

HEVERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **Thursday 26 February 2026** at 7.30pm in The Athenaeum, Leasgill

Present – Cllrs. Peter Clarke (Chair), Adrian Tayler, Mary Capstick and Natalie Fletcher; the Clerk and no members of the public

1/26 Apologies were received from Cllrs. Tom Grindey and Elizabeth Moffat (reasons accepted and noted) and from Westmorland & Furness (W&F) Cllr. Janet Battye

2/26 Minutes: It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2025 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair

3/26 Declarations of Interest: None

4/26 Requests for Dispensation: None

5/26 Public Participation: None

6/26 Ongoing Items

- Crow Wood: No reply had yet been received regarding clarification of the ownership of the area used for parking
- Field of Dreams: A reply to the Council's claim was still awaited
- Village 20 mph application update: The application had been approved on 30 January 2026 and was awaiting implementation,
- Community resilience (emergency planning) policy: There was nothing to report since the last meeting

7/26 Reports

- a. Westmorland & Furness Cllr. Battye was not present but submitted a report after the meeting regarding electric car charging points and the Local Plan – call for sites
- b. The Athenaeum: There was no report but the Clerk read out items from their committee meeting on 21 January regarding a cheese and wine evening on either 21 or 28 March and an update on the ladies' toilets
- c. Cumbria Police: Reports were received including the Neighbourhood Policing Team update for January 2026 (emailed to Cllrs. 20/2/26)

8/26 Planning

- i) It was noted that the following planning applications had been **submitted** to W&FC and circulated to members of the Council since the last meeting:
 - 2025/2462/FPA Joinery Workshop, Deepthwaite, Woodhouse**
Alteration and extension of an existing joinery workshop (Use Class B2 – General Industry) for use as a builder's workshop and store (Use Class B2 – General Industry)
 - 2026/0299/HOU High House, Woodhouse**
Erection of an outbuilding for domestic use for pets. Hobby use and storage of food, garden implements and logs

The Council had **no comments** on these applications
- ii) It was noted that the following planning application had been **approved** by W&FC since the last meeting:
 - 2025/2211/FPA 1, Eversley Gardens, Leasgill**
Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 2024/0466/FPA (alterations to existing dwelling house, including extension to existing balcony, attic conversion of part existing roof space including raising existing roof level to part of dwelling)
- iii) Neighbourhood Plan group: The Chair had contacted Bluestone Planning who had made some comments on the possible extension of the existing Plan. It was considered that there was no authorisation for a large review but that there was a preference to review the Plan to keep it alive. The group were to discuss this and decide whether to take Bluestone up on their offer of an online meeting
- iv) Heversham House planning application: The Clerk read out an update dated yesterday from the Planning Officer stating that he had received reworked plans and artist's impressions and that he was to discuss these with the Conservation Officer

9/26 Highways / Footpaths / Trees and Woods

Highways:

- a) Several potholes had been reported
- b) W&F Cllr. Battye hadn't yet progressed the request for the switching off of the Primary School warning lights

Footpaths/Tracks

- i) The Chair had put in a step to solve the muddy area next to the dog poo bin at the foot of School Lane
- ii) Cllr. Tayler had reported a fallen tree and finger post and was told that these were in hand
- iii) The Chair had attempted to solve the squeeze stile by the Old School problem but as yet to no avail. He is to explore the cost of a gate

Trees and Woods:

- i) The Chair reported that the new free trees from the Woodland Trust would be arriving soon and that he understood that Cllr. Bland and Iain Richards were to arrange their care for the next twelve months and the replanting of the trees from last year at Tristrams
- ii) The Chair stated that a report had not yet been received from Iain Richards' as to the work which had been done on felling the Mabbin Hall Lane and Quarry Wood trees

10/26 Playground Report

- i) Cllr. Capstick had inspected the playground since the last meeting and reported no immediate problems
- ii) Cllr. Capstick would monitor the equipment and carry out the inspections until the next meeting
- iii) Cllr. Bland had not yet discussed the frequency of the grass cutting with the contractor

11/26 Village Tidy: It was agreed to not have a specific litter pick but to ask parishioners to be aware of litter and to pick it up and put it in their bin and to highlight this at the Annual Parish Meeting

12/26 Annual Parish Meeting: It was agreed to hold the meeting on Wednesday 27 May 2026

13/26 Street Lighting Electricity:

The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting a response from W&FC Complaints. It was agreed that he should write again stressing the urgency of the situation

14/26 Finance

- a) It was noted that there had been no receipts since the last meeting
- b) The following payments made by direct debit since the last meeting were approved:
 - Npower – street lighting electricity November 2025 - £152.22
 - Npower – street lighting December 2025 - £163.78
 - Npower – street lighting January 2026 - £160.54
 - D&C Atkinson – mowing December 2025 - £140.00
 - D&C Atkinson – mowing January 2026 - £140.00
- c) The following payments made between meetings were approved:
 - M R Richardson – salary and expenses to 31/1/26 - £1,718.70 – cheque 791
 - Middle Peak Engineering Ltd – Norma Morris plaque - £203.40 – cheque 794
- d) The following payments were approved:
 - HMRC – PAYE/NIC re M R Richardson – £480.36—cheque 795
 - J & H Bland & Son Ltd – wall repairs - £200.00 – cheque 796
 - P Clarke – footpath repairs - £10.62- cheque 797
 - A2A Advertising Ltd – web hosting - £90.00 – cheque 798
- e) The 2026/27 Financial Risk Assessment was received and approved,
- f) The Clerk reported regarding progress on Assertion 10. The gov.uk addresses had been sent to councillors and, once they had been set up, everything would be complete
- g) **Resolved** that it be noted that the closing bank balance at 31 January 2026 was £18,846.17, which had been reconciled with the bank account, and that the bank statement be signed by the Chair

15/26 Correspondence

The following correspondence received and not included as an item on this agenda was noted:

- i) W&FC – Publication of the Call for Sites 2024 Assessment Outcome Report (emailed to Cllrs.22/12/25)
- ii) CALC – Nature recovery for Town and Parish Councils – strategy workbook (emailed to Cllrs.20/2/26)
- iii) W&FC – Have your say: make W&F more child friendly (emailed to Cllrs.20/2/26)
- iv) W&FC’s Adult Social Care work praised in first Care Quality Commission assessment (emailed to Cllrs.20/2/26)
- v) W&FC – Significant Government cuts mean council has no choice but to increase Council Tax alongside raising other charges (emailed to Cllrs.20/2/26)
- vi) CALC – Cumbria Combined Authority – briefing on 25 February 2026 (emailed to Cllrs.20/2/26)
- vii) Lightscape Project – Cumbria White-Tailed Eagle Project – stakeholder questionnaire (emailed to Cllrs.20/2/26)
- viii) W&FC – Resilience and local government leader John Barradell proposed as Interim Chief Executive of Cumbria Combined Authority (emailed to Cllrs.20/2/26)

16/26 Westmorland Gazette – Matters from this meeting to be reported for the Westmorland Gazette:

- None

17/26 Items for Information – *no decisions or action permitted*

- None

18/26 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- a. Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Tree Scheme Plaque – If re-planting is successful – March 2027

19/26 Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 26 March 2026 and will commence at 7.30pm in The Athenaeum, Leasgill

The meeting closed at 9.06 pm

