

Kentmere Parish Meeting - Minutes

May 14th 2026

Present: Jo Racle (Chair), Louise Frith-Powell (Clerk), Robert Courtier, Iain Johnston, Sandra Johnston, Carol Lansberry, Peter Lansberry, Hilary Fry, Pat Malone, Bill Malone, Ruth Corfield, Roger Dewhurst, Stephen Hirst, Sheila Hirst, Jim Stilling, Jan Perkins, Maureen Baldwin, Sally Allen, Richard Allen, Heleyn Connerr, Andrea Hills, James Cook, Peter Archer, Jessica Emms, Chris Sanderson, Margaret Harrison, Jacqueline Green

Apologies for absence; Jim Sharp, Christine Hevey, Rosamund Ridley, Robert Ridley, Gay Talbot, Richard Morley & Annalise Rigby

Jo welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Peter and Iain for their many years of service (20+) to the community.

No declarations of interest.

Minutes of meeting on Nov 10th 2025 were agreed and signed

Matters arising – discussed later in the meeting

- Planning
- Voices of absent residents heard

Kentmere People – Welcome to Emma, David, Amelia and Tessa at Ulthwaite Fold.

Finance Report – Peter Lansberry presented the accounts. There were no questions. Max Biden (external auditor) recommended the annual return for approval. Approved by show of hands. Certificate of Exemption approved by show of hands. Annual payments of £550 to St Cuthbert's for the graveyard and £540 to the Institute approved by show of hands. Replacement of Peter Lansberry and Iain Johnson with Jo Racle and Louise Frith-Powell on the bank mandates – approved by show of hands.

Standing orders of Kentmere Parish Meeting – Discussion

- Planning. Should the standing orders state that responses to planning applications would be left to individuals? Christine Hevey suggested (Nov) they should not be part of meeting discussions as everyone has different views and responses to the planning authority can be individual. A short discussion ended with the view that planning applications would be flagged to the community and only brought to the meeting agenda if requested. On rare occasions it might be the wish of the community for a collective view to be made known to the planners. Chris questioned the authority of the Chair to externally represent the parish. Jo will clarify this before the next meeting.
- Should there be a mechanism by which those necessarily absent from a meeting could make their views known via email? This was discussed and accepted as

reasonable. Will be considered as an addition to the standing orders in November. Currently the legal position is that proxy votes are not allowed.

Election of Jo Racle as Parish Chairman - agreed

Election of Louise Frith-Powell as Parish Clerk -agreed

Election of Parish Team – discussed. No formal elections but informal delegation as and when needed. We already have some delegated responsibilities (Richard Allen and Kate Whitley – hanging wires, Kate – generator, Roger Dewhurst – broadband) Request for volunteers for preparing the annual accounts and to liaise with Westmorland and Furness Council regarding highways (potholes/hedges and verges/drains).

Election of internal auditor – Max Biden approved (Max is willing to continue for one more year)

Planning – Jim Sharp's barn conversion into studio workshop has been approved.

Highways – Discussion about the state of the hedges and verges. Jo will contact the Council to see if anything can be done about the areas of overhang between the roadside and field boundaries. Some problems below the factory are not in Kentmere Parish.

Broadband – Roger fed back after the meeting. Properties not yet connected will be by the end of 2027 (response from Hyperfast GB attached)

Hanging Wires – Roger Allen and Kate Whitely will survey again in August 2026 (Richard Allen)

Backup Generator – No reply from Telegent about progress (Kate Whitely)

Himalayan Balsam – Meeting on May 28th at 10:30 at Kentmere Hall to plan for the season's bashing (Jo Racle)

First Responders – Not active. Defibrillator on the Institute is in good order (Jim Stilling)

St Cuthbert's Church – A good year. 100+ for the carol service on Christmas Eve with Kentmere children taking a leading role. 120+ for the St Cuthbert's Day celebrations, attended by the Bishop of Carlisle. 25+ for the Easter Day dawn service followed by breakfast in the Institute. The choir has boosted enthusiasm and attendance at each service. The Rector, James Richards, has moved to Durham, so a new Rector is being sought. In the meantime, the vicar from Staveley, Olivia Haines, is covering.

Louise Frith-Powell has agreed to become a Church Warden alongside Christine Hevey

St Cuthbert's relies on donations for its existence. Currently there are a number of regular donors who donate a small sum each month. Many are elderly and/or no longer living in Kentmere. New supporters are sought. (Iain Johnston)

Kentmere Institute – 100 years this year. A celebration is planned. Jo Racle voted onto the Institute Board (show of hands) (Iain Johnston)

AOB

Garden Waste – now need to pay £60 per green bin by June 28th

Website – Louise sought views on what it is used for and how it should be updated.

Electoral Roll – Jo has now seen it. Those on it have voting rights.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10th

May 28th 2026

Louise Frith-Powell (Parish Clerk)