

## HETHERSGILL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Meeting of Hethersgill Parish Council held in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16 January 2024

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

**In attendance:** The Locum Clerk A Dawes. Cumberland Council member J Mallinson.

#### **001/24 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received or required due to a full attendance.

#### **002/24 Declarations of Interest and Request for Dispensations**

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

#### **003/24 Minutes of the meeting(s) of the Parish Council held on 21st November 2023**

**Resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting as a true record.

#### **004/24 Public Participation**

**004/24.1** No members of the public were in attendance.

**004/24.2** Cumberland Council Update - Cllr Mallinson gave a brief report highlighting the current progress with Cumberland Council paying particular attention to Highways and a grit survey which had been commissioned some time ago but never undertaken, this was now being rectified and Council members were asked to submit areas of concern that were previously gritted but now not so, as well as areas that had always been untreated. Cllr. Mallinson went on to explain the grading process that Highways undertook in terms of gritting pressure times.

30 m.p.h. speed limit Cllr Mallinson reported that no progress had yet been made on this matter. And he also reminded Council of the ability to request from him small amounts of funding to maybe "top-up" schemes funded via Hallburn or other such funding sources.

**005/24 Dates for future Council meetings – RESOLVED** meetings would take place bi-monthly on the third Tuesday

#### **006/24 Administrative Matters**

**006/24.1 Parish Representatives Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – RESOLVED** the Clerk would distribute the notes and council members would indicate the areas that they would be interested in. The Clerk and the Chair would then assess if the others could be dealt with in some other way.

#### **006/24.2 Public Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

After discussion Council **RESOLVED** to hold the "Public" meeting in the Village Hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Whilst final details would be discussed at the next Council meeting an outline was suggested as below:-

Arrivals – 6.30 for “Wine & Nibbles” and chat.  
Presentations to commence at 7.00 and include:-  
Fraud Prevention  
Himalayan Balsam  
Parish Plan  
Neighbourhood watch  
Broadband & I.T.  
Social Committee

Precise timings and detail to be determined at the next Council meeting.

Various “stalls” would have information available on a variety of topics.

**006/24.3 Government legislation changes** – Clerk outlined the recent legal changes to correct an anomalous situation regarding the funding of ecclesiastical buildings. The arrangements were now clearer and Councils could now exercise the power to fund ecclesiastical buildings subject to the Councils Grants and Donations policy(ies). **RESOLVED** Clerk to ensure policies were in place and reviewed at the next meeting before communications via Notice Board and The Gill to parishioners.

**006/24.4 The Gill** – positive comments had been received regarding the latest issue but Council **RESOLVED** to have more time allocated at the next meeting to discuss the long-term benefits of the production of the magazine.

**006/24.5 Community Panel** – Cllr. Barrett updated members on his attendance at the first panel and how well it was attended and received, however he had not had any details of future meeting dates. This was the formal mechanism for seeking support for Community projects.

**006/24.6 Himalayan Balsam Bashers** – Cllr Williams brought members up-to-date with a change of emphasis for the coming year in that the group would determine much more publicly “visible” areas to ensure people were more aware of the activities of the group. Further funding requests would be made in the near future.

**006/24.7 Annual Parish Meeting** – **RESOLVED** to invite the developer of the proposed “Solar Farm” at Leaps Rigg and after discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would distribute the Traffic proposals from the Solar farm developers.

**007/24 Planning Matters** – none received for consideration

**008/24 Highways** - no new issues to report

**009/24 Finance Matters**

**009/24.1 Payments**

**Resolved** to authorise the payments below:

- Allan Dawes, Salary December £256.81
- HMRC, PAYE December, £64.20
- A Dawes – production of The Gill £264.43
- Unity Trust Bank – Bank Charges £2.74
- Allan Dawes, Salary January & Expenses £375.74
- HMRC, PAYE January, £63.92
- A Dawes – production of The Gill £264.43
- CALC – Chairperson training £30.00

#### **009/24.2 Budget Update and Bank Reconciliation**

**RESOLVED** council to approve an update of expenditure and forecast out-turn for 2023 2024

**009/24.3 Banking Arrangements** – Council **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair and Clerk to commence closure of the HSBC account.

**009/24.4 Cumberland Unitary Authority Budget Consultation** – Clerk reminded council members of the opportunity to comment on the above proposals which had previously been circulated.

#### **010/24 Correspondence –**

**Nalc** – this item was dealt with at 006/24.3

**Calc** – to note that the first quarter training plan was now available. Chair encouraged the council members to book appropriate courses as and when.

**Table Tennis Request** – Chair indicated that a verbal request had been received which after discussion was passed to the Social Committee for consideration.

**Confidential item** – at this point the Council discussed confidential matters relating to the recruitment of a Clerk / RFO from 1st April.

#### **011/24 Items for next Agenda –**

D-Day Commemoration 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Broadband & I.T.

E-mails

#### **012/24 Date of Next Meeting**

**Resolved** that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 7.30pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall.

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