

Garsdale Parish Council

20 May 2026

Minutes of the ordinary meeting for the Parish Council of Garsdale held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15 July 2026, in Garsdale Village Hall, Garsdale.

Present: Cllrs Simmonds (Chair), Todd, Colton, Dickinson and Koo. The Clerk attended remotely.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Labbate. There remains one vacancy on the Parish Council.

2. Declaration of Interest

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

3. Minutes of Garsdale Parish Council

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the normal bi-monthly meeting, held 20 May 2026, were agreed as a true record, and will be signed by the Chair, Cllr Simmonds. There were no matters to note from the Parish Annual Meeting.

4. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllrs Hodgson and Mitchell were not present at the meeting.

5. Progress reports/updates

- 5.1** Clerk – The Clerk confirmed that the current Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were up to date, with only minor maintenance amendments required. Members resolved to continue to adopt these documents.
- 5.2** Village Hall – Members confirmed they would like to contribute toward the costs of the emergency phone at the Village Hall, including an annual contribution towards running costs. Further details awaited.
- 5.3** Highways – Members expressed their continued significant concerns for the ongoing road closures on the A684, which were severely impacting residents and commuters. Westmorland and Furness Council had issued further information, and had pledged to keep closure information as up to date as possible through social media channels. They hope this will assist with journey planning. Phase One is now complete, and Phase Two due to commence 27 July 2026. Dates for Phase 3 and 4 are not yet confirmed. Westmorland and Furness have also confirmed that there would be a minimum of one week, with the road fully open, between the closures scheduled over the coming months. Members also noted a closure on the Mallarstang Road, scheduled for 20-22 July 2026 (between the A684 closures).
- 5.4** B4RN VoIP emergency phones – Cllr Simmonds confirms Network Rail have now given consent for an installation. Their contractor and Cllr Simmonds hope to meet on site to discuss further.
- 5.5** Update on Transport Group – Cllr Koo reported on the recent Transport User Group AGM. Noting that their focus remained on improving services between Sedbergh and Kendal, so that a timetable would include access to work/education. It was also recorded that due to the roadworks on the A684, the 832 and the Hawes Hopper had now been suspended – it was hoped they would return next year. Both had proved popular in the time that they operated. Finally, it was noted, that the Western Dales Bus is running a Sunday service between Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale, as a partial replacement for the suspended 832 service.

6. Public Participation/Open Session

Members welcomed one resident, no matters raised.

7. Financial Matters

7.1 Bank statement reconciliation and update of receipts and payments 2026-2027 The Clerk had circulated a financial summary prior to the meeting, with the current bank balance (26 June) £6632.93.

7.2 To consider and approve payments to September 2026 Members resolved to continue to approve Clerk remuneration for July and August.

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PAYE will continue to be collected by direct debit. Payments to Parish Online (website) £378.00 and Cumbria Association of Local Council (annual subs) £160.27 were approved by Members. The Clerk confirmed that the ICO payment had now been concluded (as recommended by CALC) and had been paid at £47 (per annum) on direct debit.

7.3 To consider ongoing insurance requirements the renewal is due on 1 October 2026, and the Clerk will obtain quotations ahead of the September meeting.

7.4 Any update on signing mandate (Cllr Simmonds) Cllr Simmonds has been requested to send additional information to NatWest to allow progress of adding Cllr Dickinson (as previously agreed).

8. Planning Applications

No Planning applications have been received since March 2026.

9. Correspondence, notices, and publications

9.1 Garsdale to Cowgill Bridleway – Members noted an earlier update from a resident advising that Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Rangers had provided information regarding possible improvements to the bridleway.

9.2 Garsdale Station – Members noted correspondence from a resident regarding ongoing concern for lack of safe access at the station and their ongoing communication with Lizzi Collinge MP. Cllr Koo noted that there had been substantial work recently to prevent trespass on the line.

9.3 Westmorland and Furness Council – Members are aware of the upcoming changes to recycling collections, highlighting general concerns raised by residents, and Cllr Colton requested this was an Agenda Item for September.

9.4 Yorkshire Dales National Park – Members noted that, following concerns raised in September 2025 regarding two problematic stiles (Birkrigg and East End Bridge), no progress had been made. The matter has since been followed up by the resident and the Clerk.

10. Councillor matters/exception items

Members expressed additional concern regarding access to livestock during the A684 road closures. The Clerk will seek clarification from Westmorland and Furness Council.

11. Date of next meeting

Members resolved that the next meeting would be the bi-monthly meeting, **commencing at 7.30pm on *Wednesday 16 September 2026**. The meeting will be held at Garsdale Village Hall, Garsdale, Cumbria

*Members noted that, due to the ongoing road closures on the A684 and the potential impact on access, the meeting scheduled for 16 September 2026 may be subject to change.

Chairman.....

Date.....

Please note that these are draft minutes and remain subject to approval and amendment. They will not be signed until the next meeting.