Lowside Quarter Parish Council
www.lowsidequarterpc.co.uk

Clerk: To be appointed
Temporarily c/o Kirstin Lang, Chair
Ocean Way
Nethertown, CA22 2UH

Email: clerk@lowsidequarter-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the meeting of Lowside Quarter Parish Council
Meeting held 3rd November 2026 at 5.30pm Lakeland View Meeting Room, Nethertown

Present: Cllr S Bateson
Cllr H Jones
Cllr K Lang
Cllr C Paine

11/2026/01 Apologies:

Cllr G Singleton
Cllr M Tonks

11/2026/02 Declaration of interests by Councillors in respect of agenda items:

None were declared.

11/2026/03 Minutes of previous meeting and update on outstanding actions:

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

The verges have been cut and an invoice received by the Parish Council for the work from R J Wilson, Bootle.

Cllr Lang attended a Resilience webinar held by Cumberland Council, 20th October. Some useful information on organisations that fund resilience equipment for Cumbrian communities. Agreed by all Cllrs present that a funding application should be drafted. Cllr Lang to draft in due course. Placement of equipment to be further discussed.

The new noticeboard required for Braystones - looking at options from 'Noticeboards Online', a Kendal company. Cllr Paine to look into this further.

No further update on the fire damage and subsequent repair from those farmers affected.

Nothing further on remaining outstanding actions as filling the Clerk/RFO and Councillor vacancies has taken precedence.

11/2026/04 Finance:

Setting the Precept for 2027/28 - A projected budget of the cost of regular outgoings for the forthcoming year was prepared by Cllr Lang and shown to all Cllrs present, along with current account balances.

It was agreed by all Cllrs present to ask Cumberland Council for a £1000 raise to the upcoming year's precept (from the current £5000 to £6000) in order to cover projected rises in costs for all regular outgoings as well as the maintenance and, in some cases, replacement of Parish assets. The Parish Council's current precept leaves very little annually to cover any additional expenses.

Clerk/RFO salary - To cover the salary required for this as a paid role, in line with national guidelines, the Parish Council would need to request an approximate raise of £2000 to the precept (in addition to the above projected rise in costs and maintenance) - this was agreed by all Cllrs present to be an unreasonable request of additional tax payer funds.

A formal resolution was proposed by the Chair to make the Clerk/RFO role voluntary, with necessary and appropriate expenses paid - all Cllrs present agreed on the resolution.

NatWest account business and statement address altered after former Clerk resignation.

Parish Council's AGAR online portal set up by Cllr Lang for the next annual audit.

11/2026/05 Planning:

None.

11/2026/06 Any Other Business:

Clerk/RFO applicants - Two formal applications for the role received by Cllr Lang, both applications shown to all present. All agreed to enquire of their interest to conduct the role voluntarily in light of the current agreed budget (see Finance above). Cllr Lang to follow up. Any subsequent applicants for the voluntary role will be presented to and reviewed by all Cllrs.

Cllr seat vacancy - Catherine MacPherson, of Nethertown, made her interest in becoming a Cllr known to the Chair. All Cllrs present agreed to the co-option of Cllr MacPherson. Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests to be completed by Cllr MacPherson and submitted to Cumberland Council.

Cllr Bateson made the Parish Council aware of another's interest in becoming a Cllr. Chair to receive written interest from the candidate and duly schedule a meeting to vote on their co-option. All available seats on the Parish Council would then be taken.

Parish Council Elections, 2027 - All Cllrs present made aware of the upcoming elections in May. All serving Cllrs will need to submit nomination papers in order to retain their seats/be re-elected.