

## Loweswater Parish Council Meeting

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at Loweswater Village Hall.

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

Present: Cllrs D Robinson(chair), P Battrick, R Thompson (vice-chair), M Astley, C Todd.

Cumberland Councillor, Cllr Jill Perry, (CC)

Clerk, Mike Milner. Four members of the public.

Apologies. Cllrs K Leck, L Meadley, both LPC.

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

**836.00 Declarations of interest.** None

**837.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025, as a true record.**

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

**838.00 Public Participation.** Four members of public present. All present to attend the Development Applications. Chair agreed to make that the next agenda item and permit comments.

**839.00 Development applications. FUL/2025/0181 Land adjoining Stubbs Ghyll. Also, WTPO/2025/0037 Tree works, Chestnut Gtove, Mockerkin.**

839.01 FUL/2025/0181, 3 glamping pods on land adjoining Stubbs Ghyll clerk explained that both the applicant and the one objector could have their say and then clerk would run through his interpretation of how the application did or didn't comply with NPPF and Local Planning Plan guidelines. At the end of the discussion, he advised that he would request the applicant and objector present to leave the meeting prior to any further discussion and the final vote on the application. He reminded the applicant that the parish council are only a consultee, not decision takers on planning application.

839.02 The applicant stated their case for the development. The one objector then stated his reasons for objecting. The clerk then advised those present that he had studied the application, the Local Plan part 1 and 2 and also the NPPF. He and the applicant agreed that they would obviously interpret the local plan differently. The clerk concluded by advising that his proposal to the Cllrs was to object to the application. The members of the public all left the meeting and after a further clarification on some issues, Cllrs unanimously agreed to object to the proposal, clerk to make the appropriate submission.

839.03 WTPO/2025/0037, tree works. Cllr C.T advised he had read the documents circulated and taking the weight out of the tree would be a good action and Cllr M.A also remarked that this would not be a council matter, other than a TPO was in place for some of the trees. Cllrs agreed unanimously not to object to the proposals.

Chair resumed the meeting at agenda 5.

**840.00 Police Matters.**

840.01 No police reports. Clerk had circulated the police e-newsletters. Clerk attended the Police Teams meeting November 12<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm. Nothing to report.

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**841.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor.**

841.01 Cllr Jill Perry advised that the proposed boundary changes consultation had been extended until 26<sup>th</sup> Jan' 2026, but some early news the current parishes included in Melbreak would be retained in Melbreak, not as proposed that Loweswater would be linked to East Workington and Stainburn.

841.02 Cllr J.P pointed out that if property owners had issues at their property, with flooding, they should make contact with [LFRM@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:LFRM@cumberland.gov.uk) there were online forms to complete. No longer would council be providing sandbags or Hydrosacs.

Chair thanked Cllr J.P for her attendance, but she left the meeting at that point.

**842.00 Discuss and resolve the Loweswater parish precept request for financial year 2026/27 revised budget document circulated prior to meeting.**

842.01 clerk had circulated prior to the meeting and also distributed at the meeting his budget figures and notes explaining how he had arrived at the calculations. He was proposing an increase of 40% to build back the parish reserves which government guidelines suggest a year's precept in reserve.

842.02 after a discussion Cllrs agreed unanimously to set the precept for 2026/27 financial year at £4573. Clerk to advise Cumberland accordingly.

**843.00 Progress reports, clerk**

843.01 following the last meeting, clerk has put all the Loweswater parish council meeting dates in the online Link diary.

843.02 clerk advised that the community vicar had been contacted by Cllr P.B about the penfriend request from lady in Devon.

843.03 clerk was struggling with HSBC log in for online banking as it now required the use of a banking app, but that only worked for one account and it was causing log in issues. A problem to be resolved. Clerk deals with 4 separate HSBC accounts.

**844.00 Cllrs reports.**

844.01 both Cllrs M.A and P.B raised concerns about a footpath's alteration, FP 243017, Loweswater Fell and Pottergill. The parish had not been involved in any circulation, so clerk would ask that the parish council have an opportunity to discuss the issue at its March meeting and make an appropriate assessment response.

844.02 all councillors were concerned about the state of Fangs Brow road through to Scale Hill and its lack of gritting. It had been a nightmare that morning. Clerk to report and request it is considered a more urgent road for gritting at this coming summer's risk assessment meeting. Copy of the request to Cllr J.P for her support.

**845.00 Correspondence.**

845.01 email from local resident about Fibrus progress to properties in Loweswater.

845.02 various exchanges of emails with a local resident about gates being padlocked and stiles blocked off. Countryside access team contacted, plus LDNP Ranger Carl Bradford, who was investigating the issue for the parish and resident.

845.03 Invoice received from Loweswater Village Hall for 2025 hall Hire £75.

845.04 received details of financial year end 2025/26 timeline and requirements for document submissions.

**846.00.00 Payments for approval.**

M Milner Intpay 201, £159.64, salary Dec, no expenses.

HMRC PAYE Intpay 202, Clerks tax £39.80, Dec' PAYE

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

M Milner Intpay 203, £217.04, salary £159.44 Jan'. £57.60 expenses.

HMRC PAYE Intpay 204, £40.00 PAYE Jan'

Loweswater Village Hall Intpay 205, £75, hall hire 6 months £7.50/hr x2 for 6 meetings

All approved.

Meeting closed 8.42pm.

**847.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.30pm, at Loweswater Village Hall.**

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