

# Lorton Parish Council

## Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan' 2026

Present: Cllrs Peter Deeks (chair), Glenis Postlethwaite, (vice-chair), Garan Comley, Cathy Lee, Bruce Wilson.

Cumberland Councillor. Cllr Jill Perry.

Clerk, Mike Milner. 1 member of the public.

**910.00 Apologies for absence,** None.

**911.00 Declaration of Interest.** None, but chair reminded all he and Cllr C.L were involved with the YTH Development Group.

**912.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025, as a true record.**

912.01 Minutes approved as true record and signed by the chair.

912.02 It was noted that Zindzi Cresswell had sent apologies for the November meeting, but as she had previously resigned as a councillor and was not required to send apologies for non-attendance, the apologies were moot and therefore not recorded.

**913.00 Public participation. Approx. 15 mins.**

913.01 No reports from September. No public questions for this month.

**914.00 Police Matters.**

892.01 Clerk had circulated the e-newsletter. Clerk confirmed he had attended a Police Teams meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm. Clerk advised Cllr G.P that no recorded record of theft of convex mirrors across the area.

**915.00 Applications for development.**

915.01 Clerk had circulated an application 7/2025/2232 Harrot Hill Farm, for a covered muck midden. Cllrs had no objections the application, but noted the midden's close proximity to the beck. Cllrs instructed the clerk when advising the planning office of that decision, to ask the planning office to ensure that appropriate controlled drainage run off provision was requested, to stop contamination of the beck.

**916.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor.**

916.01 Cllr Jill Perry advised that in the revised proposed boundary changes, all the original parishes within the Melbreak communities banner were now banded back together, not split as previously proposed. The consultation period had been extended to 26<sup>th</sup> Jan' 2026 and final decision now due May 2026.

916.02 Cllr J.P advised that with regard to flooding measures, the council would no longer be providing hydro-sacks or sand bags.

916.03 As Cllr B.W was not sure if Cllr J.P would still be present at Lorton Parish Councillors reports, he wished to bring to her attention, two areas with blocked drains, which caused flooding. Also, an issue with a stream through a property on the Whinlatter Pass road which was now discharging water on to the road, due to it being diverted. Finally, the gritting of Whinlatter Pass, or lack of, was causing accidents. Chair pointed out over the years numerous attempts to make Whinlatter safer with more substantial barriers had seen no response. Cllr J.P would take up the issues with Highways. Clerk reminded all that he had circulated a road closure email concerning Whinlatter Pass, which was in place for a 21 day period, to close the route if there were icy conditions.

**917.00 Resolve the Lorton parish precept request for financial year 2026/27 revised budget document circulated prior to the meeting. Annual RPI announced in November 3.8%.**

917.01 Clerk had circulated an updated budget list with appropriate notes. The chair went through the budget figures line by line and where appropriate the clerk explained his figures. Chair confirmed that previous year's precept had only increased by the 50% increase for cutting the parish field and no account had been taken of a donation to the YTH refurbishment fund to part contribute to the feasibility study or a cost of living increase for 2025/26, but with the intention to recover the drop in reserves over the next few years.

917.02 Clerk was now suggesting a 50% increase in the precept to £12434 from last year's £8256 precept request, which should return the parish reserves to 70% of the precept figure. Government guidance indicates that it is prudent for every parish to carry a year's reserves forward every year.

917.03 By unanimous decision precept of £12434 was proposed and agreed.

**918.00 Consider that certain of the No Parking signage, should be replaced on sections of the village verges, not those blatantly vandalised. Issue from latest newsletter comment about no further replacements.**

918.01 Chair explained that following his notes in the December newsletter a member of the public (former councillor) had contacted the council about continuing the use of signage and not abandoning it. Funding from a third party source could be found to provide replacement signs.

918.02 After a discussion councillors agreed 3-1 to continue the replacement of signs for a trial period to ensure the signs were not damaged and the verges were not used as a car park.

**919.00 Consider a replacement tree for The Pound.**

919.01 Chair advised an order had been placed to cover the tree works agreed at the last parish council meeting. Then Cllrs discussed a replacement tree for the Rowan that had been damaged in the storm autumn 2025. Decision taken not to replace it.

**920.00 Consider progressing the adoption as a PROW of the footpath between Low Lorton and Church Lane.**

920.01 The footpath, explained the chair, was an S106 condition of the properties at the 5-property development. Although "permissive" the path had to be there and useable, a planning condition.

920.02 Chair had informally spoken to the landowner about its accessibility, due to weeds. The owner confirmed he would trim the pathway a couple of times per year. The chair had also discussed with the landowner whether the path should become a PROW, and he had no objection

920.03 Cllr decided that as the pathway was there as a planning condition then it seemed appropriate that it should become an official PROW. Clerk instructed to put the procedure in place to establish the PROW status.

**921.00 Parish Plan, public consultation, action.**

921.00 Cllr G.C although standing down after this meeting, will help chair to organise a public meeting. Cllr B.W also offered his services to help the implementation of the time line for the plan and organise a public meeting.

**922.00 YTH redevelopment plan.**

922.01 Cllr C.L advised that the planning application was just awaiting Heritage Statement to be completed and then the full planning application would be submitted to the LDNP Planning Department. She anticipated giving a full report at the March meeting.

**923.00 [www.lorton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.lorton-pc.gov.uk) domain authorised and discuss allocation of emails for individual councillors. Clerk and chair now using appropriate emails.**

923.01 Clerk confirmed Lorton now owned the domain [www.lorton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.lorton-pc.gov.uk) and that he was now officially [clerk@lorton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@lorton-pc.gov.uk) and over the next few days he would allocate [chair@lorton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:chair@lorton-pc.gov.uk). He then sought clarification that he had councillors' permission to share their email contact details if needs be, as he set up the councillor's individual parish councillors email contact details. Councillors all agreed they would follow the format first name.surname@lorton-pc.gov.uk. Clerk would organise next week.

**924.00 Councillor vacancies and advertising and selection of clerk's for vacancy.**

924.01 Chair advised that after this meeting, with Cllr G.C's resignation there were 3 vacancies. Council would have just 4 Cllrs and it is quorate at 3 councillors, so room for only one absentee.

924.02 Clerk and chair to write an appropriate advert requesting Calc to advertise the clerk's vacancy. A couple of suggestions put forward for local individuals who might like to be considered for the councillor vacancies.

**925.00 Christmas edition of the Lorton Newsletter, feedback.**

925.01 No adverse feedback and Cllr C.L thought it looked good. Cllr G.P asked if those people who actually lived in Blindbothel just over the river, paid for their copy? No historically always received a free copy.

**926.00 Progress reports, clerk.**

926.01 Revised contract for 2026 grass cutting season issued, Increasing the remuneration by 3.8% based on November 2025 RPI. Requested signed copy and also copy of current insurance certificate.

926.02 New contact agreed with Tivoli for the Parish Field cut in 2026. Same arrangement as last year, school to pay 50% excluding VAT and school advised of new total cutting charge of £1360.23 ex VAT.

926.03 Speed limit signs? To be discussed at Cllrs reports.

926.04 Tennis club lease? Chair advised just awaiting another quote for the council's solicitor's fee.

926.05 Private property sign? Clerk could see the sign on a desk so obviously not fixed, but Cllr G.C has the 2 pack adhesive to refix the sign, but needs warmer weather.

926.06 Lorton's Complaints Procedure, Clerk has added as Cllr B.W requested a preview date, and the revised document is on the parish website.

926.07 No further updates from UU about the presentation of further details for public consultation with regard to the Crummock Water weir removal.

926.08 Numerous email exchanges about the repair of the bench at sewage bend corner.

926.09 Likewise lengthy phone conversations about the gov.uk switch, or more accurately ensuring retention of all the emails from Gmail since 2017 for historical reference.

926.10 Clerk having issues with HSBC, swapped from hand held digital access for codes, to banking app. Constant need to delete and reinstall causing issues.

**927.00 Councillors Reports.**

927.01 Cllr G.P advised Melbreak Communities is now very busy proactive organisation, but she was standing down as its chair.

927.02 Cllr C.L advised that a WhatsApp group called Melbreak Wheels had started to provide contact for folk requiring lifts, not associated with Melbreak Communities.

927.03 Cllr C.L had circulated a map and pictures of 5 possible locations for Twenty's Plenty signs. After a discussion Cllr C.L to investigate 2 further locations and report back to Cllrs and clerk, then clerk could order the signs. Cllr B.W queried why signs had a green roundel not red. Clerk advised by displaying green they are advisory; red would indicate an approved limit. Highways would not approve.

927.04 Cllr B.W had mentioned all his points during Cllr J.P's agenda session.

927.05 Chair advised that in addition to his reports on the tennis club lease and the benches, he had also met with the school regarding parking on the school playground. The school are progressing with this.

### **928.00 Correspondence.**

928.01 Quote received from Tivoli for 2026 grass contract.

928.02 Email from Fibrus about more road closures in High Lorton, which actually resulted in main electric cable being severed.

928.03 Peter Walter's e newsletters received and circulated.

928.04 Invoice received from Printpoint £83.00 for December newsletter.

928.05 Email received from Buttermere Hydro Project. The project has been cancelled due to legal problems over land ownership.

928.06 Invoice received from YTH for hall hire during 2025 £180.00. £15/hr 2hr per meeting.

928.07 HMRC had written, snail mail, advising parish council have made a £48.53 payment with no electronic submission. The parish council has never ever made such a payment of that amount going back to 2022/23. Awaiting a response.

### **929.00 Payment for approval.**

M Milner Intpay 285, £199.50, Salary Dec'.

HMRC PAYE, Intpay 286, Clerk's tax £49.80, December 2025.

Above payment to confirm with HMRC submission timescales.

M Milner, Intpay 287, £290.02, Salary Jan' £199.30, Expenses £90.90

HMRC PAYE, Intpay 288, £50.00, clerk's Jan PAYE.

Printpoint, Intpay 289, £249.90, December newsletter.

Yew Tree Hall, Interpay 290, £180.00, Hall Hire for 2025, £15/hr at 2hr/month, 6 months.

All Payments approved.

Meeting closed 9.31pm.

**930.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall.**

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