

Garsdale Parish Council

20 May 2026

Minutes of the bi-monthly meeting for the Parish Council of Garsdale held at 7.55pm on Wednesday 20 May 2026, following the Annual Meetings in Garsdale Village Hall, Garsdale.

Present: Councillors Simmonds (Chair), Todd, Colton, Labbate, Dickinson, and Koo. Apologies were received from the Clerk J Hassam. (Cllr Colton/Dickinson stood in for the Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

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

2. Declaration of Interest

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

3. Report/Update from Westmorland and Furness Council

Cllrs Hodgson and Mitchell were not present at the meeting.

4. Progress reports/updates

- 4.1 Clerk – All relevant items are included in the agenda.
- 4.2 Village Hall – Members confirmed they would pay for the cable and PIR light to install the emergency phone at the Village Hall. Cllr Simmonds will liaise.
- 4.3 Highways – See also Annual Meetings. Members again expressed their major concerns for the forthcoming road closures on the A684 which would severely impact residents and commuters. Members believed that more could be done to allow access, also noting that Back Lane was not a suitable diversion route for high volumes of cars, and certainly not for HGV's/coaches. Also noted that the Coal Road was showing signs of subsidence at the first rise beyond the Station. Two large potholes near Thwaite Head, manhole covers near Slack Cottage needed resettling. Members finally noted the lifting of the 7.5ton weight limit at Appersett Bridge – which had previously been in place for years.
- 4.4 B4RN VoIP emergency phones – Cllr Simmonds confirms Network Rail have now given consent for an installation and is now seeking a contractor to carry out the works.
- 4.5 Update on Transport Group – Cllr Koo reported on the new Sunday bus service (832), and noted that it was proving successful in connecting through Hawes, Garsdale, Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale (price capped at £3.00 each way). The new Little White Bus service had also commenced (Tuesdays) Sedbergh to Hawes, via Garsdale – this was a tourist led service and the return fare is £10.00

5. Public Participation/Open Session

The applicant for a Planning Application withing Sedbergh Parish attended to give Members a brief overview on an ongoing application. This included the introduction of a walkway close to The Moss (corner) which had received a lot of local support. Members agreed, unanimously, to send a letter of support for this scheme which would greatly improve a dangerous walkway for pedestrians in the area, and was at no cost to the authority.

6. Financial Matters

6.1 Bank statement reconciliation and update of receipts and payments 2026-2027, the Clerk had circulated a financial summary prior to the meeting.

6.2 To consider and approve payments to July 2026 Members resolved to continue to approve Clerk remuneration for May and June and PAYE will continue to be collected by direct. No other payments were currently known; however, the Clerk will liaise with Members via email and report at the next meeting in respect of ICO and any urgent matter occurs. CALC annual subscription is due July 2026.

6.3 Any update on banking arrangements Cllr Simmonds has been requested to send additional information to NatWest to allow progress of adding Cllr Dickinson (previously agreed).

7. Planning Applications

No Planning applications were noted.

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8. Correspondence, notices, and publications

Garsdale Station – disabled access. Cllr Koo had been speaking to local resident who relies on train as his only means of transport. He had been in contact with Lizzie Collinge MP, but unsuccessful in achieving a suitable response. Cllr Koo wrote and received a vague/generic reply. The resident has now asked why suitable pedestrian crossing cannot be installed, as regularly used in Australia, which is ideal for Garsdale and very safe. No reply yet.

Cllr Koo has also reported, to Highways, the loss of cat's eyes and white line markings near The Barn on the Hill, A684. If necessary, Cllr Koo will contact WF Cllr Ian Mitchell again to seek his involvement.

9. Councillor matters/exception items

There were no additional matters noted.

10. Date of next meeting

Members resolved that the next meeting would be the bi-monthly meeting, **commencing 7.30pm on Wednesday 15 July 2026**. The meeting 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.