

Minutes of a meeting of Ireby with Leck Parish Council held at the Fraser Hall on Monday 19th January 2026 at 6pm.

Present were Councillors Carol Howard (Chairman), Jamie Blackshaw, Colin Chick, Andrew Makinson, Carole Scott and Jean White, Lancaster City Councillor Ross Hunter, one member of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Welbank and received from County Councillor Shaun Crimmins.

26/1 Public participation: None.

Councillor Hunter updated the Council as follows:

- a. Lancaster City Council has balanced the budget this year, but it is getting tougher to do so. The extension of the life of Heysham Power Station has meant there is a couple of year's leeway.
- b. County Councils are struggling, especially in the southern counties.
- c. Local Government Reorganisation is being pressed upon the Council, and this may be centred upon Preston or Blackpool. Any Election to the new Authority is likely to be in May 2028.
- d. Grants for the purchase of defibrillators may be available.
- e. This Parish Council is requested to submit three pressing issues (as are other Councils in this area) that are requiring attention.

26/2 Requests for Dispensations: None.

26/3 Declarations of Interest:

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

26/4 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2025, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

26/5 Ireby telephone box and defibrillator:

Geoff Eales joined Councillors in discussion of this item. The telephone box has been stripped down by Councillor Welbank and it is ready to be primed and painted. Applications for grants for a defibrillator have been turned down by the British Heart Foundation. Responses are awaited from other organisations. Suggestions to have a 'just giving' page or to fundraise did not receive support and it was felt that this should be paid for via the Precept, as it could benefit everyone living in the parish. Geoff Eales will work out the cost involved and will keep the Chairman and those Councillors involved updated on developments in Ireby.

26/6 Notice board outside Fraser Hall:

No progress as yet, and this has moved 'down the list' in order of priority.

26/7 Ireby notice board:

No response has been received yet from the Harold and Alice Bridges Trust. It was agreed that a new Parish Council notice board should be provided for Ireby from the Precept. Other possible grants will be explored.

Concern was expressed with reference to the second notice board in Cowan Bridge. on the wall by the shop, the condition of which should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

26/8 'Assertion 10 Digital & Data Compliance':

The Council's website has been upgraded by A2A in order to be compliant with the new regulations. Councillors will soon receive their new email addresses and passwords, which can be changed once established on the system. Some additional photographs are required for the website and these can be sent to either the Clerk or A2A. There will be a period of overlap until the changeover is complete. A2A will help if required. The 'old' emails will continue to work for the present time.

26/9 Finance:

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

Fraser Hall	£25.00	Hire of hall
A2A Advertising Limited	£480.00	Upgrade of website to ensure compliance.
T Flitcroft	£125.00	Website maintenance – annual payment
Simon Rimmer	£55.00	Quarterly payment for Memorial Garden
K M Price	£138.18	Quarterly expenses to 30 th September, Including use of home office and travel
K M Price	£105.61	Quarterly expenses to 31 st December, including use of home office and travel

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

c. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved that this Council makes a Precept upon Lancaster City Council for the financial year 2025-27 in the sum of £8,584 which equates to approximately a 20% increase.

A useful discussion took place on the increasing requirements for Parish Councils and the associated costs. A small Parish Council is very limited in what it can achieve as so much of the Precept has to be spend to comply with the law/rules and this accounts for a large proportion of the Precept. The Council wishes the residents to feel they are benefitting through the Council's work and it is hoped that a defibrillator and a new notice board will at least show signs of its activity. Councillor Makinson was thanked for his help in the consideration of the Budget and Precept.

26/10 Date of the next meetings:

It was noted that the Council has not met on the required four occasions, and so additional meeting needed to be arranged.

Monday 23rd March 2026 at 6pm – at **Cowan Bridge Stores**

Tuesday 12th May 2026 at **7.30pm** – at the Fraser Hall, Cowan Bridge.
(This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting)

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Signed:

Dated: