

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Witherslack Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council held at Ulpha Farm on Thursday 29th May 2025 at 7.05pm.

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

25/32 Election of Chairman:

Councillor Christine Carter was elected Chairman for 2025-26. She then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

25/33 Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Andrew Coates was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2025-26.

25/34 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Mike Walford declared a personal interest in planning application 7/2025/5218 (West Barn, Key Moss, Witherslack. Change of use from barn to storage barn and residential).

25/35 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2025, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

25/36 Resignation of Councillor Jolyon Dodgson:

The Chairman and Clerk had been notified of the resignation of Councillor Jolyon Dodgson and this was accepted with regret. The Council places on record its appreciation of his service over the past few years.

25/37 Westmorland & Furness Councillor's Report:

Councillor Bavin reported as follows:

- a. The work on the culvert at the Washing Steps is being monitored; will chase and get the cones removed if possible.
- b. The deadline for school transport applications is 31st May.
- c. Community grants are available for various projects. Please contact Councillor Bavin or W&F Council.
- d. Noting that the community response in Bowness was against having a 20 mph speed limit; it may be that the Parish Council could start with a targeted 30mph scheme that would be widely accepted by the community.
- e. Thanks to those who reported the cabinet placed on A590 blocking viewing oncoming traffic at Ulpha junction - the issue has now been resolved.
- f. He will contact W&F Highways regarding the lumpy surfacing on Meathop Lane and issues relating to the road at Meathop

Councillor Geldard reported on recent pollution of the River Winster from the former Winster Tip. He also updated the Council on the amount of work already carried out in order to get the River Winster flowing properly again.

25/38 Planning:

The following application was considered and it was resolved that this Council fully supports it. The Clerk will respond:

7/2025/5218 West Barn, Key Moss, Witherslack. Change of use from barn to storage barn and residential.

25/39 Woodland Leases/Parish Land:

It was agreed to let the issues relating to this remain on the table for the time being. However, the Council looks forward to receiving details of the inspections carried out by Colin Tomlinson in due course.

A report had been received from a resident on possible illegal parking at a certain location in the parish. However, it was deemed that this is not a Parish Council matter.

25/40 Meeting with Electricity North West:

Councillor Coates reported that ENW are looking at a piece of land which may be suitable and the Council will be kept up to date.

25/41 Witherslack 20 mph initiative:

It seems unlikely that a 20 mph speed limit will be introduced and a 30 mph limit might be more acceptable. The Police advisory signs have been installed and the situation will be monitored.

25/42 Parish Emergency/Resilience Plan:

It was agreed not to take any action on this at present, especially while the Council is short of Councillors.

25/43 Tree report:

The Tree Survey was carried out at the end of April and the report is still awaited. The Clerk will follow it up,

25/44 Seat at Whitbarrow:

The Council had received a communication from a resident of Silverdale, regarding a seat at Whitbarrow Crag, which was believed to be a seat pictured in Jeff Pattison's 'Witherslack Walks' booklet but it is now falling apart. It is at a marvellous viewpoint and is much valued by older visitors.

The Chairman had looked into this and, in fact, the seat is not the one pictured in the booklet, and a photograph had been taken. It is not known who owns it, but it is in Crosthwaite & Lyth Parish so the Clerk will pass the information on to that parish.

25/45 Finance:

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

Graham Dobson	£33.90	Litter bins etc
Graham Dobson	£125.00	Strimming, litter bags.
Witherslack Community Shop	£500.00	Grant from Precept
Zurich Municipal	TBA	Annual premium
CALC	£242.09	Annual subscription
K M Price	£152.43	Quarterly expenses to 31st March, including use of home off and travel.

b. The Interim Accounts for 2024-25 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 significance of each of these documents.

25/46 A590 road improvements:

There is nothing to report at present and there have been no further meetings held.

25/47 Date of the next meeting:

Thursday 28th August 2025 at 7pm at Ulpha Farm.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed:

Dated: