

Loweswater Parish Council

Minutes of the annual parish meeting of Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 5th March 2026 at Loweswater village hall at 7.30pm followed by the March parish council meeting.

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

Present: Cllrs P Battrick (acting chair), C Todd, M Astley, L Meadley, K Leck,

Clerk, Mike Milner. 6 members of the public.

Apologies, R Thompson (LPC vice-chair) and D Robinson (LPC Chair)

Chair Cllr D.R had circulated his annual report, in his absence, so taken as read.

No other parish club or society reports.

Meeting closed at 7.33pm

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2024 at Loweswater village hall commencing 7.34 pm.

Cllrs confirmed that Cllr P.B should act as chair in the absence of both the chair and vice-chair.

Apologies, D Robinson (Chair LPC), R Thompson (vice-chair LPC),

848.00 Apologies for absence, as noted above.

849.00 Declarations of interest. None

850.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 8th January 2026, as a true record.

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

Prior to proceeding with the meeting, the chair enquired of the 6 members of the public present what they were attending to raise questions about. 2 members were concerned about a planning application; one was established to be a non-resident so could contribute no input to the proceedings and 3 were concerned about the Mockerkin green and speed limit and vehicle access past their property in centre of Mockerkin. Acting chair P.B agreed to move agenda item 10 to be first item, then deal with agenda item 6 and the traffic issue would be dealt with in public participation, when agenda item discussed.

851.00 Mockerkin Green grass contract renewal for 2026 season.

851.01 member of the public present was concerned about the number of cuts that were being made to the green at Mockerkin. He listed the dates that the 4 cuts were made in 2025 and advised his sons, present, had actually undertaken to cut the green on various occasions.

851.02 Cllr M.A advised that part of the issue was all agencies were trying to encourage more environmentally friendly green spaces, and not cut so often. A topic which was part of the green policy at Mockerkin. Clerk confirmed that he had only received three invoices from the contractor. After a discussion Cllrs by all parties, it was agreed to put the issue on the next parish council agenda.

852.00 Applications for development. Askill, 7/2026/2005, new track.

852.01 this application had created much local interest and clerk had circulated, prior to the meeting, the 4 lengthy written comments, one being from Highways, all objected to the track of approx. 1100 yards across a Fell of outstanding beauty. Importantly the track did not state what it was required for other than it was to take heavy construction traffic. Local councillors are aware that there was a planning application 7/2024/2240 concerning a livestock shed replacement and it is understood the applicant was to use the track allegedly to bring in heavy steels and equipment to construct the new shed.

852.02 two members of the public were local residents and their property was in the immediate vicinity of the proposed track. They advised the parish council that there was a suitable concrete track already in existence, from the main road. Cllrs all agreed that it was claimed to be a temporary track, to lay such a construction would cost many tens of thousands of £'s and then there would be the cost of its removal and making good. There was also the issue of the road at the far end of the track, at which a water tap installation has been installed. The Mosser track is now officially only suitable for walkers, cyclists and possibly equestrian users, it is only maintained as such by Highways.

852.03 although discussions did at one stage centre around the possible reason for the track, the transport of heavy site equipment and then construction steels, Cllrs considered that from a very basic economic cost, the construction of such a track was unnecessary, modern construction methods and supply of appropriate steel lengths would make use of the existing track to Askill an adequate option.

852.04 cllrs then returned to the installation of the temporary track as described by the planning application. They could see no justification for such a lengthy track, temporary or otherwise, across the acknowledged area of outstanding beauty. The member of the public whose property will be overlooked by the track, if approved, raised the issue of the recent enforcement order issued to the applicant concerning a Yurt E/2021/0360 and did that cancel the planning application 7/2024/2124, clerk advised that as far as he was aware the applicant could re-site the Yurt as per that application. The enforcement was because no action had yet been undertaken to comply with the planning application, approved.

852.05 chair requested Cllrs to consider the planning application and the unanimous decision was to object to the installation of the temporary track.

853.00 Public Participation.

853.01 a member of the public from Mockerkin raised the issue of the very narrow section of road through Mockerkin a blind section of road, and his property was in the location and frequently hit by large vehicles. There was a width warning sign on road from A5086, but sign is ignored and the sign does not indicate the corner or issue with his property. Traffic, local farmers, could take a short local diversion but that is not signed as a possible diversion.

853.02 resident to provide photos of damage to his property and clerk will take up the case with Highways and also Cumberland Councillor Jill Perry will make representations to the Highways department.

854.00 Police Matters.

854.01 clerk had circulated the police e-newsletters. Email received about alleged haring coursing in the parish and assault on a member of the public. No action by parish council as police matter.

855.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor.

855.01 Cumberland have set council tax with 4.99%

855.02 as of 24th February 2026 Cumberland Combined Authority officially became an entity, it will, come May 2027, after the Mayoral election, be the governing body for the combined Cumberland Unity Council and the Westmorland and Furness Council. Acting Chair thanked Cllr J.P for her update and invited her to stay, invitation accepted.

856.00 Discussion of FP 243017 Loweswater Fell and Pottergill, deferred from January meeting minute note 844.01 refers. Parish Council have permission to discuss and make a written submission after this March meeting to LDNP. Documents official and others recirculated prior to the meeting.

856.01 Cllr M.A advised the council that there was no requirement too make any changes what so ever to the existing footpath FP 243017. He quoted from his experience as NT Ranger and emphasised that the pathway was in open access, so folk could wander wherever they wished if the route got to steep or boggy.

856.02 further discussion resulted in the unanimous decision that there was no need to change the footpath. The current Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) covers all eventualities in the area and no changes are required. Clerk to advise the Will Hinchcliffe who raised the question with the parish council.

857.00 Crummock Water, weir removal planning application, latest status.

857.01 clerk advised that his latest email exchange with the UU team dealing with the application has revealed no dates for proposed additional public meetings and therefore the whole project was no nearer to being represented to the LDNP Planning Authority.

858.00 Mockerkin emergency flood equipment, location and spares.

858.01 clerk had raised the issue as he has seen the box attached to the wall under the Mockerkin noticeboard since May 2018 and wondered about its purpose.

858.02 it appears that all the equipment was provided by Melbreak Communities and that there is a selection of spares in the greenhouse of a former parish council chair in Mockerkin. Clerk has established that the Melbreak Communities Emergency Flood Team are currently reassessing the general emergent plan, clerk to await feedback on that report. Cllr M.A remarked the only flood in Mockerkin was caused by a blocked drain, to his knowledge.

859.00 Progress reports, clerk

859.01 just one report from last meeting, Cllr C.T had requested that Highways consider treating the road between Fangs Brow and Scale Hill with more urgency in icy conditions. Clerk had contacted Highways, who advised that section of highway was classed as P3 gritting route. Only treated in daylight hours when all P1 and P2 routes gritted. It would though be reassessed in the next gritting review.

860.00 Councillors reports. No reports

861.00 Correspondence.

861.00 email from local resident about the on-going Fibrus work in the parish and was their property still on the schedule to be fitted? Clerk confirmed it was with Fibrus contact.

861.02 clerk had received a phone request about potential funding for a sound system in Loweswater Hall. Clerk had enquired of Loweswater Village Hall committee, but had no further contact.

861.03 Notification of an enforcement order E/2021/0360 at Askill, Fangs Brow and the Yurt. Yurt and all associated fixtures to be removed.

861.04 Invoice received from Melbreak Communities to cover the web hosting charge for 2026, £50.

861.04 email from local resident about the Loweswater Fell/Pottergill footpath route, see minute 856.00 these minutes.

862.00.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Intpay206, £159.64, salary February, no expenses claimed.

HMRC PAYE Intpay207, Clerks tax £39.80, February PAYE.

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

M Milner Intpay208, £217.24, salary £159.64 March. £57.60 expenses. Feb/Mar'.

HMRC PAYE Intpay 209, £39.80 PAYE Mar'.

Melbreak Community Intpay210, £50.00 annual web hosting charge 2026.

All approved

Meeting closed 8.38pm.

863.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 7th May 2026 at 7.30pm, at Loweswater Village Hall.

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