

Lorton Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025.

Chair opened the meeting 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs, Peter Deeks (chair), Glenis Postlethwaite, (vice-chair), Zindzi Cresswell, Chris Poate, Bruce Wilson.

Clerk, Mike Milner. No members of the public present.

Cumberland Councillor, Jill Perry.

845.00 Apologies for absence. Cllr Cathy Lee (LPC)

846.00 Declaration of Interest. None

847.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council and the minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 7th May 2025, as a true record.

847.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes. Chair signed minutes.

848.00 Public participation. Approx. 15 mins.

848.01 clerk confirmed that from last meeting's public participation, the "Private Property" sign in the Pound would be discussed at item 15 on the agenda. He also advised that Crummock Water weir letter as per minute 828.04 had not been submitted as UU had obtained a delay on their application. Additional documentation to be submitted and until details known, not aware how or if it would change transport through Low Lorton.

849.00 Police Matters.

849.01 clerk had circulated the e-newsletter.

850.00 Applications for development.

850.01 no new applications for consideration. Clerk advised app' 7/2025/2084 1, Midtown Cottages, High Lorton, approved by LDNP Planning Officer.

851.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor.

851.01 Cllr J.P mentioned the boundary changes, Loweswater and Blindbothel which historically have been in the same ward as Buttermere and Lorton, are now to be part of Melbreak and The Marron ward. Discussion ensued and clerk agreed to ask other 3 parishes if their names could be added to a submission of objection to the change. All Cllrs present wanted the 4 parishes represented under Melbreak Communities Banner to remain within same electoral boundary. Clerk to contact other 3 parishes.

851.02 the local library survey, still time for locals to take part in the survey.

852.00 Resolve to accept a parish council set of "Working Group" criteria for inclusion in the Lorton Parish Council Standing Orders.

852.01 chair went through the document with Cllrs. It was clarified that a quorum was 3 persons, but that one of those must be a Cllr. Clerk was concerned that meetings were occurring outside the official parish council meeting, such meetings not covered by Standing Orders and not sub-committees. Cllrs resolved to unanimously accept the document.

853.00 The Lorton Parish Plan, next stage for public presentation. Time line to consider responses.

853.01 a discussion during which it was evident there was a further later draft than the one circulated. Cllr B.W made observations about which parts would be the parish council's responsibility and other sections responsibility of other agencies. Councillors started to discuss and reassess the Action Plan section. Chair agreed this was a parish council meeting, the Action Plan is to be considered in detail by the Working Group, Cllrs P.D, Z.C, G.C, B.W and C.L to be the working group. Details of the plan to be announced in July (Summer) newsletter, if a member of the public wanted hard copy, clerk to provide and an electronic version would be made available on Melbreak Communities Website.

854.00 Consider 3 Parish Council Procedure documents, circulated by Cllr Zindzi Cresswell 29th May 2025. Reaffirm the parish council Code of Conduct. Circulated prior to the meeting.

854.01 chair thanked Cllr Z.C for her documents, he had recirculated a copy with his thoughts to the suggestions prior to the meeting. Most aspects covered by Good Councillors Guide. Cllr J.P confirmed that most parish councils had very few public attends unless a contentious issue or planning application. Clerk had calculated a document showing average attendance 3 per meeting since May 2018. Cllr B.W suggested the document covering meeting procedure could be part of the parish plan, and this was to be discussed by the PP Working Group. The procedure document could be on the website.

854.02 Councillors unanimously reaffirmed the latest edition of the parish council Code of Conduct.

855.00 Crummock Water weir project by UU, current position.

855.01 clerk confirmed the application had not been withdrawn, but that LDNP Planning Department and UU had agreed to extend the time limit before it would be considered by committee. At time of meeting, it was not known when extra documents would be submitted. At that point a Lorton submission would be made.

856.00 Parish Council representative for YTH Management Committee.

856.01 Cllr P.D is the current parish council representative and he confirmed that he was prepared to continue as such. Cllrs agreed unanimously to support Cllr P.D remain in post.

857.00 Receive first quarter parish council accounts to 30th June 2025. Documents circulated prior to meeting.

857.01 clerk ran through the payments ledger and produced a bank statement confirming that at the end of the quarter the bank account figure matched the ledger balance on the bank reconciliation. Cllrs unanimously resolved to accept the first quarter accounts and chair signed the bank statement at the 30th June figure.

858.00 Resolve to appoint replacement(s) on HSBC Banking Mandate arrangement and removal of HSBC monthly £8 banking charge.

858.01 before clerk proceeded with his comments, he invited Cllr C.P to say a few words. Cllr C.P advised that she would with effect from the end of the current meeting be standing down as a parish councillor. She had first served as a councillor in 2002. Chair thanked her for her commitment to the community and all wished her well for the future.

858.02 clerk advised that Cllrs C.P and G.P were the current mandate signature, therefore he could do with 2 new signatures, and 2 from 3 to sign mandate material.

858.03 Cllrs P.D and B.W were nominated and approved by Cllrs. Clerk to organise.

859.00 Replacement sign for Parish Pound, LDNP planning department's advice.

Sign location.

859.01 chair Cllr P.D read out the criteria received from LDNP Enforcement Officer. The original sign had been correctly positioned and would be repositioned by himself. A comment would be made in the next newsletter confirming it being appropriately located.

860.00 Grass verge signs being vandalised, their replacement and action in newsletter.

860.01 chair Cllr P.D agreed that an item would be placed in the next newsletter about the vandalism, assumed caused by a quad bike running over the signs. Cllr B.W thought large boulders should be considered, however clerk advised Highways would have strict views on that solution.

861.00 Summer newsletter, content and print deadline.

861.01 chair noted what would be the articles and a deadline agreed of 18th July for sending to clerk. Cllr B.W would proof read the finished newsletter. Cllr C.P advised she would still take delivery of printed newsletters and deal with distribution as she normally had done and would do so for the foreseeable future.

862.00 Progress reports, clerk.

862.01 VAT refund received 23rd April 2025.

862.02 New laptop purchased, details advised to councillors, 50% cost shared with Loweswater. Lorton cost £191.66, plus VAT £56.67 to be reclaimed.

862.03 Repairs have been made to wall opposite Yew Tree Hall.

862.04 Project evaluation finally submitted to National lottery for Interpretation Board funding.

862.05 20mph speed zone, outside Lorton zone, is part of suitability assessment by Cumberland Highways.

862.06 clerk attended 2 hour LDNP planning seminar and had circulated recording to Cllr.

862.07 Bridge Side House is to have a chamfered stone fitted to the corner on the 27th October, by Highways, with a road closure.

862.08 chair had circulated training dates, Cllr B.W to advise on attendance on the next Effective Councillor course.

863.00 Cllr Reports.

863.01 Cllr C.P confirmed that all village planters had been replanted for the season.

863.02 Cllr Z.C advised about Lorton school now had a bus and it was available for use by community groups, also there was to be another Apple Day on 5th October 2025.

863.03 Cllr G.P it had been a good year so far for Mlbreak Communities group and they were currently organising Hedgehog House boxes.

863.04 Cllr P.D advised he was progressing the tennis club lease and that work was underway with refurbishing some of the parish seats.

864.00 Correspondence.

864.01 Invoice received from Tivoli June 105225 £259.09 and school invoice 003/2025 for £107.95 raised and issued.

864.02 school confirmed received invoices 001 and 002/2025 and both paid.

864.03 following last meeting and minute note 829.02 an apology received the following morning.

864.04 Copied into an email from Cllr G.C to chair about handling planning breaches.

864.05 circulated new Cumberland Council waste collection details
 864.06 circulated Cllr Peter Walter's (North Area LDNP Cllr) e newsletter.
 864.07 Information Commissioners Office, Data Protection annual renewal. Renewed by clerk, covered until 3rd July 2026 and this year's cost was £52, up from £40.
 864.08 Receipts from Pam Jaques for planter plants, £40.33, also receipts for same totalling £31.55 from Cllr C.P.
 864.09 circulated various TTRO notices.
 864.10 Pensions Regulator has advised the 3 yearly renewal date for parish council was due. Clerk will renew.
 864.11 notice of resignation received from Cllr C.P with immediate effect after July meeting. Clerk thanked her for being very supportive chair since he commenced in May 2018.
 864.12 Request for details of red squirrel signs from Cllr J.P(CC) details duly provided.
 864.13 circulated email from Woodland Creation about habitat at Whinlatter, Dodd Wood. And The Hobcarton site in Lorton Parish.
 864.14 email from local resident requesting a copy of the "Feasibility Report" that parish council had paid for. Advised parish council only contributed towards the Feasibility Report, as per arrangement with YTH. Had not commissioned it or seen a copy of a "report", therefore unable to provide any documentation, advised applicant to make request directly to YTHMC.

864.15 email about Parish Field markings for school sports day. Not parish council issue, provided school with Tivoli area manager's contact details. Understand all resolved.
 864.16 usual selection of Scam emails, all forwarded to GCHQ.
 864.17 email from local resident and part of content thanking the parish council for a shrub put in the YTH garden. Forwarded to YTH as they are responsible for the garden.

865.00 Payments for approval.

Tivoli Intpay 256, £259.09 Parish Field May cut. Back charged School £107.95
 M Milner Intpay 257, £193.30, salary June £193.30 only.
 HMRC PAYE Intpay 258, Clerks tax £48.20, June 2025.
 Above payment to conform with HMRC submission timescales.
 HSBC bank charges D/D for June £8.00
 M Milner Intpay 259, £590, Salary July £193.10, Expenses £397.49, includes new laptop.
 HMRC PAYE, Intpay 260, £48.40, clerk's July PAYE.
 Tivoli Intpay 261, £259.09 Parish Field June cut. Back charged School £107.95
 Pam Jaques Intpay 262, £40.33, village planter plants.
 Chris Poate Intpay 263, £31.55, village planter plants.
 Harvey Davidson, Bigfoot, Intpay 264, £535.90, May & June grass contract. £267.95 x 2,
 All Payments approved.
 Meeting closed 9.28pm.

866.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall.