

Mintes of the Annual Meeting of Garsdale Parish Council held on Thursday 22 May 2025 in the Village Hall (approx. 7.30pm) following the Annual Parish Meeting (7.00pm)

(The meeting commenced approx. 7.45pm. following a short break)

Present: Cllrs Colton, Simmonds, Ellwood, Dickinson, Labbate, Todd, and the Clerk

1. Elect a Chair of the Parish Council

Cllr Simmonds was proposed by Cllr Colton and seconded by Cllr Todd and was duly elected.

2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the Chair

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr Simmonds in the presence of the Clerk.

3. Elect a Vice Chair of the Council

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

4. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mawdsley was absent from the meeting.

5. Declarations of Interest

The Clerk reminded all Members to review their Declarations of Interest and update if/as necessary. The Clerk will endeavour to add these to the Parish Council website in due course, however, they are available on the Westmorland and Furness Council website in the interim.

6. Requests from Councillors for Dispensations to Speak and/or Vote

There were no requests for dispensations.

7. Approval of the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting 12 March 2025 (bi-monthly)

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair, Cllr Simmonds.

8. Approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

8.1 The Certificate of Exemption was received, considered, and agreed. It was, therefore, resolved it was adopted by Members.

8.2 The Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/2025 was received, noting points raised, considered, and agreed. It was, therefore, resolved that it was adopted by Members.

8.3 The Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025 was received, considered, and agreed. It was, therefore, resolved it was adopted by Members.

8.4 The Accounting Statement 2024/2025 was received, considered, and agreed. It was, therefore, resolved it was adopted by Members.

8.5 The Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Exempt Authority) The period was confirmed, as recommended by the External Auditor, and to comply with the prescribed 30 (working days) and including the first 10 (working) days of July.

9. To appoint an Internal Auditor for 2025-2026

Members were pleased to note that the current Auditor was content to continue. Members did note, going forward, that they would consider seeking an alternative Internal Auditor for the future (Action Cllr Simmonds).

10. To appoint representative/s to outside bodies and areas of interest

Village Hall – TT/GD

Diocese – WM

WFC Highways – DL

Upper Eden Healthwatch – deferred

Public Transport Group – KE

Sedbergh Community Trust (Grants) – GD

(In respect of the Public Transport Group – KE gave a brief overview of the formation of this Group, to discuss/help all local communities secure improved public transport links)

11. Delegation arrangements and review of policies (Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment, Councillor Code of Conduct)

Members noted that a significant review and implementation of various policies had recently been carried out and it was resolved, therefore, to continue to adopt these along with the delegation arrangements.

12. Insurance Arrangements

Members noted that a partial refund had recently been received, following the review in respect of the village hall. A general review/comparative quotes will be considered at renewal later this year.

13. To consider annual subscriptions, such as Cumbria Association of Local Council (CALC) and Parish Online (website and emails)

Members noted the current annual subscriptions for CALC £155.86, along with Parish Online (circa £315) and resolved to continue with these subscriptions, upon annual review/renewal. Members all agreed that both were positive for the council.

14. Schedule of future meetings 2025/2026

Members noted dates previously considered, third Wednesday bi-monthly, and resolved the following meetings 16 July, 17 September, 19 November (2025), 21 January, 18 February, and 29 May (2026). These were subject to confirmation of availability of the village hall.

Date of next meeting, will be the bi-monthly meeting: Wednesday 16 July 2025 and will be held in the Village Hall, Garsdale

There were nine members of the public in attendance at this meeting.