

Lorton Parish Council

Minutes of the annual parish meeting of Lorton Parish held on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at Yew Tree Hall, Lorton at 7.30pm followed by the March Parish Council meeting.

The parish council chair Cllr Peter Deeks chaired the meeting as is protocol and declared the meeting open at 7.30pm. One apology, Cllr Bruce Wilson

The chair PD read his annual report (a transcript of that report can be found after these minutes.) Then followed reports from, Film Club, Gardening Club, YTH, Local History Society, Melbreak Group, the Lorton School Report read by clerk, and finally the chair contributed again on behalf of the Vale of Lorton Community First Responders.

Meeting closed at 8.03pm

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at Yew Tree Hall, Lorton commencing 8.06 pm.

The chair Cllr PD declared the meeting open at 8.04pm

Present: Cllrs, Chair Peter Deeks, Glenis Postlethwaite (vice-chair), Cathy Lee.

Cumberland Councillor. Jill Perry

Clerk, Mike Milner. 4 members of the public.

937.00 Apologies for absence, Cllr Bruce Wilson.

938.00 Declaration of Interest. Cllr P.D and Cllr CL, YTH development.

939.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last Lorton Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7th January 2026, as a true record. Also approve and accept the minutes of the EGM held on 17th February to discuss YTH planning 7/2026/2015.

939.01 Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes in two separate votes.

940.00 Public participation. Approx. 15 mins. No reports and no participation.

941.00 Police Matters.

941.01 Clerk had circulated the e-newsletter. Cllr C.L advised possible issue with illegal hare coursing. Issue was in Loweswater parish not Lorton and police matter.

942.00 Applications for development.

942.01 clerk confirmed that when making the planning submission of approval of YTH development 7/2026/2015, the submission acknowledged approval of Listed Building Consent, application 7/2026/2016 for the same building, as agreed with planning officer.

942.02 clerk confirmed 7/2025/2232 Harrot Hill Farm, application approved by LDNP.

942.03 Cllrs reminded clerk he had circulated 7/2026/2037, Meadow Bank, High Lorton, application for a sun lounge extension. Cllrs raised no objections to the development. Clerk to advise LDNP Planning accordingly.

943.00 Matters concerning Cumberland Councillor.

943.01 Cumberland have set council tax with 4.99%

943.02 as of 24th February 2026 Cumberland Combined Authority officially became an entity, it will, come May 2027, after the Mayoral election, be the governing body for the combined Cumberland Unity Council and the Westmoorland and Furnes Council. Chair thanked Cllr J.P for her update and invited her to stay, invitation accepted.

944.00 Resolve to appoint new clerk, Mr Allan Dawes, Wigton, responsibility to commence 1st April 2026. Interview and selection process has been undertaken. Current clerk responsible for accounts to year end 31st March 2026.

944.01 chair confirmed that Mr Allan Dawes had been interviewed by councillors, he is an experienced clerk and also an elected Town Councillor for Wigton. Councillors present unanimously approved the resolution to appoint Allan Dawes.

945.00 Parish council vacancies, now 3.

945.03 chair to include a recruitment item for councillors in the next edition of the Parish Council newsletter, which will be a Spring edition.

946.00 Yew Tree Hall planning update. Cllr Cathy Lee.

946.01 Cllr C.L confirmed that at the EGM on 17th February, the council had unanimously approved the proposed development. Discussion about whether it would be approved or not. If planners object to the application, then the application will be called in, and considered by the planning committee. Cllr C.L would make representation at that meeting, if that should happen. Chair does not think it will be rejected by planning officer.

947.00 Parish Plan, public meeting arrangements.

947.00 chair will draft up the information plan and arrange for a public meeting.

948.00 Easter edition of the parish council newsletter.

948.01 decided it would be a spring newsletter. All content to the chair by 4th May, publication date 12th May. Content Crummock Water update, Buttermere clerk to provide, Melbreak content by Cllr G.P, YTH development by Cllr C.L also same Cllr new Twenty's Plenty signs. Current clerk to provide new clerk with the questionnaire introducing him to the local residents.

949.00 Crummock Water, weir removal planning application, update.

949.01 clerk read a few paragraphs from a UU email of 20th Feb'. Basically, no knowledge of the dates for the next session of public consultation and consequently no idea of when the updated planning application will be submitted to LDNP Planning Authority.

950.00 Tennis Club Lease, current position and tennis club to pay legal expenses.

950.01 chair advised he was seeking a guarantee from the new Tennis Club committee to pay the legal expenses, of approx. £1500. Charity Commission will require confirmation that the rental income is value for money for the land. Issues need resolving as currently there is outstanding rent due for the current financial year.

951.00 Update on the repair to village bench at Sewage Corner, Low Lorton.

951.01 chair advised timber slats have been bought and collected for the bench. The slats are being treated and the seat is just waiting for the metal supports concreted in the ground to be refurbished. Brief discussion about relocating the seat, but Cllrs agreed it was used by cyclists in its current position.

952.00 Progress Reports, clerk.

952.01 twenty's Plenty signs bought and have been installed, 6 off at various locations in the parish.

952.02 clerk enquired if Private Property sign been refixed to bridge, Advised not yet, as weather not suitable.

952.03 12th Jan' clerk advert sent to Calc.

952.04 12th Jan' cost of timber agreed with Chambers for bench slats, £425. Payment prior to order completion, clerk paid from his own bank and reclaimed when HSBC supplied account code number.

952.05 clerk had advised Paul Livsey to undertake the Pound Tree work. £275.00 ex VAT. Cllr C.L advised she would remove the tree, but clerk advised she had no waste disposal certificate. Chair advised other work undertaken in the charge agreed.

952.06 clerk confirmed that on Monday the signed contract and current appropriate insurance certificate had finally been received from Bigfoot contractor for 2026 season grass contract.

953.00 Councillors reports. No reports.

954.00 Correspondence.

954.01 various email exchanges with Calc about the involvement of Cllr P.D and Cllr C.L in the EGM to discuss YTH planning application. Final situation, was Chair Cllr P.D could not chair the EGM or take part in the application decision as Trustee of YTH and decision maker. Cllr C.L was permitted as she was on Development Committee, its chair, but not a decision maker on main YTHMC or a trustee.

954.02 YTH invoice received for confidential meeting £24, use of hall.

954.03 13th Feb, Contraflow signs ready for collection, 6 x Twenty's Plenty, payment before collection, £486.86. Clerk paid from his account and reclaimed when HSBC code received.

954.04 Peter Winter phone calls about LBC application see minute 942.01.

954.05 email exchanges with LDNP Planning again 942.01 refers.

954.06 Melbreak Communities have submitted invoice for £50 for web-hosting.

954.07 clerk advised that he then had correspondence, which can only be discussed in a private session.

955.00 Payments for approval.

M Milner Intpay291, £425, reimbursement of payment to Chambers timber slats

M Milner Intpay292, £486.86, reimbursement of payment to Contraflow speed signs.

M Milner Intpay293, £199.50, salary February paid 13/2/26

HMRC PAYE Intpay294, Clerks tax £1.27, February. Paid 13/2/26.

Paid to conform with HMRC submission calendar

M Milner Intpay 295, £303.90, Salary March £199.50, Expenses £104.40.

HMRC PAYE, Intpay 296, £49.80, clerk's March PAYE.

Melbreak Community, Intpay 297, £50.00, Web hosting 2026.

YTH Intpay 297, £24, Hire of hall for confidential meeting, Nov 2025.

All Payments approved.

Meeting closed 8.44pm. All members of the public then excluded. Meeting then went into private session.

956.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7.30pm, the meeting will be held in Yew Tree Hall. The meeting will commence with the annual Parish Council AGM to elect a chair and vice-chair, followed by parish council meeting.

For information the private meeting continued until 9.02.

Page 208 (3 of 3) signed chairman.....6th May 2026.

Welcome everyone to the Lorton Annual Parish Meeting

Welcome, everyone. This is (nearly) the end of my second year as the Chair of the Parish Council.

There have been some changes. Notably, we have lost two councillors, Zindzi Cresswell and Garan Conley, who have decided to step down from the council to concentrate on other things. Both Zindzi and Garan have been active councillors, and will be sorely missed. However, I am pleased to say the Bruce Wilson has joined us since our last meeting, and is making a strong contribution to the council

Unfortunately, this does leave us with three vacancies on the council, so if you would like to step up and get involved, or know of anyone who is interested in getting involved with their community, please let us know. It is very rewarding to be able to contribute to our community

There has been a lot happening this year;

- We have finally been able to make a start in catching up on the maintenance of the village benches. We are hoping to see much more progress over the coming months, now that spring is around the corner.
- We have taken over the management of the cutting of the Parish Field, with the school contributing half the cost. We are pleased with how this has turned out
- We continue to manage the grass cutting of the verges, for the benefit of the wildflowers and the wildlife.
- Following the community survey in 2024, there has been a huge amount of work carried out in reviewing and analysing the survey results, and then turning that analysis into an action plan – the Parish Plan. We carried out a consultation exercise with the community last summer, and are planning another presentation and consultation on the implementation plan shortly.
- Some of the issues that are raised in the plan we have already actioned, such as the “Twenty’s Plenty” signs that have been placed at the village entry points. We are also in ongoing discussions with the school over parking being provided in the playground at weekends and in the holidays. We are also waiting on a review of speed limits in the village by Cumberland Council
- A key issue for the community has been the long term viability of Yew Tree Hall. The Parish Council with the Yew Tree Hall to form a joint Development Group, to look at upgrading of the Hall. I am sure that you are all aware that the agreed scheme has been submitted for Planning Approval and Listed Building Consent, which the PC supported unanimously

Reviewing the survey results, drafting the Parish Plan, listening to reports from community groups, and attending community events, brings home how fortunate we are to live in such a vibrant and active community, in such a beautiful place.

Thank you to everyone, councillors and our Clerk, Mike Milner, and parishioners who run these community groups and events, for all the hard work you put into making our community what it is.

So, my final comment is that Mike, who has served us very ably as the Parish Clerk for the last eight years, has decided to step down. Mike has been an excellent Clerk, and we will be very sorry to see him go. We wish all the best to Mike and Therese

Peter Deeks

Chair, Lorton PC 4 March 2026