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LAZONBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

**For the Meeting of Lazonby Parish Council on
Wednesday 3rd December 2025, in Lazonby Village Hall, at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Chair Councillor Phillip Whitehead.

Councillors Maralyn Wade, Tim Wright, Andrew Miller, Ryan Wilson-Lane and Andrew Sharples.

Also in attendance: Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hilary Carrick, and the Clerk to the Council Rebecca Wyatt, the Treasurer to the Council Chris Hoy, and one parishioner.

ITEM / MINUTE No.	ITEM	BUSINESS
25/265	Apologies for absence.	RESOLVED that there were no apologies received as all Councillors were present.
25/266	The Filling of Council Member Vacancies.	RESOLVED that it be noted that there were no new nominations at present but the Parish Council would continue to seek new Parish Councillors to fill the remaining four seats.
25/267	Requests for Dispensations.	RESOLVED that it be noted that no requests were received by the Clerk since the previous meeting for dispensations to speak and/or vote on any matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.
25/268	Declaration of Interest.	RESOLVED that there were no declarations of interest.
25/269	Matters of Urgency.	RESOLVED that it be noted that there were no matters of urgency to consider.
25/270	Public Participation.	The Chair asked those present if they wished to make any contributions relating to any items on the agenda, or any other parish-related matter which they may wish to raise. 1. A parishioner has reported the H Bars on the dropdown kerbs near the Lofts are in need of repainting. 2. The Council have had a request for a special fishing permit to be issued. 3. A parishioner suggested that the Parish Council limit the amount of metal detectors on the Sports/Playing Field and to also make sure they have the correct paperwork and risk assessment to carry out their metal detecting. 4. The Chair acknowledged that the Parish Council had received a written complaint from a parishioner so it could be noted in the public part of the meeting's minutes. However, as the complaint was mainly about financial issues the Chair explained that it would be discussed in the confidential part of the meeting. However, the parishioner was in attendance and asked if they could speak about the complaint, having at that point acknowledged that they had

		made the complaint. The parishioner then spoke mainly about their concerns regarding what they termed inappropriate use of public funds, being the funding of £70 given by the Parish Council to Eden Valley Players (EVP) towards the purchase of the parish Christmas tree.
		1. RESOLVED that the H bars on the drop kerbs near the Lofts be reported to Highways. 2. RESOLVED that the issue of fishing permits be put on the Parish Council's February 2026 agenda. 3. RESOLVED that it be noted that the Parish Council have already received the appropriate paperwork from the Metal Detectorists wanting to metal detect in the Sports/Playing Field. 4. RESOLVED that it be noted that a written complaint from a parishioner had been received by the Parish Council who were dealing with it. ALSO RESOLVED that the parishioner's comments at the meeting regarding their complaint about the Parish Councils misuse of finances were noted. ALSO RESOLVED that it be noted that the complaint was to be discussed in the confidential; part of the meeting due to it involving financial matters.
25/271	Broadband in the Parish.	RESOLVED that it be noted that B4RN is making progress with the installation of their fibre optic broadband.
25/272	Report from the local Police.	RESOLVED that the Eden Focus Police Newsletter for Eden Rural and the Penrith & Alston Police Newsletter for October & November 2025 be noted. ALSO RESOLVED that there was nothing further to report at present regarding the Neighbourhood Policing Team.
25/273	Minutes of the Council Meeting on the 5 th November 2025.	It was recommended that the Minutes of the Council Meeting on the 5 th November 2025 be approved and signed as a true record of those proceedings.
		RESOLVED that the Council's Meeting Minutes of the 5 th November 2025 be approved and signed as a true record of those proceedings.
25/274	Progress Reports on Recent Actions.	The Council received progress reports regarding matters from the Minutes of the Council Meeting on the 5 th November 2025.
	a. Boat Users on the River Eden (Last minute 25/242).	The Council received an update on the issues around boat users on the River Eden. The Clerk has not as yet received a reply about meeting the rafting company for further discussions. It was also reported that some of the rubbish/equipment left by the rafters had been washed away by the recent flooding but it had been recovered and put in a pile on dry land. However, the equipment which was under the tarp had been removed.
		RESOLVED that it be noted that the Rafting company had not as yet replied to the email that the Clerk had sent on behalf of the Parish Council inviting them to meet with Councillors to discuss the issue of using the canoe steps on Parish Council land.

	b. Confusing Road Signs for Road Works (Last minuted 25/242).	RESOLVED that it be noted that the Clerk has not as yet received a reply from Highways regarding the most recent complaint about the signage put up by contractors working on the Highways being up to long or not removed once works were completed. ALSO RESOLVED that it be noted that it was reported that Highways is currently trying to get permission to remove contractor's signs if the contractors do not remove them after works are completed. ALSO RESOLVED that any future signs left by contractors after works are complete be flagged to Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hilary Carrick.
	c. 150th Anniversary of Lazonby Train Station (Last minuted 25/242).	RESOLVED that it be noted that Councillor Ryan Wilson-Lane had now had a meeting with representatives from the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line, and the Head teacher of Lazonby School when they discussed what the event could entail including it being held in May 2026 preferably on a Friday so the school can be more involved.
	d. Request to use the Playing/Sports Field for Metal Detecting (Last minuted 25/260).	RESOLVED that it be noted that the metal detectorists have thanked the Council for allowing them to metal detect on the Playing/Sports Field. ALSO RESOLVED that it be noted that the metal detectorists understand the time period they can use the field; that they do it as a hobby and are members of the National Council of Metal Detecting, so follow their strict code of conduct and are fully insured; they will fully reinstate every hole that they dig and inform the Parish Council of any finds of interest; and they will also take away and dispose of correctly any metal that they uncover that is not of interest such as tin cans, nails, barbed wire etc.
25/275	Report from the Westmorland & Furness Councillor.	The Council received a report from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hilary Carrick about Westmorland & Furness matters affecting the Parish. 1. Devolution The new county-wide strategic Mayoral Combined Authority will be established in early 2026. The Joint Executive Committee formed of representatives of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils will be the main decision making forum and will lead this for the first year, with the first Mayoral election taking place in May 2027. Other work that is taking place in preparation for this includes:- • The legal powers are making their way through Parliament. • Public Communications and Engagement are being developed, such as website, social media etc. • Programme Board work stepped up in readiness for 2026. • Workstreams leading on specific areas e.g. constitution, assurance framework, recruitment of staff on temporary contracts etc. 2. Council budget The central government funding that comes to local authorities is determined by a national formula called the Fair Funding formula which has recently been revised. From 2026-27 there will be a new system of allocating funding between councils that will take into account new official assessments of council's spending needs and their relative ability to raise revenues themselves via council tax. The new system places greater emphasis on urban deprivation and will reduce the Council's income quite significantly. This, along with a forecast overspend for the year end will make the budget setting process for 2026/27 more challenging than previously expected.

		3. One tree per resident project The one tree per resident project aims to donate a quarter of a million trees, or metres of hedgerow equivalent, to residents, schools, town and parish councils, businesses, community groups and landowners across Westmorland and Furness, had been oversubscribed but the offer has been increased and the scheme is still open for applications. Ten types of tree are available to suit different soil types and deliver different environmental outcomes. If you are interested in applying for any trees or hedgerow please contact futuretrees@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk RESOLVED that Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hilary Carrick be thanked for her report, the contents of which were noted. ALSO RESOLVED that it be noted that County Councillor Hilary Carrick reserved the right to request to speak on other issues on the agenda.
25/276	Place Action Group (PAG).	RESOLVED that it be noted that the next PAG meeting will be on 11th December 2025 via Teams, which Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hilary Carrick and Parish Councillor Marlayn Wade will be attending.
25/277	Parish Projects: a. Will Pool Revamp. RESOLVED that it be noted that Councillor Phillip Whitehead will ask the volunteer who is revamping the cantilever bridge/dipping platform at Will Pool when they intend to start, as the work needs to be done before the water birds start nesting in the Spring. b. Donation Box at Eden Bridge Car Park. RESOLVED that the donation box at Eden Bridge car park is still ongoing and will be made once the car park has been resurfaced. c. Resurfacing of Eden Bridge Car Park. The Council received an update on the resurfacing of the Eden Bridge car park. It was reported that the Parish Council did not need planning consent for the resurfacing of the car park. The Parish Council will receive a letter to say this and a certificate of lawful use. An application will be made to the Environment Agency to ask for permits needed to carry out the work. RESOLVED that the report about the progress of the resurfacing project be noted with thanks to Councillor Phillip Whitehead and Councillor Hilary Carrick. ALSO RESOLVED that the Parish Council agreed to Councillor Maralyn Wade reporting this update to the Place Action Group (PAG) at their next meeting on 11th December 2025.	
25/278	Parish Maintenance: a. Land at the Old School. RESOLVED that the Council agreed to consider this agenda item in the confidential part of the meeting due to the sensitivity of the information to be discussed. b. Flooding Issues in the Parish. The Council received an update on the flooding issues in the village. Photos of the recent flooding have been taken. The Local authority is trying to get funding to help villages who experience flooding. The Environmental Agency is focussed on managing the main water course, river Eden and operates flood alerts in the area covering Lazonby. Whereas, the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) manages flood risks from surface water, ground water and ordinary water courses like Harrow Beck in Lazonby. RESOLVED that it be noted that the resolve for the flooding issues is ongoing.	

c. Roads in the Parish.	The Council received an update on the following road/Highways issues in the Parish from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hilary Carrick: 1. The resurfacing on Station Road. 2. Broken street drain grate covering outside of Oswald View. 3. Broken drain grate below Townhead in Main Street. 4. Drains at the bottom of the steps near the cottage at the bottom of the village, where Eden Valley Players keep their props, has been blocked which caused the cottage to flood recently. It is full of silt. 5. The recurring water flooding on the road between Eden Bridge car park and the swimming pool. 1. RESOLVED that it be noted that the Station Road resurfacing will be completed as soon as funding becomes available. 2. ALSO RESOLVED that the Clerk will ask the parishioner who reported the reported broken street drain grate covering outside of Oswald View if they could provide some clear photos of the issue, ALSO RESOLVED that it be noted that Councillor Maralyn Wade would take a look at the reported broken street drain grate covering outside of Oswald View. 3. RESOLVED that the broken drain grate below Townhead in Main Street is now repaired. 4. RESOLVED that it be noted that the drain has now been cleared and will be put on a regular programme for jetting out. 5. RESOLVED that it be noted that the flooding has been investigated and is currently in the hands of the Environment Agency. ALSO RESOLVED if there is any further flooding to inform Councillor Hilary Carrick about it. ALSO RESOLVED that Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hilary Carrick be thanked for her report regarding the updates on Highways issues, the contents of which were noted.
d. Footpaths in the Village.	RESOLVED that it be noted that there was no issues report with any pavement in the parish at present.
e. Parish Tree Survey.	RESOLVED that it be noted that the parish tree survey is still ongoing with a visual inspection being carried out and photos taken while it's the winter months. ALSO RESOLVED it be noted that any tree surgeon work needed on any tree will be put out to tender.
f. Damaged Fence at Eden Bridge Car Park.	RESOLVED that it be noted that the repairs of the damaged fence is still ongoing due to the delay in the resurfacing project. ALSO RESOLVED that this agenda item be added to the main Eden Bridge car park resurfacing project agenda item from now on.
g. Damaged Fence at Bateman Lane.	RESOLVED that it be noted that the damaged fence at Bateman Lane is still awaiting repairs at an appropriate seasonal time by volunteer with Councillor Phillip Whitehead.

	h. Vandalised Metal Bench on Carlisle Road.	RESOLVED that it be noted that the Council has only had one suggestion of moving the bench to a new site near the swings on the road to Great Salkeld so far. ALSO RESOLVED that it be noted that the issue of replacing the vandalised bench is still ongoing.
	i. Recycling Centre and Eden Bridge car park.	RESOLVED that it be noted that one of the recycling skips had a fractured base and has been reported to Westmorland and Furness Council who will be replacing it.
	j. Other Maintenance Issues in the Parish.	RESOLVED that it be noted that there is a cracked willow at Will Pool which has been inspected and has been found to have natural deterioration but there is no danger to persons as it is not on the public footpath ALSO RESOLVED that the Council monitor it and a photo be taken of it to gauge any possible future deterioration. ALSO RESOLVED that it be noted that the Council would like to thank a volunteer who has kindly now reinforced the rail near the Old School. ALSO RESOLVED that it be noted that a Public Space Protection Order notice has gone up near the swings on the road to Great Salkeld relating to 'No Dogs Allowed' under the Public Space Protection Order, however, there are no known public protect orders for Lazonby, so Councillor Hillary Carrick will enquire about this with Westmorland & Furness Council.
25/279	Financial Report by the Treasurer.	The Council received a report from the Treasurer for November 2025 (please see attached Treasurer's Report).
		RESOLVED that the Treasurer be thanked for his monthly report for November 2025 (see attached report), the contents of which were approved, accepted and noted.
25/280	Authority for Payments.	RESOLVED that the Council considered requests for payment received by the Treasurer, Clerk or Council Members, and agreed to pay the following: 1. The sum of £1200 to Lazonby Village Hall for grant allocated towards CCTV equipment (Bank Transfer No 190). 2. To transfer £5000 from the Parish Council's Deposit Account to their Current Account to cover expenses for the remaining financial year. 3. The sum of £17.10 to UK Host4u annual review for domain fees for the Parish Council website (Bank Transfer No.191). 4. The sum of £70 to Eden Valley Players for the donation towards the Parish Christmas tree (Bank Transfer No.192). 5. The sum of £360 (includes £60 VAT) to AL Daines & Partners for the survey on the retaining wall at the Egg Packing Station site (Bank Transfer No.193). 6. The sum of £141.62 to the Clerk to the Council for Office and travel expenses (Bank Transfer No.194). 7. The sum of £24 to the Village Hall for the Jubilee Room hire in October 2025 (Bank Transfer No.195).

25/281	Planning Applications – New (or Appeal).	The Council considered the following Planning Application.
		1. Planning Application Ref: 2025/2104/HOU (Householder) - Renovation of existing bungalow to include conversion of attic space, extension of existing carport to accommodate utility room with decked area above and rear extension with conservatory and mezzanine deck above, at Kinmont Lazonby PENRITH CA10 1BL. 2. RESOLVED that the Council had NO OBJECTIONS to planning application ref: 2025/2104/HOU (Householder) - Renovation of existing bungalow to include conversion of attic space, extension of existing carport to accommodate utility room with decked area above and rear extension with conservatory and mezzanine deck above, at Kinmont Lazonby PENRITH CA10 1BL.
25/282	Planning Applications – Decisions.	RESOLVED that it be noted that there were no planning application decisions received.
25/283	Reports on any Highways Issues.	RESOLVED that it be noted that the vandalised Lazonby sign on Carlisle road near Scarrows will be reported to Highways.
25/284	Risk Assessment.	RESOLVED that the Risk assessment is still ongoing and is currently being worked on by Councillor Phillip Whitehead.
25/285	Considering the new Assertion 10 in the 2025 Practitioners' Guide and digital and data protection responsibilities.	RESOLVED that it be noted that the work on the new Assertion 10 in the 2025 Practitioners' Guide and digital and data protection responsibilities is still ongoing.
25/286	Footway Lighting Transfer Agreement.	The Council considered the terms of the footway lighting transfer agreement. The Lighting Manager – Sustainable Transport and Highways, at Westmorland & Furness Council has been in contact to say that they received a notification from Lazonby Parish Council to say they wished to transfer their parish lighting stock to Westmorland and Furness Council under Point 4.7.1.1 in the Westmorland and Furness Highways and Local Lighting Policy. The Legal Transfer Agreement was attached. They would like the Parish Council to confirm the transfer by signing all necessary parts and returning it. Please be aware this agreement must be signed by both parties, until this point all maintenance and liabilities will remain with each Parish Council. The Council discussed the footway lighting transfer agreement and that appear not to have included the six unapproved lights in the transfer.
		RESOLVED that the Council agreed to inform the Lighting Manager at Westmorland & Furness Council that they are keen to sign the transfer of the footway lights to Westmorland & Furness Council documentation, however, as previously requested, Lazonby Parish Council would also like Westmorland & Furness Council to take on the six “unapproved” footway lights, which do not appear to be included in the transfer agreement. ALSO RESOLVED that the Council also agreed to explain to the Lighting Manager at Westmorland & Furness Council that the six unapproved lights were fitted with new LED heads at the expense of the Parish Council, and are in good working order; that the Parish Council will continue to pay insurance on them until the transfer back to Westmorland & Furness Council is complete; and that the Parish Council were also told in a previous communication that the lights would still be repaired by Westmorland & Furness Council at no cost to the Parish Council while the transfer was

		being dealt with.
25/287	Design Code Meeting.	The Council received a report about the Design Code Workshops for Parish & Town Councils from Councillor Maralyn Wade. The Design Code will help guide how homes and business premises are designed and built. The Design Code covers the types of development that is seen most often: new homes including replacement dwellings, conversions of barns and larger buildings, house extensions, and business developments including shop fronts. This session were aimed to help attendees to understand how the Design Code will be used to guide planning applications in your area and help to provide consultation responses. The following issues were discussed at the workshop regarding their effect on the Design Code and possible issues. • Villages for over 65/70 year olds and over – could these be beneficial or ghettos? • Recycling bin facilities – great idea but not all houses have places to store them. • Transport – some villages only have a limited bus service. • Net Zero – log burners being an issue when some villages only have electric and are prone to power cuts. • Looking at the rest of the surrounding houses/village to determine the design of houses • Building on grey belt sites within green belts. • A 10,000 home village to be built outside Carlsile – not really a village more a small town. RESOLVED that Councillor Maralyn Wade be thanked for her report about the Design Code workshop which was noted.
25/288	Parish Mower Maintenance.	It was recommended to the Council, after receiving notification from the grass-cutting team, that two out of the three rotary cutter machines should be serviced this winter at a cost of approximately £150.00. RESOLVED that the Council agreed to the two rotary cutter machines being serviced ready for the 2026 grass cutting season.
25/289	Maintenance work on Eden Bridge.	The Council received information regarding the potential damage to Eden Bridge caused by the recent flooding in Lazonby. The Senior Bridges Technician for the Bridges & Structures Team at Westmorland & Furness Council are currently arranging an urgent diver inspection of the in-water piers of Lazonby Bridge. Additionally, they plan to remove the timber debris from the central pier at the same time. Given the nature of the urgent works, they have asked for permission to park welfare and relevant work vehicles at Eden Bridge car park for the duration of the project. They anticipate that the works will be done within the next couple of weeks and will be completed within one day. It was also recommended that the Members be asked to confirm that an E Mail exchange took place where the Parish Council agreed to give permission to the Bridges & Structures Team at Westmorland & Furness Council, to park their welfare and relevant work vehicles at Eden Bridge car park for the duration of the project. RESOLVED that the Council agreed to the Bridges & Structures Team at Westmorland & Furness Council using Eden Bridge car park while they carried out the urgent inspection and maintenance on Eden Bridge. ALSO RESOLVED that the Council Members confirmed that an E Mail exchange took place where the Parish Council agreed to give permission to the Bridges & Structures Team at Westmorland & Furness Council, to park

		their welfare and relevant work vehicles at Eden Bridge car park for the duration of the project, due to the urgent nature of the request.
25/290	Giving the Chair or Vice Chair and Clerk delegated authority to deal with any issues over the Winter break.	It was recommended that the Council give the Chair or Vice Chair and Clerk delegated authority to deal with any issues over the Winter (Christmas) break, which will mean including all Council Members only when needed.
		RESOLVED that the Council agreed to give the Chair or Vice Chair and Clerk delegated authority to deal with any issues over the Winter (Christmas) break.
25/291	Invitations to Participate.	The Council considered if Council Members would like to comment, take part in, attend, or send a representative to any invitations to participate. 1. Lake District National Park Partnership news release - Have your say on the future of the Lake District - the public are invited to share their views on a new plan which will shape the future of the Lake District. The <u>Lake District National Park Partnership</u> has launched a consultation for its Partnership plan, which sets out a strategy for the management of the National Park and English Lake District World Heritage Site from 2026 to 2031. The starting point for the plan is a shared vision for 2051, shaped by the Partnership's 24 partners: <i>"The Lake District is deeply valued by the nation, as a thriving, working landscape, which is nature and heritage rich, climate resilient and socially and economically vibrant."</i> The draft plan outlines the Partnership's ambitions for 2051, when the Lake District National Park will be 100 years old and recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site for more than 30 years. The nine objectives for the five-year plan include: • Deliver nature's recovery • Improve the conditions of our lakes, rivers and tarns • Reduce carbon emissions • Increase the resilience of the landscape to climate change and its carbon storage potential • Help rural communities to be sustainable and vibrant • Improve the viability and resilience of farms • Improve the management of the historic environment • Inspire people to understand, enjoy and care for the Lake District • Improve integrated sustainable travel and reduce dependency on private vehicles Share your views on the draft plan via the online survey and be in with a chance to win a £100 voucher: https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/PartnershipConsultation Throughout the consultation, which takes place between 24th November 2025 to 30th January 2026, the Partnership will be hosting a roadshow across the Lake District. You can speak to someone about the draft plan at one of the following sessions: • 6 December 9am – 2pm: Muncaster Castle (Stable yard), CA18 1RQ • 10 December 10am – 2pm: Keswick Tourist Information Centre (Moot Hall), CA12 5JR • 13 January 3pm – 7pm: Marchesi Centre, Windermere LA23 2AF 2. Road closures for Clifton Rail Bridge Replacement over M6 Drop-in Engagement Events - National Highways Drop-in sessions - Road closures for Clifton Rail Bridge Replacement over M6 National Highways have asked us to share with you about drop-in

		sessions regarding the weekend road closures due to the replacement of the Clifton rail bridge over the M6. For further information or enquiries please either contact National Highways or Network Rail: • Monday 1 December - Clifton Primary School, Clifton, CA10 2EG (with Network Rail) 6pm to 7.30pm. • Tuesday 2 December - Eamont Bridge village hall, Penrith, CA10 2BH 9.30am to 6.30pm. • Monday 8, Tuesday 9, Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 December - Rheged Centre, Redhills, Penrith, CA11 0DQ 9.30am to 5pm each day. • Wednesday 10 December - Tebay Methodist Church, Orton Road, Tebay, CA10 3XB 10am to 7pm. • Thursday 11 and Thursday 18 December - Kirkby Stephen Methodist Church, High Street, Kirkby Stephen, CA17 4SG 10am to 7pm each day. • Saturday 13 December - engagement van session in Penrith, location to be confirmed 9am to 4pm. 3. Adapting Westmorland and Furness to the impacts of climate change: Town and Parish Councils engagement session - You are invited to an online engagement session with Westmorland and Furness Council on Climate Adaptation, on 7th of January 2026 at 7.00 pm. This will be an opportunity to discuss what they mean by climate adaptation, why we need to adapt for the future, and how we can work together to build resilience within our communities. They would also like to get your thoughts on Westmorland and Furness Council's draft Climate Adaptation Strategy, and how you would like to see this work link with Town and Parish Councils when it comes to developing a Climate Adaptation Action Plan. Agenda: • Introductions and presentation from W&F on climate adaptation (30 minutes). This will cover: • An overview of the climate change predictions for our area • What these changes mean for Westmorland and Furness • What we mean by climate adaptation • An introduction to Westmorland and Furness Council's draft Climate Adaptation Strategy • Discussion (30 minutes) • This will be an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft strategy and discuss how we can work together to facilitate climate resilience at an individual, household and community level across our area. 4. Planning Policy Consultation Notification Reference 2856288 – Second callfor sites – submit land for future development. This is in preparation for the Westmorland & Furness new Local Plan. The consultation runs between 28th November 2025 and 20th February 2026. 5. 'Prevent' Virtual Forum on 10th December 2025 at 7 pm - 'Prevent' is part of the government's Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) and aims to help and support people who may be susceptible to being radicalised, before they become involved in violent extremism and/or terrorism, as a safeguarding measure to keep communities and individuals
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		out of harm and secure. 6. Westmorland & Furness Nature Recovery Fund - applications are now open with a deadline for 30th January 2026. Westmorland and Furness Council are pleased to announce the launch of our Nature Recovery Fund of £50,000. Organisations and partnerships can apply for grants of between £5,000 and £20,000, which can be used to partially or fully support projects that make a measurable difference to nature recovery efforts within Westmorland and Furness. The Nature Recovery Fund aims to support projects that: • Restore, enhance, create, or connect habitats to support pollinators or one or more LNRS priority species. • Undertake bespoke actions to support LNRS priority species. • Support the removal of invasive non-native species (INNS) as listed in the Cumbria LNRS. • Conduct research to inform and support future species recovery. 7. Statutory Consultation - Westmorland and Furness Council (Various Towns and Villages in the Eden Locality Area) (Consolidation and Provision of Speed Limits (Order 2025 No. 2) Variation Order No.1 20>< - statutory consultation for speed limit changes in the following - Clifton, Gamblesby, Glassonby, Great Asby, Greystoke, Penrith, Sockbridge and Tirril and Stainton. The consultation period will run from 15th November to 6th December 2025, during which we invite you to provide any feedback, raise questions, or submit objections to the proposed changes.
		RESOLVED that the invitations to participate be noted and for the Councillors to either take part themselves or let the Clerk know if they would like to attend any of the workshops sessions so they can be booked on to them.
25/292	INFORMATION given for reference only.	RESOLVED that it be noted that the following information was given to the Council for reference only: 1. Westmorland and Furness Council News releases – on various topics, including devolution updates. 2. CALC Weekly Update – Mid-October News & Training Opportunities. 3. CALC Monthly News. 4. NALC Legal Bulletin – November 2025. 5. CVS Information – Health & Wellbeing Bulletin, Events, Volunteering Newsletter, Training & Events, Newsflash Info, Focus on Funding, Cumbria CVS Newsletter, Healthwatch. 6. Cumbria's Local Nature Recovery Strategy Officially Launch information. 7. CALC W&F Branch Event - Winter Readiness virtual meeting on 26th November 2025 information. 8. Growing Well's Big Give Appeal for a minibus information. 9. Cumbria Local Nature Partnership News – November 2025. 10. Westmorland and Furness Council - Eden Community Development Team Update November 2025 information. 11. National Highways Community Legacy Fund - funding opportunity information. 12. Hedgerow Heroes Events aimed at Farmers and Landowners

		information. 13. Useful Charity Commission Resources Information. 14. Westmorland & Furness Council Free Trees for Residents Scheme – closing date was 30th November 2025.
25/293	Agenda Items for Next Month's Agenda.	RESOLVED that the following agenda items be included on the February 2026 agenda: 1. Fishing Permits. 2. Sponsor a bench idea.
25/294	Date of the Next Meeting.	RESOLVED that the next scheduled for Lazonby Parish Council Meeting is on 4th February 2026, at 7.30 pm, in the Jubilee Room, in the Village Hall. There is no scheduled meeting for January 2026.

It was recommended that members of the public and press who are in attendance withdraw from the meeting at this point due to the confidentiality of the matters to be discussed in the next agenda item.

25/295	Complaint from a Parishioner.	The Council received a written complaint from a parishioner regarding Parish Council finances and what they termed misappropriate use of public funds being the funding of £70 given by the Parish Council to Eden Valley Players (EVP) towards the purchase of the parish Christmas tree. PLEASE NOTE that this was discussed in the confidential part of the meeting due to the sensitive financial nature of the business to be discussed. However, the resolutions are now being made public as part of these minutes to be approved.
		RESOLVED that it be noted that on receipt of the original written complaint the Parish Council Chair Councillor Phillip Whitehead replied back in writing to the parishioner to answer their concerns. ALSO RESOLVED that the Council agreed to honour their resolution to partially fund the Parish Christmas Tree with the sum of £70. ALSO RESOLVED that the Parish Council refer the parishioner to Westmorland & Furness Council if they wished to pursue their complaint.
25/296	Land at the Old School.	The Council considered the issues that have arisen on the land at the Old School belonging to the Parish Council.
		RESOLVED that the Council continue to work to resolve the issues that have arisen on the land at the old school.

The Chair addressed the Parish Council present to ask if they wished to carry on business beyond the two-hour time limit for Parish Council meetings. It was **RESOLVED** to continue to complete all business on the agenda.

25/297	Parish Council's Finance & Budget for 2026 – 2027.	PLEASE NOTE that this was discussed at the full Parish Council meeting instead of a separate Finance and Budget Committee meeting due to recent Parish Council membership issues. Furthermore, it was also being discussed in the confidential part of the meeting due to the confidential business to be discussed at that time. However, the information from that agenda item is now being made public through the December 2025 Minutes of the Parish Council as part of the minutes to be approved at the February 2026 meeting of the Parish Council. The Parish Council received the following Notes and guidance regarding Grants, Budget and Precept from the Treasurer Chris Hoy. The Council
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considered the Parish Council's financial issues and budget for 2026 – 2027, which included the grant applications for 2026 – 2027.

1 Grant Requests.

The FellRunner applied for £558 to provide a scheduled local bus service for Parishioners. (Previously granted £702 for same reason in 2024/25). Annual Costs £46k, most passengers are bus pass holders of which only a small part is reimbursed by Westmorland & Furnace Council. This grant will close the gap in the shortfall. Application is based on number of passenger journeys made within the Parish over a year equating to £1 per journey made.

Lazonby Village Hall applied for £2000 to purchase an Oil Tank, due to cracks in the skin. (Previously granted £1.2k for CCTV in 2024/25).

Total amount applied for **£ 2558**

2 Explanations and recommendations on Yearend Reserves, Budget and Precept.

The Treasurer calculated the yearend reserves for 31/03/26 based on the agreed balances to Bank on 31/10/25, including any further income less the expected expenditure from business transactions between 01/11/25 and 31/03/26.

Current Account Reserves (Agreed with Bank 31/10/25)	£5216
Deposit Account Reserves (Agreed with Bank and excluding the Egg Packing Station Grant 31/10/25)	£20064
Total Bank Reserves	£25280

Total Bank Reserves	£25280
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Expected Income (01/11/25 – 31/03/26)	<u>£1578</u>	
		£26858

Expected Expenditure (01/11/25 – 31/03/26)	(£9479)
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Expected Yearend Reserves 31/03/26	<u>£17379</u>
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The Preliminary Budget 2026/27 before Full Committee Approval

Main Considerations

Income :- PRECEPT assumption at present unchanged.

RENTS includes Chip Van £1040, Barugh Foods £700, Bud Designs Ltd £1450, plus £700 buildings Ins, Parish Field £300.

GRANTS £3k available for Re-cycling Centre project.

Expenditure:- SALARIES present agreed National Levels

plus contingency for Pay Rises.
(Total Staff Hours are 778 per annum, an £0.80 increase =£630).

LOCAL GRANTS presumed 100% allocation.

MAINTENANCE George VI Bench £1.5k, Tree Surgery Will Pool/Old School £2k

Plus usual costs.

OPERATING COSTS Employers' NI Charge £0.8k, usual costs+ Lazonby Pool Service Agreement (Max £2.5k).

CAPITAL/PROJECTS EXP estimated cost to re surface Re-cycling Centre Car Park £3k plus £1.5k for new fence alongside main road.

(In support of costs, since Sept 2020 £7500 has been received as donations for use).

Expenditure

Salaries	12750
Staff Expenses	850
Local Grants 100%	2558
Subscriptions	325
Training	200
Maintenance	5000
Operating Costs	5500
Capital/Projects	4500

Income

Precept	15000
Fishing Permits	500
Recycling Credits	300
Vat Recovery	300
Rents	4190
Wayleave	35

Grants Received	3000
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Total £31683

Total £23325

Total Income 2026/27

£23325

Total Expenditure 2026/27

£31683

		Total Deficit 2026/27 (€8358) Expected Yearend Reserves 31/3/26 €17379 Preliminary Budget Deficit 2026/27 (€8358) Total Reserves Expected 31/3/27 <u>€9021</u> Analysis – 2026/27 Reserves are projected at €9021 as at close of business 31st March 2027. Whilst spending during 2025/26 provided greater benefit to the Parish and will continue into 2026/27 there is now a realisation that reserves are beginning to fall and left unchecked would breach the Parish Council's contingency reserve threshold. This could depend on the following analysis. 1 Salaries are expected to rise more considerably if inflation remains higher over the next few years. 2 The Lazonby Pool Service Agreement that allocates funding up to a maximum of €2500 per annum has never yet breached €1800, however the existing agreement could allocate some extra cost for repairs and replacements to equipment which may result in a maximum cost in future years. 3 Rental income could be affected, it is not certain that the Chip Van and Barugh Foods will remain in use. Bud Designs Ltd has another year on its lease. <u>The Treasurers View</u> A reminder of the Financial Regulations 3.4:- offers the full committee the benefit either to leave the Precept unchanged, decrease or increase depending on the projected reserves being greater or less than the contingency reserve (€10k). A buffer between €10k and €12k would act as a safety margin before any implementation. The Financial Regulations could be rewritten to suit the higher expenditure thus lowering the contingency threshold to help protect parishioners council tax payments and yet give a fair return on their taxation. Whilst reserves are projected at around €10k for 2027 this has reached the baseline for contingency reserves as per council financial regs. It is my view that I would like to recommended to the council to maintain the precept at €15k (last years' amount). Current reserves are more than adequate to provide an efficient running council working for the benefit of the parishioners. The cost of living will continue to bite into everyone's pockets without adding any unnecessary increases through an already excessive council tax system. As a council we need prudent management that reigns in excess and tackles any extra costs that may arise on an annual basis when setting the precept. The figures the Treasurer has provided support this.
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		RESOLVED that grant applications for 2026 – 2027 were considered and the Parish Council agreed to give the following: 1. The FellRunner is to be awarded £558 to provide a scheduled local bus service for Parishioners. 2. Lazonby Village Hall is to be awarded £400 to match fund the fundraising that the Village Hall Committee will be doing towards the purchase of the Oil tank at the Village Hall, and that the parish Council will require evidence of the fundraising that is to be carried out. ALSO RESOLVED that the Parish Council will need the Village Hall Committee to return their funding report for the 2025 – 2026 funding award before they will be given any more funding. ALSO RESOLVED that the Council agreed to not increase the precept so it will remain at £15,000 for 2026 – 2027. ALSO RESOLVED that the Treasurer be thanked for his report on the budget and precept for 2026 – 2027 which was approved, accepted and noted.
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The meeting finished at 10.10 pm.