

Buttermere Parish Council

Minutes of the annual general meeting of Buttermere Parish Council held on Tuesday 27th May 2025 at The Old School Room, Buttermere followed by May parish council meeting.

The current chair declared the AGM meeting open at 7.30pm

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

Cumberland Councillor: Jill Perry.

Clerk: Mike Milner. Plus, Cllr Peter Walter, LDNP North Area Cllr.

Apologies for absence: none.

504.00 to appoint a chair and vice-chair for the coming year.

504.01 chair asked if there were any proposals for position of chair. Cllr L.K proposed that Cllr H F-D continue as chair, this was seconded by Cllr A.M and she was duly elected unopposed and unanimously.

504.02 clerk confirmed that Cllr E.B current vice chair had confirmed that he was happy to continue as vice chair. Cllr E.B was proposed by Cllr L.K as vice-chair, seconded by Cllr A.M and duly elected unopposed and unanimously.

Meeting closed 7.31.

Buttermere Parish Council meeting 27th May 2025

The chair opened the regular parish council meeting at 7. 32pm.

Present: As above

Cumberland Councillor: Jill Perry.

Clerk: Mike Milner. Plus Cllr P.W.

Apologies for absence: none.

505.00 Declaration of Interest. None.

506.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Buttermere parish council meeting held on Tuesday 4th March 2025 as a true record.

506.01 Minutes were approved by councillors present and duly signed.

Chair then moved agenda item 9 to next item and welcomed guest Cllr P.W.

507.00 Visitor management- updates on recent communications with LDNP and other agencies.

507.01 Chair opened the agenda topic outlining the current understanding of the CVAlerts email, now generally not manned other than during office hours, although sometimes monitored at weekends. Rangers out dawn to dusk. Chair had reported a recent camp fire by Lanthwaite road side, which had no action taken as she received an automated response from the CVAlerts email.

Also, exasperation that an email response to the parish, promised that after the April strategic visitor management group meeting there would be feedback, but although it never happened, and nor had there been any feedback after the May meeting.

507.02 Cllr P.W started his response quoting his newsletter content, Cllrs had read that they wanted up to date information. He proceeded to outline various shared initiatives between agencies, including the use of mounted police. He confirmed UU and NT had rangers out this summer. The agencies were operating under the Public Safety Protection Order, (PSPO) banner, he confirmed that CVAAlerts and PSPO emails were only read in office hours, but requested please use them so that LDNP and Cumberland could study all emails to establish where were problem areas. This assisted future planning policies.

507.03 LDNP had provided large AO size fire warning signs to all agencies including NT. Cllrs pointed out none had been made available at Cinderbank and clerk had chased NT for warning signs due to fires being lit and NT had provided an A4 poster, which was useless until you were close up and could read it. Buttermere chair had made requests to LDNPA on 12th/15th May for fire warning signs and NT had only installed them on 22nd May. Far from good enough, considering recent extreme dry weather conditions. It was confirmed at Simon Hill was now responsible for visitor management on behalf of LDNPA.

Cllr E.B joins meeting 7.49pm.

507.04 discussion about new permanent parking areas as opposed to Pop Up facilities. Cllr P.W confirmed that permanent parking would only be approved if it met the National Parks planning guidelines, in particular requiring them to be at a hub where onwards public transport could be used, and that would not apply to Buttermere. Cllrs pointed out that if there had been wet weather conditions Pop Up parking areas would invariably be unsuitable as ground too boggy. The issue of Gatesgarth parking was raised. Clerk confirmed the double yellow lines covered by TRO 2025/007 had finally been approved 23rd May and would be actioned as soon as possible by Highways. This would provide double yellows well past Gatesgarth towards Honister Mine entrance. Cllr P.W confirmed that LDNPA had also had discussions with the landowner at Gatesgarth and the additional overflow parking there was now back as an operational facility. Honesty bucket.

507.05 as the discussion concluded Cllr P.W confirmed that the options of a visitor levy on visitors who stayed overnight in the National Park, or alternatively a visitor car charge was being considered.

507.06 chair thanked Cllr P.W for his attendance and invited him to remain if he so wished. However, that was declined and he left the meeting at 8.04pm. Cllr E.B and L.K also left the meeting, but it remained quorate. Chair then advised that the next item would be item 6.

508.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor.

508.01 Cllr J.P discussed the changes to waste recycling collections. Food waste, Biffa had taken over the contract and collections of food waste could be started sooner than the 2032 schedule provided by the old contractor, appropriate treatment equipment would be installed sooner. With regards the new collection schedules, those who required new bigger bins, the replacement request scheme was currently on hold until July, as the current request backlog was cleared. At the end of Cllr J.P's report, chair thanked her and invited her to remain. Invitation declined.

Cllr E.B and L.K had returned to the meeting 8.06.

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

510.00 Police Matters.

510.01 Clerk had circulated the police e newsletters as they were issued.

510.02 Clerk updated Cllrs with the content of a Teams meeting he had had with the Buttermere Community Police Officer. He confirmed that officer was based in Workington, that the police were aware of the issues frequently mentioned at busy visitor periods. Confirmed police will deal with traffic obstructions but parking issues were for the enforcement team. In other parishes where there was a school, then police were more visible, due to liaising with school children, no school in Buttermere so no real local connection. Officers didn't get time to be beat walkers as in previous generations.

511.00 Development applications.

511.01 7/2023/2224 Cornhow at Brackenthwaite, applicant has appealed the planning departments refusal to allow 3 additional cabins on the current site. Inspectorate decision awaited.

511.02 At Lanthwaite Gate an agricultural building is to be removed.

511.03 Crummock Water weir removal 7/2025/2052 the planning authority have permitted a time extension to UU allowing submission of clearer documents to support the application.

511.04 Honister Zip Wire 7/2023/2286, finally approved 5th March 2025.

511.05 Lanthwaite House, 7/2025/2098 non-material amendment to application, window proportions on north elevation and access from oriel window on ground floor west elevation. No action required by parish council.

512.00 Receive and approve the parish council accounts for the financial year 2024/25. Consider and approve the signature of 2024/25 Certificate of Exemption, Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25, Accounting Statement 2024/25, Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 plus receive the bank reconciliation and variance report for 24/25. Draft documents circulated prior to meeting to all councillors.

512.01 Cllr J P decided time to depart the meeting. Clerk went through the various documents he had circulated and he and the chair signed where necessary once they had been approved by the councillors.

512.02 Certificate of Exemption, AGAR 2024/25 Part 2. This confirms that the parish has neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25k. Inspected by councillors and signed by clerk and chair.

512.03 Clerk had circulated the signed Annual Internal Audit Report. Internal audit had taken place 02/11/24 and 29/04/25. All boxes correctly ticked, and no issues or recommendations raised by the auditor.

512.04 Annual Governance Statement. Clerk read the content of the 9 boxes on the form and at each statement to be ticked Yes box with Cllrs approval. Document signed by clerk and chair.

512.05 Finally the accounting statement, which had been circulated was approved by councillors and again was duly signed by RFO and chair.

512.06 Once minutes written up minute reference numbers will be inserted and accounts submitted to external auditor and made available for public inspection and on the website.

513.00 Confirm bank mandate signatures

513.01 Confirmed as Cllrs H.F-D, E.B and Y.K

514.00 Reaffirm Parish Council Code of Conduct.

514.01 Cllrs unanimously reaffirmed the Code of Conduct as circulated prior to the meeting by the clerk.

515.00 Progress reports, clerk.

515.01 clerk reported the tree at the road junction with Loweswater to Lorton, reported as a visibility hazard had been felled by Highways. Excellent visibility.

515.02 Cllr K.B had reported the state of the carriageway retaining wall at The How. Images received and clerk had reported E1/241353 refers. Work arranged for winter 2025/26 along with wall supporting wall on the other side of the carriageway.

515.03 TRO2025/07 dealt with at minute 507.04.

516.00 Councillors reports.

516.01 No reports from Cllrs, however the Chair did wish to thank the clerk for attending the meeting with UU at Loweswater Village Hall on 8th May. He was there for 1½ hours and chair said he ought to be reimbursed for the time as a separate payment. All Cllrs agreed. Clerk thanked them, advising he was already going to advise he had charged his mileage for the trip in this month's expenses, but he would add the additional time to his June payment as he had already submitted May salary and tax details to HMRC.

517.00 Correspondence.

517.01 Peter Walter's e newsletters circulated.

517.02 Parish precept received £3400. One of instalment this year.

517.03 all accounts documents received from Moore government auditor and actioned.

517.04 email of complaint about Base Camp Festival. Not a parish council issue complainant advised accordingly.

517.05 Calc annual subscription received £112.32p, 78 registered voters in parish.

517.06 email from Lois Sparling, Community Chaplain, no action secular parish council.

517.07 Democratic Services requested copy of Code of Conduct and all signed declaration of Office forms.

517.08 Zurich Insurance renewal, £178.19 2025/26, 36p less than last year.

517.09 Invoice from Simone Morgan, £30 end of year 2024/25 audit fee.

518.00 Payments for approval.

Intpay147, M Milner, £128.90, salary April £128.90. No expenses.

Intpay148, HMRC, PAYE, £32.20 April.

April HSBC account charge £8.00.

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

Intpay149, M Milner, £194.57, May salary £128.80 expenses £65.77

Intpay150, HMRC PAYE, £32.20 May

May HSBC account charge £8.00

Intpay 151, Calc annual subscription, £112.32.

Intpay 152, Zurich, £178.19, annual parish insurance premium 2025/26

Intpay 153, Simone Morgan, £30.00 2024/25 end of year audit fee.

All approved

519.00 Date and time of the next meeting. Tuesday 2nd September 2025, 7.30pm, at Old School Room, Buttermere.

Meeting closed 8.29