

## HETHERSGILL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Meeting of Hethersgill Parish Council held in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st November 2023

**Present:** Cllr C Williams (Chairman); Clls S Barratt, J Bryant, M Irving, A Sisson, L Summerfield.

**In attendance:** 2 (Two) members of the public, (council co-optees). The Locum Clerk A Dawes. Cumberland Council member J Mallinson.

#### **174/23 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr F Heaton.

#### **175/23 Declarations of Interest and Request for Dispensations**

No declarations of interest were made and no requests for dispensation has been received.

#### **176/23 Minutes of the meeting(s) of the Parish Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the last 2 (Two) Parish Council meeting as true records.

**177/23 Co-option of new councillors** – Liz McDonagh and Dawn Beer were both “elected” to serve as co-opted council members until the next Election. This then left no members of the Public in attendance.

#### **178/23 Public Participation**

**178/23.1** No members of the public were in attendance.

**178/23.2** Cumberland Council Update - Cllr Mallinson gave a brief report highlighting the funding arrangements now available via the Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel, whose first event would take place on Thursday 23 November, 6-8pm at Downagate Community Centre, Warwick Bridge, CA4 8RE. Cllr Barratt was intending to attend. At this point the Chair indicated that Council would discuss item **6.5 Action reporting** which enabled Cllr Summerfield to ask for the formal arrangements in place with regarding to reporting and feed back of issues referred to the Cumberland Council. Cllr Mallinson outlined the various methods of both reporting and feedback dependent upon the issues involved. Cllr Mallinson also confirmed arrangements to meet the following day with a Council member to further progress an issue in person.

At this point the meeting was joined by a PCSO Susan Holliday who had been unavoidably detained.

The Chair asked if Susan would give a brief update on any incidents but was pleased to note that there were none. At this point the Chair indicated that council would consider **item 6.3 Neighbourhood Watch** – Susan reported that the process had in fact been amended and

distributed a leaflet for individuals to sign into a communication scheme which allowed individuals to add items of “interest” and receive updates from others. Dialling 101 and / or the Cumbria Police website was still a way of ensuring that services take action after assessment of the issue.

Susan Holliday then left the meeting.

Cllr Bryant left the meeting at 8.10

### **179/23 Administrative Matters**

#### **179/23.1 Appointment of New Clerk**

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Allan Dawes to the position of Acting Clerk until the Council year end, when recruitment would be considered.

#### **179/23.2 Community Renewable Energy**

Council **RESOLVED** to hold an “Open” meeting in the Village Hall on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Parish Council, Social Committee and Hall Committee to be involved.

**180/23 Neighbourhood Watch** – this item was dealt with under minute reference 178/23.2

**181/23 Community Led Plan** - Cllr Williams announced that the current Parish Plan had been distributed to Council members and noted that it was significantly out-of-date. Council agreed that this item would form a part of a Public Meeting to be held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 which would cover a number of issues relating to community involvement and would take the form of and “Informative “Social” event.

#### **182/23 D-Day Commemoration 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The matter will be discussed at a future meeting to confirm Parish Council support and involvement.

### **183/23 Planning Matters**

The items on the Agenda were all noted by the Council and the Clerk indicated that the link to the Cumverland Council Planning portal would be incorporated within the minutes.

<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/search-planning-applications>

[just right click and select open hyperlink.

### **184/23 Administration Matters**

**184/23.1 Highways** - no new issues to report

**184/23.2 Woodland Trust** free trees offer not to be taken up by the council but an article will be placed in the Gill to encourage others to consider it.

**184/23.3 Grass-cutting** – council decided to leave the issue in the hands of Wayne and Elaine Carruthers.

**184/23.4 30 m.p.h. speed limit** Cllr Mallinson agreed to investigate the methodology by which changes to areas speed limit can be determined.

**184/23.5 Broadband** – a general discussion took place about the roll-out activity currently underway and council members will try to report back at future meetings on progress.

**184/23.6 Website** – Council were informed that the website details were out-of-date and the Clerk would be gathering the correct information for inclusion on it and also for an article in the Gill.

**184/23.7 The Gill** – members were asked for articles for inclusion in the Gill, the Clerk and Cllr Irving to produce.

## **185/23 Finance Matters**

### **185/23.1 Payments**

**Resolved** to authorise the payments below:

- Sarah Kyle, Back pay £196.00
- Allan Dawes, Salary November £278.21
- HMRC, PAYE November, £69.55
- Grass cutting £480.00

### **185/23.2 Budget Update and Bank Reconciliation**

**RESOLVED council** to receive an update of expenditure and forecast out-turn for 2023 2024 attached to the minutes

### **185/23.3 Banking Arrangements**

Arrangements for banking were discussed and the Clerk informed council that the request for a new Bank Account with Unity Trust Bank was being processed, as soon as this was open the balance from HSBC would be transferred by Sarah Kyle into the new account then the above payments would be made and Council members would be provided with and end of November Bank Reconciliation.

### **185/23.4 Precept and Budget 2024 2025**

The Clerk presented the council with a comparison of 2023 2024 and 2024 2025 Budgets both of which were showing a shortfall of Income over Expenditure. It was agreed that this was not sustainable and had been introduced as a “freeze” on the request for additional precept during the Covid pandemic and to assist with the cost-of-living crisis. The Budget expenditure lines were agreed but the Clerk was asked to increase the amount request for precept by 6% to £7,420. **RESOLVED**

## **186/23 Date of Next Meeting**

**Resolved** that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7.30pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.20pm.

