

Garsdale Parish Council

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Minutes of the bi-monthly meeting for the Parish Council of Garsdale held at 8.10pm on Thursday 22 May 2025 at Garsdale Village Hall, Garsdale. The meeting following the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Present: Councillors Simmonds (Chair), Todd, Labbate, Dickinson, Ellwood, and Colton. Also in attendance, the Clerk J Hassam.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Mawdsley was not present at the meeting and his absence noted.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no personal or prejudicial declarations of interest made.

3. Minutes of Garsdale Parish Council meeting, dated 12 March 2025

The minutes had been adopted at the previous meeting (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council) and there were no outstanding matters to note.

4. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllrs Mitchel and Hodgson were not present at the meeting.

5. Progress reports/updates

- 5.1 Clerk – no additional matters to note, items already included on the agenda (Item 7).
- 5.2 Village Hall – Members noted that the Clerk should seek formal contact with the Hall to confirm bookings/hire fees.
- 5.3 Highways – Members noted that the poor road condition, close to Pot Gill, had been repaired by Highways. It was further noted that repair works were scheduled to be completed on Back Lane (ford) in June. Finally, some potholes were noted on the coal road, and Cllr Simmonds hopes to photograph and report. All Members (and public) were reminded that reports can be made directly with Westmorland and Furness Council online – and that photographs are often helpful in the report. The Clerk also advised that WFC are hoping to host a Highways online event in the coming months, for Parish/Town Councils.
- 5.4 Community Groups – Respect the Dales. Further to previous minute (Item 8.5 – 12 March 2025) Members noted that Respect the Dales had been ‘shelved’ and was no longer active. Members were informed that Respect the Dales remains as an entity, but is not currently active.
- 5.5 B4RN VoIP emergency phones – Following the update at the previous meeting, Cllr Simmonds hopes to progress the proposal for the emergency phone at Garsdale Station. It was noted that this would require the purchase of additional equipment, to be discussed further at a future meeting. The phone for the Village Hall, was now with their committee, to confirm location.
- 5.6 Update on Transport Group – (see Annual Meeting of the Parish Council). It is noted that there is a public meeting planned in June, date to be confirmed.

6. Public Participation/Open Session

Nine members of the public had been welcomed to the meeting. One question was asked seeking clarification over Respect the Dales following the confusion over it being active/inactive, current membership and, how residents may be involved in the group, however no clarification was given from those present.

7. Recent Complaints

The Clerk advised that, as far as she was aware, all recent complaints/queries/FOI requests had been responded to and that the Monitoring Officer at Westmorland and Furness Council had concluded their report. However, within the last few days, the Clerk had received notification from the External Auditor that a ‘Points Raised’ query had been made by an elector or other interested person. The inquiry, around VAT, and any investigation would result in fees being charged to the Parish Council.

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Members resolved, therefore, to advise the Auditor that they would self-refer to HMRC. This would, hopefully help to reduce potential costs to the community. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the External Auditor in the first instance.

8. Financial Matters

8.1 Bank statement reconciliation and update of receipts and payments 2025-2026, with the current bank balance being £7657.37 (12/5/25) following receipt of the Precept. One cheque (£150.00) remains unrepresented from the previous financial year and the Clerk has followed this up directly.

8.2 To approve payments to May 2025, Members resolved to approve the following payments. Clerk remuneration – April (which had previously been returned unpaid, signatures differ) and May. With approval also to June – £627.54, along with associated PAYE (to be paid by direct debit, as previously resolved). CALC Subs £155.86 and Parish Online (as noted at Annual Meeting of the Parish Council). No other payments were currently known, however, if anything transpires, the Clerk will liaise with Members via email.

8.3 To review and, if appropriate, confirm any retrospective payments authorised by the former chairman) Oct 2024 to Dec 2024. Deferred to July 2025, to allow all Members the opportunity to read explanation/s recently received.

8.4 Review ICO Membership – Data Protection Fee - £52.00. The Clerk raised potential membership for the Information Commissioners Office, and following discussion it was resolved to commence membership. (Members voted 5/1)

8.5 Banking Arrangements – The Clerk confirmed the ongoing application with NatWest Bank, and coinciding current safeguarding process with existing bank HSBC. Members, and the Clerk, hope that all matters pertaining to the safeguarding review with HSBC have now been resolved. When a new statement is issued, confirming the change of address to the Clerk, progress can be made to potentially switch to the NatWest. It was noted, however, that this would not be eligible a Bankline Community account and cheques would still be required. However, it was hoped that there would be a period of free banking.

9. Planning Applications

No planning applications had received since the last meeting.

10. Correspondence, notices, and publications

There were no further matters to raise.

11. Councillor matters/exception items

Cllr Labbate asked if there was any update on the vegetation/overhanging branches reported in March, the Clerk will follow this up with Westmorland and Furness Council

12. Date of next meeting

Members resolved that the next meeting would be the bi-monthly meeting of Garsdale Parish Council 7.30pm Wednesday 16 July 2025. This was subject to confirmation/availability of the Garsdale Village Hall, Garsdale, Cumbria

Chairman.....

Date.....

Please note that these are draft minutes, subject to change and will not be signed until the next meeting.