

Caton with Littledale Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 9th September, 2025 at 7pm at Victoria Institute, Caton

Present Cllr Boland, Cllr Gibbons, Cllr Heywood (Chair), Cllr Powell, Cllr Rei, Cllr Walmsley (Vice), Cllr Wright.
County Councillor Crimmins. City Councillor Joyce Pritchard, City Councillor Peter Jackson
24 Members of the public

123/25 Open Forum

Cllr Walmsley read a statement around the responsibilities of the Parish Council in relation to planning application discussions.

A number of residents spoke about their concerns regarding the land to the West of Quernmore Road development and the impact on the infrastructure, properties and village. The repeating theme of concerns of flooding and road safety presented was presented by all residents who spoke. This forum also included a number of residents from the neighbouring parish of Quernmore.

124/25 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Carter

125/25 To consider and approve the minutes of the meetings held Tuesday 8th July, 2025

It was resolved that minutes be approved and signed by the Chair.

Proposed by Cllr Walmsley

Seconded by Cllr Wright

126/25 To receive declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Gibbons declared an interest in any item regarding the Victoria Institute as a trustee.

Cllr Powell declared an interest in any item regarding Caton Primary School as a volunteer.

Cllr Rei declared an interest in any item regarding Lune Valley Community Land Trust as a board member.

Cllr Walmsley declared an interest in any item regarding the Victoria Institute as a trustee and any item regarding Caton St Paul's C of E Primary School as a governor.

Cllr Wright declared an interest in any item regarding Caton Primary School as a governor

127/25 To consider planning applications and matters

[25/00768/FUL](#) - Retrospective application for retention of dormer extension to the rear elevation

Property address - 66 Hornby Road, Caton, Lancaster. LA2 9QR

The Parish Council has no observations

[25/00862/FUL](#) - Erection of an outbuilding and boundary fence

Property address - Parklands House, Parklands Drive, Caton, Lancaster. LA2 9FB

The Parish Council has no observations

[25/080875/FUL](#) - Erection of 44 dwellings with associated development including landscaping, open space, car parking and access from Quernmore Road

Property Address – Escowbeck Park, Quernmore Road, Caton.

The Parish Council unanimously objected to the application on the grounds outlined in the supplementary statement drafted by Cllr Wright

Proposed by Cllr Wright

Seconded by Cllr Walmsley

128/25 Accounts and finance

Payments

Cllr Walmsley – Beyond the Precept: Exploring alternative income sources seminar	£42.00
WaterPlus several invoices and charges amounting to...	£635.84
Victoria Institute (printing planning information Quernmore Rd West development)	£35.10

Chris Lennon (bus shelter repair, Fell View playpark repairs, Bike rack paint)	£505.00
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Regular Payments

Easyweb website hosting (S/O) (Aug)	£43.56
Victoria Institute (Contribution Sept)	£800.00
Clerks Wages (Sept inc £151.36 backpay with NALC increase)	£816.79
Clerk Expenses (July – inc VI lock)	£85.96
Clerk Expenses (Aug – inc VI lock)	£74.50
Clerk Expenses (Perspex order for bus shelter glass replacement)	£169.99
Donna Skeldon (Memorial Garden - July)	£274.58
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Bank service charge (July)	£6.00
Bank service charge (Aug)	£6.00
O2 (Clerks Mobile)	£8.00

Receipts

The Link	£750.00
HMRC (VAT reclaim)	£4,851.71

Balance at end of Aug 2025

Unity Bank **£84,278.95**

It was resolved that the payments be made.

Proposed by Cllr Powell

Seconded by Cllr Gibbons

- To consider Scouts small grant application

It was resolved to award £500 to the Caton Church Scout Group

Proposed by Cllr Heywood

Seconded by Cllr Walmsley

129/25 To consider the update on the Fell View playpark repair and maintenance.

- To consider update on the progress of repairs

Cllr Walmsley suggested a meeting at the park with the clerk and councillors to discuss the task list going forward.

Plagued by vandalism over the summer months, retaining wall for sand pit

Discussions had been underway to remedy the vandalised woodwork that was starting to rot.

- To consider latest safety report received

It was resolved that the clerk and councillors would meet to incorporate a list of action points.

- To consider LEF & Lancaster University funding

The LEF funding bid was in the process of being submitted and the University Community funding was awaiting an outcome once the panel meets to discuss.

- To consider request for funds from Playpark Action Group.

Funds were in the PAG to be spent should there be an identified need for equipment. The clerk had reached out to request funds without response so a second correspondence to be drafted with a view to contacting the Charity Commission should a response not be forthcoming.

130/25 To consider any highways and/or footpath matters.

- To consider footpath review actions & signage quotation from Chris Lennon

A quote was presented to the councillors who requested given the amount that additional ones be sought to provide transparency in quotation process.

- To consider signage re: danger of drowning at weir.

It was resolved that the clerk would request United Utilities to address this issue.

131/25 To consider any parish management and maintenance matters.

- To consider tender advertisement for Memorial Garden

One tender had been received as well as a further enquiry and quotations be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

- To consider persistent A683 leak United utilities

This was raised in the objections to the planning permission at 25/00875/FUL. Clerk had raised the on-going problem with local MP Lizzie Collinge but had not received a reply to date.

- To consider update on Co-Op Planters

The gardening club were disappointed with the size of the planters and were seeking a resolution.

- To consider update on The Ship Inn/Black Bull Pub

The Brewery had weeded and generally tidied the area to the Ship Inn as requested by the clerk.

- To consider anti-social behaviour and vandalism incidents

Cost of the damage so far of £169.99 for 2 panes of Perspex plus labour of making safe and reinstallation £200. This has since been vandalised once more so expect costs to be same for labour as Perspex has been purchased. Clerk to advertise the cost of these repairs on social media that it is not a good use of spending residents council tax payment. Anti-social behaviour incidents and vandalism should be reported to the police on 101 or the on-line system. Any CCTV or Ring doorbell footage can be uploaded to provide evidence if obtained

- To consider planter removal at Sycamore parade

Clerk to request prices from contractors for removal of the planters and to contact Lancashire County Council to clarify their recent inspection survey.

132/25 To consider any parish management relating to Victoria Institute.

- To consider fundraising for the VI

The VI is raising money independently to help support the centre. These include coffee mornings on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. During August £60-90 per morning was raised. There is a Harvest Ceilidh on Saturday 4th October in VI. This would include a hot pot supper, dance, quiz, raffle etc. Councillors were encouraged to attend £15 adult. Children under 12 £7.50

- To consider public convenience extended opening hours

Cllr Walmsley reported no issues of vandalism with the extended opening and proposed a continuation to September 2026

Proposed Cllr Walmsley

Seconded Cllr Powell

133/25 To consider the update and status on the Greenway.

- To consider tree-felling update/planning applications

It was disappointing to see the trees on the Greenway cut to an unsafe standard that they had to be felled completely. The mitigation of ONE mature tree being felled commanded FIVE new trees to be planted. Tim Blythe was in discussions with developer to make good the damage.

134/25 To consider an update on the passive housing development/Lune Valley Community Land Trust

87 replies were received from the housing needs survey with requests for bungalows and family homes featuring. Discussions with architects were underway to take plans forward.

135/25 To consider update on provision for young people of the parish inc. engagement Activities

Defer to October meeting

136/25 To receive items for consideration for a future agenda and Any Other Business

- To consider councillor details on parish website
- To consider .gov.uk email addresses for councillors

It was resolved to organise a chair@catonparishcouncil.gov.uk email address. Clerk to contact Easyweb

- To review meeting locations 2025-26

It was resolved that the meetings were to be held at the VI going forward with the exception of the Annual Parish Meeting and any extraordinary meetings to be held in the Methodist Hub in Brookhouse. Clerk to inform Susan at LVMH.

137/25 Date and time of the next parish council meetings.

- Tuesday 14th October, 2025 - VI

The meeting closed at 8.48pm.

Signed **Date**.....