

Garsdale Parish Council

18 March 2026

Minutes of the bi-monthly meeting for the Parish Council of Garsdale held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18 March 2026 at Garsdale Village Hall, Garsdale.

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

1. Apologies for absence

Members resolved to accept apologies from Cllr Colton. The Clerk advised that Cllr Ellwood had also sent apologies, additionally noting her resignation from Garsdale Parish Council. Members took the opportunity to thank Cllr Ellwood for her contribution to Garsdale Parish Council. All remaining members were present at the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations made, or new requests for dispensations.

3. Minutes of Garsdale Parish Council meetings, dated 21 January 2026

Members resolved to adopt the minutes previously circulated, for the bi-monthly meeting in January, and they were signed as a true record by the Chair Cllr Simmonds.

4. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllrs Mitchel had sent a written update following his site meeting, with Cllrs Koo and Labbate in February, following the request from Members at the January meeting. He advises that two work orders are now in place, with a further update pending. This relates to Item 5.3 Highways (January 2026). The Clerk noted a recent presentation on the new Cumbria Combined Authority, along with consultations circulated in respect of Home to School Transport and Older People in Westmorland. Cllr Hodgson was not present at the meeting.

5. Progress reports/updates

- 5.1 Clerk – The Clerk advised that all relevant items are included in the agenda.
- 5.2 Village Hall – Members noted that the Committee were still waiting for confirmation from the Diocese for the installation of the emergency phone.
- 5.3 Highways – See Item 4, following the site meeting held with Cllr Mitchel in February. The Clerk noted that Northern Rail had also acknowledged the Council's concerns for the water run of at Garsdale Railway Station.
- 5.4 B4RN VoIP emergency phones – Cllr Simmonds has been previously been in contact with Garsdale Station, and still awaits further updates about any potential future costs/provision. (see also, Item 5.2)
- 5.5 Update on Transport Group – Following the resignation of Cllr Ellwood, Cllr Koo and the Clerk were able to advise Councillors of a new Dales Bus service commencing in April (details posted on the website) that would run into Sedbergh/Kirkby Lonsdale on Sundays/Bank Holidays until October.

6. Public Participation/Open Session

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

7. Financial Matters

7.1 Bank statement reconciliation and update of receipts and payments 2025-2026, with the current bank balances noted as £3137.38 (12/02/26 and 27/02/26 HSBC and NatWest) with all outstanding cheques reconciled and Clerk remuneration and PAYE now transferred to standing order and direct debit respectively.

7.2 To consider and approve payments to May 2026 Members resolved to continue to approve Clerk remuneration for March, April, and May (£627.54). PAYE will continue to be collected by direct debit—being noted as circa £174.80 per quarter. No other payments were currently known; the Clerk will liaise with Members via email and report at the next meeting if any urgent matter occurs.

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18 March 2026

Members finally noted that the clerk's salary should continue to align with the Local Government Association pay award (National Joint Council) in 2026/2027 (the national award is still being negotiated).

7.3 Any update on banking arrangements The Clerk advised that HSBC had refused the account closure form due to difference in signatures. New forms have now been signed, and the Clerk will submit to HSBC as soon as practicable. Cllr Dickinson has received the relevant information from NatWest to add as a signatory to the account.

7.4 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025-2026. Members resolved to adopt the revised Asset Register and Risk Assessment circulated by the Clerk. Members also resolved to appoint Mr P Taaffe as Internal Auditor, with a thank you to the outgoing Internal Auditor.

8. Planning Applications

i) **Junction Cottage, Garsdale S/02/113** householder planning permission for erection of shed
ii) **Low Scale, Garsdale S/02/85F** full planning permission for erection of a new agricultural storage shed, as a lean-to to an existing sheep shed. **Members resolved to ratify, no objections, on both applications.**

9. Correspondence, notices, and publications

Following the resignation of Cllr Ellwood, the Clerk noted that she will notify the Monitoring Officer at Westmorland and Furness Council of the vacancy. Once the legal notice is received, this will be published as appropriate. The Clerk also noted the Yorkshire Dales National Park Spring Parish Forum.

10. Councillor matters/exception items

There were no additional matters noted.

12. Date of next meeting

Members resolved that the next meeting would be the Parish Annual Meeting, **commencing 7.00pm on Wednesday 20 May 2026**, the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the bi-monthly meeting of Garsdale Parish Council would follow. These will be held at 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.