, but the actual setting of the precept figure will be taken at the January meeting.

**827.00 Sign the clerk's new contract of employment, to acknowledge the rate increase as agreed at September meeting, minute note 808.01 confirms.**

827.01 chair pointed out the clerk had not changed the chair's name when preparing the document, but contract duly signed.

**828.00 Update on use of Melbreak Communities website and Assertion 10 guidelines on use of gov.uk email addresses by clerk and councillors by end March 2026.**

829.01 Clerk advised that after email exchanges and telephone conversations with Public Services Office in London he had established that Melbreak Communities could remain the parish council website. An appropriate note on the home webpage advising if issues reading or displaying material, then contact and provide a phone number and email address. Clerk confirmed he already made his phone and email public, so that was not an issue.

829.02 Clerk then advised about the gov.uk email address, explain he had chosen at random 5 from the 20 approved "registrars" who can provide the appropriate email system. One company would cost £1679 per annum plus VAT. Another £302 per annum plus VAT, a third £270 plus VAT per annum and he was recommending a company in Manchester, MacIntosh Electronics, which would cost £57 per annum plus VAT.

829.03 Having said all the above if the parish council is to consider, after public consultation, to amalgamate with Buttermere, there is no action required, the clerk had obtained a dispensation from the Public Services Office in London, confirming that it would be a waste of public money undertaking changes at this time for March 2026 to duplicate the expense again in 2027.

829.04 clerk did explain that he had resigned as clerk at Lorton to take affect at the end of the current financial year. That would mean that Lorton and Loweswater currently share a laptop. Cllr C.T enquired if that meant a new laptop was required. Clerk confirmed that if Loweswater and Buttermere were to amalgamate, they would have Buttermere's laptop to use, however even if they did not amalgamate Buttermere were happy to allow Loweswater to share their laptop. There would be no loss of a laptop facility and no cost necessary in purchasing a new laptop. No further questions.

### **830.00 Clerk to advise on current UU position on Crummock Water weir removal.**

830.01 clerk advised there had been a meeting with UU a few weeks ago and that another meeting was proposed, which clerk had already circulated Cllrs about with date time and location. UU are proposing three public meetings to be held in January 2026, one location will be Loweswater Village Hall. Open to all members of the community. After UU have got the feedback from those meetings, they will formulate the final planning application proposal and submit it by the end of March 2026. UU hope the application will be considered and approved by mid-2026 and works will commence end of 2026, early 2027 at the latest.

### **831.00 Progress reports, clerk**

831.01 clerk advised that he had registered an interest with the Cumberland Electoral Services team, for Loweswater to be considered for amalgamation in the current Cumberland Community Governance Review, with Buttermere. This would obviously be something that would involve community participation. However, the clerk had asked the Cumberland Finance department for an idea what the Band D council tax rate would hypothetically be if the parishes combined. Based on 2025/26 rates, Buttermere Band B would be paying 55% of their current charge and Loweswater would be paying 75% of their current rate. Clerk would obviously keep councillors informed of developments on what is obviously a major project. However, as clerk pointed out it would be better to make changes by agreement, than be forced into amalgamation with parishes not of a similar community structure.

### **832.00 Cllrs reports.**

832.01 Cllr P.B advised he had received a proper hand written letter, which he showed Cllrs. He read the content and it was a letter from a retired lady, resident in Devon, who had visited the area and would like a Loweswater pen friend. The lady did not have modern technology.

832.02 Cllrs could not think of any local individual who could possibly enter into the sort of arrangement be asked for. Clerk said that perhaps the solution was to involve the Community Chaplain, Lois Sparling. Clerk to provide Cllr P.B with her email contact details.

**833.00.00 Payments for approval.**

M Milner Intpay 196, £159.64, salary October, no expenses.

HMRC PAYE Intpay197, Clerks tax £41.80, October PAYE

The above payments made to conform with HMRC reporting and payment legislation.

M Milner Intpay 198, £217.04, salary £159.44 Nov'. £57.60 expenses.

HMRC PAYE Intpay 199, £40.00 PAYE Nov.

Simone Morgan, Intpay 200, £30.00, half yearly audit fee.

All approved.

Meeting closed 8.14pm.

**834.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm, at Loweswater Village Hall.**

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