

**Buttermere Parish Council Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday
2nd September 2025 in The Old School Room at 7.30pm.**

The chair declared the meeting open at 7.34pm

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

Cumberland Councillor, not present.

Clerk: Mike Milner. No public present

Apologies for absence: Cllr Peter Walker, LDNP North Area Councillor. Cllr Jill Perry C.C.

520.00 Apologies. As noted above.

521.00 Declaration of Interest. None

522.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Buttermere parish council meeting held on Tuesday 27th May 2025 as a true record.

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

523.00 Public participation, no members of the public present.

524.00 Police Matters. As normal clerk had circulated the relevant police e newsletter, when he received it.

525.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor. Not present, clerk read brief report.

526.00 Applications for development.

526.01 None to consider.

527.00. Crummock Water weir removal, up date on current position.

527.01 chair Cllr H F-D advised that the application was currently on hold as UU undertook more feasibility studies. A revised planning application anticipated by Spring 2026.

528.00 Visitor management issues over the summer.

528.01 chair Cllr H F-D advised that North Area LDNP Cllr Peter Walter had been invited, but had sent his apologies. Cllrs discussed the summer experience; major observation toilets not cleaned as regularly as in previous years. Signage directing public to the public toilets still required, promised for past 2 years. All Cllrs were of the opinion that there were more day trippers in vehicles and on motorbikes. Doing a circuit of "The Lakes" like Scottish 500 north west coast route. More police vehicles seen and Traffic Enforcement Officer had been issuing tickets across the parish.

528.02 Parish Council awaiting the PSPO end of year report. All Cllrs acknowledged the excellent work of the volunteer warden. Two new disabled parking spaces on Lorton side entrance to village by existing NT parking.

528.03 clerk to pursue the promised toilet signage.

529.00 Council to confirm adoption of new documents, Buttermere Disciplinary Policy and Buttermere Parish Council Complaints & Vexation Procedure Document. Copies circulated.

529.01 chair Cllr H F-D advised that clerk had become aware that the current Complaints Policy was dated 2015 and had not changed to comply with changes in legislation. Cllrs resolved to unanimously accept the new documents.

530.00 Resolve to amend clerk's salary at LC2 level 19, nationally approved by Nalc and back dated to 1st April 2025. As recommended by Calc and Nalc.

Unanimously resolved to approve the salary increase and back date it.

531.00 Consider request by the Community Chaplain, Lois Sparling, to attend and discuss supporting the community, within her duties.

531.01 councillors considered the request and concluded that it was a secular environment, therefore did not think it would be a good use of council time, particularly as members of the public tend not to attend meetings. Clerk to advise of the decision.

532.00 Complete and sign the approved bank mandate form as per May 2025 minute note 513.00.

532.01 Cllrs H F-D, Y K and E B, signed the mandate form as did the clerk. Resolved that any two of the four signatures could sign official documents for HSBC Bank Plc. Also on the new mandate form duly signed the two approved signature were the clerk, who is the primary user of the online banking facility and has been since it first use and also the current chair, Cllr H F-D. Clerk to submit to the HSBC and also seek return of access to the online banking as digital security equipment no longer functioning due to loss of battery power and online banking now requires use of HSBC banking app on clerk's mobile phone.

533.00 Consider the ramifications of adopting our own domain name (for example www.buttermermere.gov.uk) its use for email addresses of councillors and clerk and how it would affect current Melbreak Communities website use. New Website costs and annual costs and annual maintenance costs.

533.01 chair Cllr H F-D and then clerk explained the ramifications of having a gov.uk domain web name, website and email addresses. This is a government instigated action and the next AGAR end of year accounts declaration will have a box to complete confirming the council conforms to all the new legislation.

533.02 Cllrs all agreed that clerk should investigate and report back with the costs, changes and actions required to conform.

534.00 Progress Reports, clerk.

534.01 clerk had attended two LDNP Planning Seminars over the past three months, chaired by LDNP Head of Development Management, Andrew Smith. Both seminars had been accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. Clerk had circulated the both the recordings of the sessions and also the PowerPoint Presentations for all Cllrs to save the material for their future reference.

534.02 Issues with Fibrus over the summer concerning unnecessary road closures.

534.03 chair and clerk had both taken part in a TEAMS meeting with the UU weir removal team.

534.04 clerk had circulated a document about Visitor Accommodation Impact, chair had responded to it and Cllr A M to advise clerk of his thoughts, clerk will then forward both observations to the reports original author.

535.00 Councillors reports.

535.01 chair Cllr H F-D advised the council that she had become involved with the Cocker Catchment Group. A collaborative group working to build an ecologically functioning landscape supporting nature, the community and agriculture.

535.02 chair Cllr H F-D then advised that she had had discussions with both the clerk and the chair of Loweswater Parish Council about the possible amalgamation of the the two parishes. As the Buttermere Parish has just 79 registered voters, well below the 150 criteria required for a parish under current conditions and Loweswater has 187, it would be perhaps would be advantageous to combine the two parishes. The clerk pointed out that to consider such an amalgamation now, was better than long-term the farming community being forced into an amalgamation with a parish that did not fit its own environment. Loweswater was certainly a farming-based community.

535.03 nothing was set in stone on the topic it was just an idea that Cllrs of the two parishes may want to consider. Loweswater would receive the same question on Thursday evening. There would be many hurdles to be overcome, but as both parishes are aware, their biggest outlay was a clerk and based on a simple economy of scale argument it would be a possible advantage.

535.04 After a few minutes' discussion, with no decision at this time one way or the other, councillors agreed that there would be no harm in investigating the possibility of amalgamating. Just thinking back to the gov.uk route to be considered, that could be a money saving reason for an amalgamation.

535.05 Cllr K.B raised concerns about the state of the wall at Hows. Clerk had already reported it and Highways have advised it is due for remedial work this autumn, but he would raise the issue again.

535.06 Cllrs did wonder if the promised double yellow lines at Gatesgarth and extended up to nearly Honister Mine, had been undertaken. Clerk would ask the Highways engineer responsible.

536.00 Correspondence.

536.01 Confirmation from Zurich Insurance that payment had been received and the parish insurance was in place.

536.02 clerk had advised all Cllrs of the Calc website change of username and password.

536.03 Notification that on 1st July all LDNP parking tariffs increased by 50p.

536.04 on 3rd July Cumberland Council issued their "Call for Sites" for the new Cumberland Plan. Enquiring where land was available for future development. Process runs until Jan' 2026.

536.05 In July received a police report for Buttermere in Wiltshire.

536.06 on 20th July ICO issued their reminder about renewing the parish's Data Protection Registration, this year the subscription has increased from £40 to £52; clerk had paid the subscription and would reclaim in his expenses this month.

536.07 email received from Cumberland Council Deputy Monitoring Officer and Governance Lawyer, about Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards. Clerk had circulated her letter and also the attached PowerPoint presentation.

537.00 Payments for approval.

Intpay154, M Milner, £128.80, salary June £128.80. No expenses.

Intpay155, HMRC, PAYE, £32.20 June.

June HSBC account charge £8.00.

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

Intpay156, M Milner, £128.80, July salary £128.80 No expenses

Intpay 157, HMRC PAYE, £32.20 July

July HSBC account charge £8.00

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

Intpay 158, M Milner, £128.80, August salary £128.80 No expenses

Intpay 159, HMRC PAYE, £32.20 August.

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

Intpay 160, M Milner, £235.60, Sept' salary £153.00, expenses £82.60

Intpay 161, HMRC PAYE, £38.20 September.

All approved

538.00 Date and time of the next meeting Tuesday 2nd December 2025, 7.30pm, the proposed venue is Croft House Farm Café, Buttermere. The venue maybe changed to The Old School Room, but councillors and public will be advised on agenda when it is circulated prior to the meeting and displayed on Buttermere website page on Melbreak Community website.

Meeting closed 8.29

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