Garsdale Parish Council
9 September 2026

Minutes of the ordinary meeting for the Parish Council of Garsdale held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9 September 2026, in Garsdale Village Hall, Garsdale.

Present: Cllrs Simmonds (Chair), Todd, Colton, Dickinson, Labbate, Koo and the Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence
All members were in attendance. There remains one vacancy on the Parish Council.

2. Declaration of Interest
Cllr Labatte declared an interest in Item 9 (Planning). There were no other declarations made, or new requests for dispensations.

3. Minutes of Garsdale Parish Council
The minutes of the ordinary bi-monthly meeting held 15 July 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair, Cllr Simmonds.

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 Cumbria Association of Local Councils will be holding its Annual General Meeting on 10 October 2026. The Cumbria Neighbourhood Police online event was scheduled for 14 September, and the Clerk will share with Members.

5.2 Village Hall – Members discussed the request for funds. During discussion, further queries were raised regarding insurance liability. The Clerk will seek clarification with the Council's insurers and report at the next meeting.

5.3 Highways – Members noted that Phase 3 of the improvement works on the A684 are due to commence on 14 September 2026. It was noted that Back Lane would be closed at the Garsdale entrance/exit, with only resident access to Back Lane. Various other Highways matters were raised, including responsibility for verges and other culverts previously highlighted. The Clerk was asked to liaise further with Westmorland and Furness Council

5.4 B4RN VoIP emergency phones – Cllr Simmonds had met with the contractor approved by Northern Rail. A quotation had been received and circulated for the potential installation of one phone at Garsdale Station. However, the quote was considerably higher than anticipated and outside of the financial capacity of the Parish Council. The Clerk was therefore asked to refer the installation of an emergency phone back to Norther Rail and Lizzi Collinge MP.

5.5 Update on Transport Group – Cllr Koo reported that the bus route via The Fat Lamb was being well utilised.

6. Public Participation/Open Session
Members welcomed two residents to the meeting. It was noted that a new Men in Sheds group had been established in Hawes. The Clerk was asked to add this information to the Council website.

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. The current bank balance, as at 28 August 2026, being £5516.80
7.2 To consider and approve payments to November 2026 Members resolved to continue to approve Clerk remuneration for September and October, noting the national incremental increase, backdated to April 2026. PAYE will continue to be collected by direct debit. Members noted that the Village Hall room rental invoice was anticipated for the November meeting.
7.3 To consider ongoing insurance requirements the renewal is due on 1 October 2026, Members resolved to approve the renewal received, and payment of £168.00 was authorised.
7.4 Any update on signing mandate (Cllr Simmonds) Cllr Simmonds continues to liaise with NatWest to complete necessary information to allow progress of adding Cllr Dickinson (as previously agreed).

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8. Planning Applications
i) S/02/129 Birkrigg, Garsdale, Sedbergh. Householder planning permission for works to dwelling to include removal of the 20th century porch, erection of new porch, insertion of rooflight, and conversion of part of the adjoining barn (already in domestic use) to provide additional living accommodation.
Members resolved to ratify the submission of no objections for this application.

9. Correspondence, notices, and publications
9.1 Yorkshire Dales National Park – the Clerk confirmed the date for the next Parish Forum meeting.
9.2 Dandra Garth Forest onto Rise Hill – Members noted correspondence from a resident regarding the work recently carried out to the bridleway, expressing thanks to Yorkshire Dales National Park. Another resident noted their concern for the work, particularly in respect of the large scar dug into the landscape and the lack of gate, allowing easy access for motorcycles.
9.3 Yorkshire Dales National Park – Members noted that, following concerns raised in September 2025 (and noted at the July meeting) regarding two problematic stiles (Birkrigg and East End Bridge) the Ranger hopes to attend soon and repair/replace.
9.4 Westmorland and Furness Council – Members noted the ad hoc collection of bins/recycling. Also highlighting their concern for the proposed new recycling bins/storage etc. They asked the Clerk to liaise with Westmorland and Furness Council to obtain an update, particularly in respect of recycling being tipped into the same vehicle.

10. Councillor matters/exception items
Members expressed concern about waste collections on Back Lane during the road closure. The Clerk was asked to seek clarification from Westmorland and Furness Council. Finally, the Clerk circulated a letter from Tilhill in respect of an application for permitted development at Dandra Garth. The Clerk was asked to seek clarification over planning permissions, hoping that Yorkshire Dales National Park would insist on a Full Planning application, therefore allowing greater transparency.

11. Date of next meeting
Members resolved that the next meeting would be the bi-monthly meeting, **commencing at 7.30pm on *Wednesday 18 November 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 18 November 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.

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