

**Buttermere Parish Council Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday
1st September 2026 in The Old School Room at 7.30pm.**

The chair declared the meeting open at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs H Fear Davies (chair), Y Kahane, K Beard, L Kyle, A McGuire.

Cumberland Councillor, not present.

Clerk: Mike Milner. Guest Derek Tunstall.

Apologies for absence: Cllr E Beard. Cllr Jill Perry C.C.

598.00 Apologies. As noted above.

599.00 Declaration of Interest. None

600.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Buttermere parish council meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 as a true record.

600.01 The minutes were approved by councillors present at that meeting and duly signed.

Chair then advised the meeting that she would be opening the meeting at agenda item 10 and introduced the guest Derek Tunstall, who many councillors would know from his many years service as a volunteer for numerous agencies over the years in Buttermere, a person with an in depth knowledge of dealing with visitors to Buttermere and their issues.

601.00 Visitor management (including New Lake District Parish & Town Council Forum, Cinderdale Double Yellow lines, and shuttle bus.)

601.01 chair Cllr H F-D explained that the LDNP were creating a new Town and Parish Council Forum and that although she had been involved in the past with various forums, this latest opportunity centred around parish chair meeting, discussing their issues and then selecting one of them to present the general consensus directly through the new forum to LDNP. An opportunity to talk directly to the decision makers. Therefore as the first chairs forum was before the next December 2026 Buttermere meeting, this item was an opportunity for all Cllrs to air their thoughts and to listen and discuss with their guest what the issues are at ground level.

601.02 There then followed a lengthy dialogue for an hour with input from the guest during which topics such as, poor driving ability by visitors, the current total reliance on social media as a source of information much of which was of a suspect nature. Litter, particular reference to the dog poo bag mountains that appeared. That fly campers were not just staying one night, they could stay for 3 nights and in isolated instances, fly camping included not just tents or camper vans, but a large caravan. All councillors note the requirement to log by phone all issues. They may not be resolved at the time but it would clearly demonstrate that the issues existed. That information could then help formulate and budget for the following year's needs and where and who the boots on the ground needed to be.

601.03 all Cllrs and D.T were adamant that there should be more information boards in prominent places, such as N.T car parks, with details of what one should not be doing or leaving, so that visitors if they are aware of the does and don'ts their eyes and their hopeful action of reporting miscreants would mean much greater feedback to the decision makes.

601.04 all agreed that the smaller bus size was suitable for the shuttle bus and could its frequency be increased. Could a once a week, year-round, bus service to Cockermouth not be considered. With a frequency that if you missed one there was a later bus? On subject of buses D.T to act with clerk and chair to resolve the bus loading and unloading of passengers in Buttermere centre. Cumberland Council have one understanding of the problem and drivers follow their own safety system. Finally double yellow lines at Hassness need repainting and clerk to establish what was planned for next year's Rannerdale Bluebell parking issue. Clerk to pursue that issue. Chair thanked D.T for his attendance, invited him to stay, but the offer was declined. Chair resumed the agenda at item 4.

602.00 Public participation, no member of public present, no outstanding reports.

603.00 Police Matters.

603.01 Clerk had circulated the police e newsletters as they were issued. Clerk reported he had attended the Police TEAMS meeting on 5th August. Now chaired by an Inspector John Bradley, no longer local beat officer. Clerk had again asked when did a vehicle constitute an highways obstruction. On the evening no direct response other than police officers acted in accordance with the traffic orders Highways applied in any area. Clerk has since emailed again asking for clarification as to what a police officer would class as an obstruction. An acknowledgement received but no definitive description of such a situation.

604.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor. Apology. No report.

605.00 Applications for development.

605.01 clerk read from an email received from UU, no fixed date yet for promised public meetings or planning submission to LDNP Planning Department about Crummock Water weir removal.

605.02 clerk aware that Cornhow 7/2023/2224 planning application, which had after appeal by applicant been refused, still trading contrary to the inspectors decision. Email from planning enforcement team indicated they may well proceed with an enforcement notice but applicant was supposed to be making a new application, with amendments, including removal of the American bus serving as a holiday cabin.

606.00 Adoption of domain www.buttermere-pc.gov.uk, emails addresses for all councillors for official use and continued use of Melbreak Communities website for web presence.

606.01 clerk confirmed that he had registered www.buttermere-pc.gov.uk domain and that he was now officially using clerk@buttermere-pc.gov.uk as the official email contact. He would circulate all Cllrs with their own gov.uk email box addresses and instruction on how to activate. Currently just trying to resolve the Melbreak Communities web address.

607.00 IT Policy. This item may be carried forward to the next meeting.

607.01 as the agenda topic implied, due to issues raised by chair and clerk this will be dealt within at December meeting.

608.00 Discuss November road closure B5289 Hause Point 16th to 20th November 2026 and tree felling proposed on same route just before Beck House, on its Buttermere side.

608.01 Highways had advised of a road closure on B5289 at Hause Point 16th November to 20th November but acknowledged that local businesses would need to get staff attendance organised so 9am to 16.30pm would be closure time. There is also to be some tree felling closer to Beck House at Lanthwaite, so clerk was trying to coordinate both works at the same time. Cllrs doubted tree felling would create a necessity to close the route entirely, just for short periods while lumber on the road may require cutting. Clerk to establish which side of the road the felling was being done and could a temporary stop/go board system be employed.

608.02 clerk advised that he had requested that Highways while working at Hause Point, attend to the drainage ditches to reduce constant flooding and icing issue in the winter at that area.

609.02 Mill Beck flooding and PROW proposals.

609.03 Cllr L.K whose pasture is affected by the flood which currently occurs gave a brief account of the proposals being developed which he was hopeful would finally revolve the issues. He was happy with the current progress and thanked Cllr J.B for his attendance at recent meetings and professional input.

610.00 Resolve to amend clerk's salary at LC2 level 19, nationally approved by NALC and back date the award to 1st April 2026. As recommended by NALC and Calc. £16.62 to £17.17/hr.

610.00 Chair put the resolution to the Cllrs and unanimous decision to agree to increase and back pay.

611.00. Parish council councillor vacancy.

611.01 chair Cllr H.F-D that the earlier guest Derek Tunstall was happy to be co-opted to the council. He would qualify on the point of being fully employed in the parish, although not a resident of the parish, he was to provide a CV to clerk who would circulate it and co-option at the next meeting in December, provided Cllrs approved the application.

612.00 Progress reports, clerk.

612.01 Numerous email exchanges with Cumberland Council Officer Richard Moore about the unofficial bus stop in Buttermere and the practice of drivers in how they discharge and pick up passengers at different points. (minute 601.04 refers these minutes)

612.02 The double yellow lines are now in place past Gatesgarth. Cllrs did note that there were breaks in the lines which created suspect parking points. Cllr J.B to photograph and provide What 3 Word reference points for clerk to tackle Highways.

612.03 clerk still awaiting response from police about what constitutes an obstruction with parked motor vehicles.

612.04 exchange of emails with Steph Shaw, Senior Manager Electoral Services, Community Governance Review will not take place until May 2031 election.

612.05 Phone conversation with Libby Bateman at Fibrus, new revised route for broadband highspeed fibre cable, it is to come from Cockermouth. Not via Newlands Pass. Coming in now via Lanthwaite and Rannerdale so both areas will now have a high-speed fibre option. Discussions well advanced with NT over wayleave access.

613.00 Councillors reports.

613.01 Cllr Y.K reported 3 new Community Defib machines installed in the area. Croft House Farm Café, Hassness House and at Gatesgarth. She explained funding sources, but her concern is no mobile signals for ringing 999. Plea for better phone access.

614.00 Correspondence.

614.01 letter received from ICO reminding parish to renew Data Protection registration. Fee is now £52.00 per annum up from £40. Clerk has renewed and will reclaim cost via his expenses.

614.02 email of introduction 29th May from Greg Dobrzanski, who is now NT Ranger for Buttermere, replacing Mark Astley.

614.03 the film company KATANA who recently filmed in Buttermere have donated £1500 to Loweswater PCC for refurbishment of the Old School Room in Buttermere, the parish council's meeting room. Clerk is aware the Lakeland 100 team have also donated £500 for a similar purpose. Meeting room to be redecorated and new curtains are also possible.

614.04 Exchange of emails with Rob Lewis Highways about action to have Rannerdale parking restrictions next May for Bluebell system.

614.05 from June 2026 no longer will a councillor's home address in local authority register of interests be on public display.

614.06 circulated Peter Walters e newsletters.

615.00 Payments for approval.

Intpay174, M Milner, £170.40, salary June £133.00. no expenses.

Intpay175, HMRC, PAYE, £33.20 June.

June clerk's payments made to confirm with HMRC submission and payment time limits

Intpay176, M Milner, £133.00, July salary No expenses

Intpay 177, HMRC PAYE, £32.20 July

July clerk's payments made to confirm with HMRC submission and payment time limits

Intpay 178, M Milner, £132.80, August salary. No expenses

Intpay 179, HMRC PAYE, £33.40 August.

August clerk's payments made to confirm with HMRC submission and payment time limits

Intpay 180, M Milner, £263.72, Sept' salary £159.40, plus back pay, expenses £104.32

Intpay 181, HMRC PAYE, £39.80 September.

All approved.

616.00 Date and time of the next meeting. Tuesday 1st December 2026, 7.30pm, at Old School Room, Buttermere. Meeting venue may change, agenda will confirm

Meeting closed 9.10pm