Minutes of a meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at Witherslack Parish Hall on Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 7pm.

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

26/25 Public participation:

a. The residents, for the last 15 years, of Briar Bank spoke of their concern at the trees/vegetation that has grown up close to the wall adjacent to the property. They believed that this was on land owned by the Parish Council. The Chairman had been in touch with the Land Registry and it appeared that this is not the case.

   It was resolved that Councillors will inspect the area in question, once the leaves have fallen and report back to their next meeting.

b. The Chairman had received reports from residents that the bus stop by the Derby Arms (for buses towards Kendal) is overgrown and people waiting for a bus cannot see its approach. She will make enquiries as to who could be asked to deal with this.

26/26 Declarations of Interest:

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

26/27 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2026, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

26/28 Westmorland & Furness Councillor:

Councillor Bavin reported as follows:

a. The water leak at Mill Side is logged and we are currently waiting for the utility company. A temporary pothole fill was attempted but a proper fix can't be done until the leak is resolved.
b. The Extra Mile taxi/bus service has launched; this runs on demand, with bookings taken via a mobile application. The area served is centred on Ulverston, the boundary falls midway down the parish – trips can currently be booked from Witherslack and Meathop (but **not** Town End, Ulpha or Mill Side).
c. National Highways are working on a "Route Optimisation Strategy" for the whole A590, which wis expected to include improving safety between Brettargh Holt and Meathop. Overnight repairs are scheduled on the A590 from 14th September through most of October.

d. Meathop Road will be closed between the gas works site and Grange Golf Club for Fibrus works between the 5th and 14th August.

26/29 Planning: None.

26/30 'Assertion 10 – Digital & Data Compliance':

Anne Carter (webmaster) was present and all Councillors have been issued with their new email addresses. She is willing to help anyone get on to the system and use these new addresses.

The Council's thanks are recorded for the many hours of work that the changeover has involved Anne in, and everyone is encouraged to look at the new website which is greatly improved and is compliant with the latest regulations.

26/31 Witherslack 20mph initiative:

Councillor Bavin suggested that, as it is not possible, under the present proposals, to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 20mph, the Council may choose to consider initiating proposals to introduce a 30mph limit in the village and at Meathop. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

26/32 Finance:

a. *It was resolved to pay the following accounts:*

Witherslack Parish Hall	£500.00	Grant for new curtains
Treble 3 Print & Design	£980.40	New website
Graham Dobson	£75.00	Strimming and emptying bins
Christine Carter	£27.20	Reimbursement for Refreshments at A590 meeting
K M Price	£140.52	Quarterly expenses to 30th June, Including use of home office and travel.

b. The report from the Internal Auditor was received. There were no matters to be brought to the Council's attention and the Council's thanks are hereby recorded for this work.

c. The cash and budget statements were noted.

d. It was agreed to purchase 'dog fouling' signs as required.

26/33 Items for discussion from Councillors Bell:

a. Fly tipping and overnight camping at Meathop lane end. This is private land and the Council has limited powers here as it is not a public protected area. It has been advertised as free overnight stay area on Facebook It was agreed to monitor the situation ; if it becomes a problem, the Police should be contacted on 101.

Councillor Bavin will make enquiries to see what else can be done. A Public Space Protection Ofer (PSPO) would possibly not be granted.

b. Grit bins. People are often discarding dog waste in these bins, which are for grit only. A separate dog waste bin could be the answer but in the meantime it was agreed to erect signs stating clearly that the grit bins are only to be used for grit.

c. Tour de France. Community engagement 2027. This was deferred to the next meeting.

26/34 Correspondence: None.

26/35 A590 road improvements:

This had already been dealt with in Councillor Bavin's report.

26/36 Agenda items for the next meeting:

To consider an additional honorarium for the work carried out in the establishment of the new website and in assisting Councillors to use the new system.

26/37 Date and place of the next meeting

Provisionally Tuesday 27th October 2026 at 7pm at Ulpha Farm. The Clerk will check with Councillor Coates if this is possible. Alterative dates suggested are in mid-November. The Clerk will notify everyone as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed:

Dated: