

Garsdale Parish Council

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Minutes of Garsdale Annual Parish meeting held, Garsdale Village Hall, Garsdale at 7.00pm, Wednesday 20 May 2026

In attendance – Cllrs Simmonds (Chair), Dickinson, Koo, Colton, Todd, and Labbate.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the Parish Clerk.

2. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair welcomed all those present to this open Annual Parish meeting, including representation for a Planning Application within Sedbergh Parish (deferred to monthly meeting).

3. To approve the minutes of the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes were adopted as a true record and signed by the Chair

4. To receive the Annual Report and i) Accounts of the Parish Council 2025/26

The Chair gave a summary of the past year and confirmed that a variety of complaints had resulted in an increase of the precept this year to cover the additional costs of defending them. The issues were now concluded. The Chair confirmed that progress was being made after a long delay on two projects, namely the installation of community phones at Garsdale Head Station and at the Village Hall. The Chair noted that the Council had lost long standing councillor Bill Mawdsley and also Karen Ellwood, due to retirement, but had been successful in co-opting Brenda Koo. There were no immediate plans to co-opt anyone else at the present time (one vacancy).

i) **Accounts of the Parish Council 2025/2026** The annual accounts were then presented, which the Chair summarised and also noted that the same documents were available on the website. It was confirmed that the projected outcome suggested there would be no overspend. There being no queries, the accounts were considered received.

5. To receive any reports from Ward Councillors, Westmorland and Furness Council, and any other representation from organisations in the Parish

None present

6. Forum – to deal with specific matters from any elector (48hrs notice), or general opportunity to discuss or ask questions on matters of interest – for general reference

Council confirmed that there were no elections due this year, due to re-structuring of local councils, elections had been delayed to 2027.

Recent publication of road closures effecting the A684 from Hawes to Sedbergh over the next 6 months was a matter of concern expressed at the meeting. The rolling programme of complete road closures was anticipated to adversely affect farmers, school bus service, school pupils, new bus service (Sundays), commuters and tourists. Diversions of up to 50 miles would be necessary for some farmers needing to visit livestock daily. It was appreciated that the proposed works were needed but many felt that some works could be night works, traffic light controlled or metal plates laid to ensure some traffic movement could proceed. It was also considered that, based on past experience, some works could be delayed due to weather etc and better notices should be promptly displayed if the diversions were not necessary for those periods.

- Agreed to send letter of protest to Highways Dept via Parish Clerk expressing concerns raised.

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- It was recommended that concerns were individually reported via the Highways portal of the Council.

7. Close

The meeting closed at 7.40pm