

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at Ulpha Farm on Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 7.15pm.

Present were Councillors Christine Carter (Chairman), Rachel Bell, Andrew Coates and Mike Walford, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Steve Bavin and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor John Geldard.

26/12 Election of Chairman:

Councillor Christine Carter was elected Chairman for 2026-27. She then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

26/13 Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Andrew Coates was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2026-27

26/14 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest made in respect of any matters on the agenda.

26/15 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2026, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

26/16 Westmorland & Furness Councillor:

Councillor Bavin reported as follows:

- a. It would be useful to have a steer from the Parish Council as to whether they wish to proceed with speed limits - being aware that this will need at least one member to guide the process and significant expense (amounts depending on the scheme wanted). Personally, I think that many people in the village centres would appreciate a 30mph limit but really it's up to the Parish Council to decide.
- b. Speed indicator devices: W&F have negotiated a discount on the devices between now and September. W&F will also fund the survey, permissions and pole installation. However, SIDs must be set to the speed limit, so you may want to address that first.
- c. A590 underpass closure 26th to 29th May for ENWL work
- d. A meeting with National Highways has been arranged for the 5th June.

26/17 Planning:

There were no new planning applications at present.

26/18 'Assertion 10 – Digital & Data Compliance:

The Council expects to be fully compliant soon and the website is being set up at present. The Clerk will keep everyone updated soon.

26/19 Woodland Leases/Parish Land:

There had been a little interest in the remaining plots of land, apart from an enquiry regarding the land at Slate Hill. Further enquiries will be welcome.

26/20 Witherslack 20 mph initiative:

The Clerk agreed to reactivate this initiative with Westmorland & Furness Council and ask what the next steps would be, that could lead to a 20 mph speed limit in the village.

26/21 Finance:

a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

Graham Dobson	£100.00	Maintenance
Graham Dobson	£25.00	Emptying bins
Zurich Municipal	£300.00	Annual premium
CALC	£252.58	Annual subscription
Witherslack Community Shop	£500.00	Grant – from Precept
K M Price	£151.01	Quarterly expenses to 31st March, including use of home off and travel.
K M Price	£115.80	Bank errors.

b. The Interim Accounts for 2025-26 were noted.

c. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the Exemption (from External Audit) Certificate, the Accounting Statements, and the Annual Governance Statement. The Clerk explained the importance of each document.

d. Barclays Bank had failed to alter the salary payment, when instructed in January, resulting in an underpayment, since then, of £115.80. It was resolved to repay this amount to the Clerk.

26/22 Correspondence:

a. An application for grant funding had been received from Witherslack Parish Hall towards the provision of curtains for the Hall. It was resolved to make a grant of £500, to be paid at the next meeting, as the Clerk had not included this on the agenda for this meeting.

- b. Correspondence was noted from Dan Ross regarding speeding at Pool Bank. It was ascertained that this property is in Crosthwaite & Lyth parish. The letter had also been sent to Cartmel Fell Parish Council. The Clerk will respond, along the line of the very full response sent from Cartmel Fell.
- c. A letter to the Chairman from Barbara Page had been circulated. This related to youngish trees which, it was said, were rooted and growing up from the Council-owned land through the boundary wall of Briar Bank.

After further investigation, including taking advice from the Land Registry and land agent, the Council, points out that the land mentioned is not Council land, the boundary of which is the old wall further down. Together with findings of the recent tree survey which did not highlight any issues on Council land, the Council is of the opinion that the shrubs and trees referred to in the letter are growing out of the boundary wall and driveway retaining wall; they would therefore be the responsibility of the owner.

26/23 A590 road improvements:

The next meeting is now arranged for Friday 5th June at 10,30am at Gilpin Bridge

26/24 Date and place of the next meeting:

Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 7pm at Witherslack Parish Hall at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed:

Dated: