

Loweswater Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd July 2026 at Loweswater Village Hall.

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

Present: Cllrs P Battrick (vice chair, acting chair), M Astley, K Leck, C Todd, R Thompson.

Cumberland Council councillor, not present.

Clerk, Mike Milner. No members of the public.

Apologies, Cllrs D Robinson (chair), L Meadley. Jill Perry (CC)

882.00 Apologies for absence, as noted above.

883.00 Declarations of interest. None

884.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Loweswater Parish Council held on Thursday 7th May 2026, as a true record.

884.01 Resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record, duly signed by acting chair.

885.00 Public Participation. No members of public present.

886.00 Police Matters.

886.01 No police reports. Clerk had circulated the police e-newsletters.

887.00 Applications for development.

887.01 one application to consider, 7/2026/2113, Crabtree Beck. Clerk had received and circulated the documents the previous day. A retrospective application on a Grade 2 listed building for installation of under floor heating, installed back in 2017 when Honister slate had been installed in kitchen area, with planning permission. All Cllrs agreed that no objection to the application, clerk to advise planning accordingly.

888.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor. Not present, apology. No report.

889.00 Receive the Loweswater Parish Council's first quarters accounts 2026/27. All documents to be circulated prior to the meeting.

889.01 clerk had circulated the accounts prior to the meeting. There were no questions, the clerk confirmed the ledger balance matched the bank statement for 30th June, and with Cllrs approval of accounts acting chair duly signed the bank statement.

890.00 Discuss the issues raised by a recent discussion at March meeting about wilding of green areas and Mockerkin Green.

890.01 acting chair Cllr P B had requested this was an agenda item following the discussion back in March instigated by a member of the public. Cllr P B reminded all Cllrs of the discussions and decisions taken in May 2020, Jan' 2021 and Nov' 2021, all of which agreed the provision for a wild flower meadow on the lower section of Mockerkin Green and that the upper level would be mowed on a cut and drop basis 6 times a year.

890.02 Cllr M A confirmed he had with Cllr C T been instrumental in preparing the wild meadow area and that the cutting of the upper part and the meadow area had then been contracted out to an outside contractor. A system that had worked well since that date.

890.03 after a discussion about what was the alternative other than allow the whole area to become wild with no cutting, it was agreed the parish council would continue with a current cutting regime.

891.00 Proposed diversion of footpath 243017, Loweswater Fell and Pottergill, Loweswater Parish. Any further submission to LDNP on diversion.

891.01 clerk had put this on the agenda as it was the final recommendation for the proposed PROW changes as mentioned. Cllrs all agreed that they had already recorded their views and nothing further to add. Clerk to advise accordingly.

892.00 Flood equipment, provided by Melbreak Communities, available in Mockerkin and the storage location of the spare equipment currently stored by a former parish councillor.

892.01 clerk confirmed that he had exchanged emails with the current holder of the spare equipment and that individual would like it removed to another location. Clerk had twice contacted Melbreak Communities about the issue, but understood the flood emergency plan for Melbreak as a community under review.

892.02 Cllrs during a discussion did wonder if a flood equipment box was actually necessary for Mockerkin. No equipment had been used since the box was installed. It was decided clerk contact Melbreak Communities committee, advising the box could stay in location by Mockerkin Parish Noticeboard, but the storage of spares in the village was unnecessary and should be relocated elsewhere. Cllrs also thought that through The Link or some other medium Mockerkin residents should be reminded, on an annual basis, of the location of the box, its content and how it could be utilised if necessary. Question also raised about the durability of the equipment of the equipment in the box and was or should that also be inspected on an annual basis.

893.00 Update on Thackthwaite new noticeboard, delivery and installation.

893.01 clerk advised he had been asked for balance of payment. Cllr M A had been advised the board was to be delivered to The Grange tomorrow Friday 3rd July and that he as agreed would complete the installation next week. Acting chair Cllr P B had spoken to the residents living opposite the board and they welcomed a new board to replace the current weather-beaten installation.

894.00 Update on the timetable of a possible merger with Buttermere Parish, subject to approval. Based on that detail update on website and email compliance with Assertion 10.

894.01 clerk read the content of email from Electoral Services Manager at Cumberland Council which indicated that the merger, if approved by residents of Buttermere and Loweswater Parishes, could not take place until May 2031.

894.02 clerk advised he wished that timescale had been clarified back in autumn 2025 when the idea was first discussed with the Electoral Services Team, he would have sorted out email compliance with Assertion 10 then, not be rushing to sort now. He confirmed that the website Melbreak.Communities.org.uk was compliant and auditors would not raise an issue about the email situation. Clerk had advised Calc of the situation and that was not an issue with them as clerk was resolving the issue.

895.00 High speed Fibre Broadband to Watergate and High Nook and immediate Loweswater properties.

895.01 a local resident had advised that after numerous email exchanges between Fibrus and local residents living beyond Maggie's Bridge car park, it finally looked as if the properties would get a highspeed broadband supply. Clerk and local residents would obviously be asking Fibrus for regular updates.

895.02 Cllr K L advised Fibrus had again decided that her highspeed supply and that to The Grange was to be rerouted and now underground, although telegraph poles had been installed. The project seemed to be more complicated than was imagined.

896.00 Progress reports, clerk.

896.01 clerk confirmed all end of year accounts had been duly submitted to Moore the government auditors and acknowledged. All appropriate documentation was up on Melbreak Communities website.

896.02 clerk briefly reported on Highways TEAMS meeting he had reported on which he attended on 20th May. Clerk had circulated the PowerPoint presentations from the meeting.

897.00 Councillors report.

897.01 Cllr R T reported she had attended a Melbreak Communities meeting and the new chair was in the process of rewriting the group's Mission statement which would be duly circulated. No other reports.

898.00 Correspondence.

898.01 Information Commissioner's Office had sent their annual renewal notice. Clerk had paid the £52 using his personal card and reclaim the cost in his expenses. Clerk displayed the new certificate.

898.02 invoice received from Cluran Landscape Services, £45.50, May Mockerkinn cut.

898.03 Calc had queried email address, not gov.uk or other appropriate, clerk had updated on the position.

898.04 circulated Cllr Peter Walter's e newsletters.

898.05 reminder from Calc about annual subscription, already paid.

898.06 from 29th June 2026 on all Cllrs declaration of interest form home address does not have to be made public.

898.07 anno' letter received about Winfell Caravan site. Not Loweswater parish. No action.

899.00.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Intpay218, £159.44, salary June, no expenses claimed.

HMRC PAYE Intpay219, Clerks tax £40.00, June PAYE.

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

Signs of Cheshire Intpay 220, £303.00, 50% deposit of new Thackthwaite noticeboard.

M Milner Intpay221, £261.76, salary £159.64 May. £102.12 expenses. June/July

HMRC PAYE Intpay 222, £39.80 PAYE July.

Cluran Landscapes, Intpay 223, £45.50, May grass cut Mockerkinn green.

Signs of Cheshire Intpay 224, £303.00, 50% balance of new Thackthwaite noticeboard.

All approved

Meeting closed 8.10pm.

900.00 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 3rd September 2026 at 7.30pm, at Loweswater Village Hall.