

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Garsdale Parish Council held on Wednesday 20 May 2026 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 Simmonds, Colton, Koo, Dickinson, Labbate and Todd (1 x vacancy) Apologies received from the Clerk, with Cllrs Colton and Dickinson standing in for the Clerk.

1. Elect a Chair of the Parish Council

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

2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the Chair

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr Simmonds and will be further signed by the Clerk in due course.

3. Elect a Vice Chair of the Council

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

4. Apologies for Absence

All Members were present at the meeting (1 x vacancy)

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no amendments noted.

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 2026 (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 2025/2026 was received, noting points raised, considered, and agreed. It was, therefore, resolved that it was adopted by Members.

8.3 The Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026 was received, considered, and agreed. It was, therefore, resolved it was adopted by Members.

8.4 The Accounting Statement 2025/2026 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 2026-2027

Members noted thanks to the new Internal Auditor – Mr P Taaffe and agreed to continue to appoint.

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

Village Hall – TT/GD	Diocese – to be confirmed
WFC Highways – DL	Upper Eden Healthwatch – GD
Public Transport Group – BK	Sedbergh Community Trust (Grants) – GD

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 in 2025 and it was resolved, therefore, to continue to adopt these along with the delegation arrangements. Members deferred an additional review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations following minor updates.

12. Insurance Arrangements

Members noted that renewal was due September/October and a review will be considered at the next meeting/as required.

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, along with Parish Online (circa £315) and resolved to continue with these subscriptions, upon annual review/renewal. Members discussed the requirement for membership of the ICO, and will confirm with the Clerk.

14. Schedule of future meetings 2026/2027

Members noted dates previously considered, third Wednesday bi-monthly, and resolved the following meetings 15 July, 16 September, 18 November (2026), 20 January, 16 March, and 19 May (2027). These were subject to confirmation of availability of the village hall, and confirmation of Election date May 2027. (Elections anticipated 6 May 2027, meeting must be held within 14 days of Members taking office).

Date of next meeting, will be the bi-monthly meeting: Wednesday 15 July 2026
and will be held in the Village Hall, Garsdale

There were ??? members of the public in attendance at this meeting.
Meeting ended at 7.55pm