



## **HETHERSGILL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Hethersgill Annual Parish Council held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 20th May 2025**

**Present:** Cllrs D Beer, F Heaton, M Irving, A Sisson, L Summerfield, C Williams J.P.

**In attendance:** The Clerk A Dawes. 1(one) Member of the Public

**021/25 Election of Chairman for the Council Year 2025/26** – Cllr Sisson was nominated by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Irving and elected unanimously. Cllr Sisson will sign the declaration of acceptance of office.

**022/25 Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the Council Year 2025/26** – Cllr Beer was nominated by Cllr Irving and seconded by Cllr Williams and elected unanimously.

**023/25 Apologies for Absence** - Cllrs. J Bryant, S Barratt and L McDonagh sent apologies for absence, together with Cumberland Cllr. J Mallinson and they were accepted.

**024/25 Declarations of Interest and Request for Dispensations** - No declarations of interest were made and no requests for dispensation has been received.

**025/25 Minutes of the meeting(s) of the Parish Council held on 18th March 2025 - RESOLVED** that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting as a true record.

**026/25 Public Participation** – no questions from the member of the public were raised, and no report from the Cumberland Councillor, however the Clerk updated members with regard to enquiries about the white lines and Give-way signs at the Crossroads. Copies of which are attached to these minutes. It was also noted that should we fail to illicit a response then Council will feel compelled to contact the M.P.

#### **027/25 Administrative Matters**

##### **027/25.1 Community Led Plan**

Cllr. Irving gave a feedback report on meetings held and the response so the survey. 32 responses had been received the majority of which were from the age range 50 – 70+ including 1 from a 94 year old! A number of items were deemed to be of more importance to the responders however at this stage it was felt that the Community Led Plan Group should meet again, discuss the outcomes and report back via the Council and include the feedback in The Gill.

Council expressed thanks to the Group for the work especially Cllr. Irving for the survey it was a great initiative.

The random draw for the prizes for taking part in the survey was conducted by the Clerk and the Winner and 2 under 18 winners will be passed their prizes by the Clerk in due course.

**027/25.2 I.T. and email – RESOLVED** that the Clerk would send independent emails for the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting as soon as possible seeking confirmation of receipt together with a global email to try to isolate the problem with receipt of documents. Individuals to contact Cllr Bryant with a view to connectivity issues.

**027/25.3 V.E. Day Celebration** - Cllr Summerfield reported back on an excellent event very well attended and deemed a great success in particular Dalston Male Voice |Choir and the 22 scarecrows! Thanks were expressed from the Council to the Social Committee and the Clerk asked for any costs borne by the Committee that had previously been agreed, receipts would be forwarded to enable re-imbursement.

**027/25.4 Cumbria in Bloom** – Cllr Irving reported that we had in fact missed the deadline for this year and that we should consider any application at the January meeting for 2026.

**027/25.5 Review of Policies and Procedures** – Council considered the review undertaken by the clerk of the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Complaints procedure; procedures and practices in respect of Freedom of Information and data protection legislation; and policy for dealing with the press/media and to **RESOLVE** that no changes are required at this time.

**027/25.6 Highways** - no new issues to report

**028/25 Programme of Meetings – RESOLVED** that the meeting dates for the forthcoming Council year are:

**15th July 2025**

**16th September 2025**

**18th November 2025**

**20th January 2026 (Meeting time 7.45)**

**17th March 2026 (Meeting time 7.45)**

The Clerk sought confirmation that the meetings in January and March could commence at 7.45 to facilitate him Clerking another local Council meeting from 6 until 7.30.

**029/25 Planning Matters – Appn Ref: 25/0178 no comment**  
**Appn Ref: 25/0073 no comment**

**030/25 Finance Matters**

**030/25.1 RESOLVED** to authorise the payments below:

A Dawes, April salary and expenses £377.25  
HMRC, PAYE April, £85.00  
YPO – Stationery £34.49  
Unity, bank charges £6.00

**030/25.2** Receipt – the Clerk reported that the Precept of £7,800 for 2024/2025 had now been received from Cumberland Council.

**030/25.3** Internet Banking – Council reconfirmed approval for the Clerk to authorise internet banking payments and for the direct debit for ICO payments to continue

### **031/25 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25**

#### **Internal Auditors Report**

**RESOLVED** to accept the end of year internal auditors report for the financial year 2024/25.

#### **Certificate of Exemption**

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council is to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and to authorise the Chairman to sign and the RFO to submit a Certificate of Exemption to the External Auditor following confirmation that gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2025.

#### **Annual Governance Statement**

**RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and authorise the Chairman to sign the Annual return.

#### **Accounting Statements**

**RESOLVED** to approve Accounting Statements 2024/25 and authorise the Chairman to sign the annual return.

**032/25 Village Hall** – Cllr Summerfield brought Council up to date with a number of issues associated with the Village Hall.

**033/25 Councillor Matters** - no new matters brought to the attention of the Clerk, but Council asked that the items, Parish Welcome Pack and Helping to Welcome Newcomers were incorporated into any outcome discussions regarding the Community Led Plan.

**034/25 Items for the net Agenda were** – Speeding at the Crossroads and Community Help in Emergency Situations. The Clerk to write to NWEB to see if Council could have sight of the organisations Emergency Plan for both planned and unplanned incidents.

**035/25 Date of Next Meeting - RESOLVED** that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at on Tuesday 16th July 2025 at 7.30pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall.

DRAFT