

HEVERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **Wednesday 26 November 2025** at 7.30pm in The Athenaeum, Leasgill

Present – Cllrs. Peter Clarke (Chair), Adrian Bland, Tom Grindey, Adrian Tayler, Mary Capstick and Elizabeth Moffat; the Clerk and one member of the public

136/25 Apologies were received from Cllr. Natalie Fletcher (reason accepted and noted) and Westmorland & Furness (W&F) Cllr. Janet Battye

137/25 Minutes: It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2025 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair

138/25 Declarations of Interest: None

139/25 Requests for Dispensation: None

140/25 Public Participation: The member of the public stated that he thought that the pothole at the bottom of Woodhouse Lane had not been repaired correctly. The Chair said that it had been reported to W&F Council (W&FC), who had apparently assessed it and had informed him that no additional work was required at this time as it did not meet their threshold for action. The Council would monitor its deterioration and would highlight the underlying issues when the need for additional work becomes evident

141/25 Ongoing Items

- Crow Wood: No reply had yet been received regarding clarification of the ownership of the area used for parking
- Yellow line parking restrictions: No evidence had been produced regarding parking between the playground and Plumtree and it was agreed to review this if evidence was produced in the future
- Field of Dreams: A reply to the Council's claim was still awaited
- Village 20 mph application update: The statutory consultation had opened on 20 November
- Community resilience (emergency planning) policy: It was reported that discussions were ongoing with Dallam School (who had their own emergency plan) and The Athenaeum regarding the use of a building and that draft risk documentation had been prepared. The use of a generator or alternative was under consideration and it was again agreed that the matter should be an item for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting

142/25 Reports

- a. Westmorland & Furness Cllr. Battye wasn't present and there was no report
- b. The Athenaeum: Cllr. Grindey reported that the bake off had made £150 and that there was the possibility of a quiz in March with other events being considered
- c. Cumbria Police: Reports were received including the Neighbourhood Policing Team update for October 2025 (emailed to Cllrs. 12/11/25) and the slides from the Neighbourhood Policing Pledge meeting on 20 October 2025, which importantly stressed the recommendation for the installation and registration of door-bell cameras

143/25 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:
 - 2025/2934/FPA High Field, Ackenthwaite**
Construction of steel framed machinery building
 - 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)
The Council had **no comments** on these applications
- ii) It was noted that the following planning applications had been **approved** by W&FC since the last meeting:
 - 2025/1933/TPO Olde Blue Bell, Heversham**
SLDC Tree Preservation Order No 139 (1998) – Tree T1 (Oak) – Large mature Oak tree with significant canopy spread, overtopping adjacent properties. The inner crown is very sparse, crown reduction by up to 3 metres throughout the canopy
 - 2025/1936/TPO Hillside, Woodhouse Lane, Heversham**
G1 – group of beech - Common, copper and cut-leaf. Mature canopy in very good health but now beginning to obstruct the highway and cast excessive shade over neighbouring properties. Prune back by maximum, of 2m to regain spherical shape of combined canopy and crown raise over lane to give minimum clearance of 5.5m for agricultural traffic
 - 2025/1631/FPA Land at Swallowmire, Milnthorpe**
Extension of the previously approved manege (25m x 40m) to provide an enlarged exercise area 30m x 50m
- iii) Neighbourhood Plan group: There was no report
- iv) Heversham House planning application: It was noted that the committee hearing had been adjourned and that the applicants had been asked to submit an agreed list of alterations with the required level of drawings and a heritage statement. It was hoped that the committee would then discuss the application at the January meeting

144/25 Highways / Footpaths / Trees and Woods

Highways:

- a) No potholes had been reported

- b) The request for the switching off of the Primary School warning lights was deferred to the next meeting in the absence of W&F Cllr. Battye

Footpaths/Tracks

- i) Cllr. Tayler reported that a stone stile had been improved
ii) The Chair had a stone to put in the bottom of the V in the squeeze stile by the Old Grammar School

Trees and Woods:

- i) Iain Richards was present at the meeting and was authorised to proceed with one day's work on the land on the corner of Mabbin Hall Lane with Andrew Hancock and his team at a cost of £1,000
ii) The Chair reported that the Woodland Trust had awarded 100 trees for delivery in March for Quarry Wood
iii) Iain Richards was also authorised to go ahead with the purchase of suitable stakes and guards for the re-planting of the Jubilee Copse at Tristrams The purchase of a plaque was deferred for twelve months until it could be seen whether the re-planting had been a success

145/25 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 reported that he had not yet discussed the frequency of the grass cutting with the contractor

146/25 Community Governance Review

It was **agreed** that the Council wished to keep the status quo

147/25 Christmas 2025

The arrangements were confirmed

148/25 Street Lighting Electricity:

The Clerk reported that he was awaiting a response from W&FC Complaints

149/25 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:
Information Commissioner's Office – data protection fee - £47.00
Npower – street lighting electricity September 2025 - £129.05
D&C Atkinson – mowing October 2025 - £140.00
c) The following payment was approved:
A2A Advertising Ltd – website design - £270.00 – cheque 784
d) Applications had been received for a maintenance contribution from The Athenaeum and for a churchyard maintenance contribution from St Peter's Church and it was **agreed** to pay £100 and £600 respectively
e) It was **agreed** to purchase a bench plaque in memory of Norma Morris
f) The appointment of Jean Airey as internal auditor for 2025/26 was confirmed
g) The receipts and payments account for the half-year to 30 September 2025 was received and noted
h) The half-year budget comparison 2025/26 was received and noted
i) The Clerk reported that the work re Assertion 10 was almost complete including the IT policy which would be ready for approval at the next meeting. The new gov.uk website was up and running
j) The Chair and Vice-Chair reported that they had carried out the Clerk's annual appraisal. They considered that his work continued to be discharged with skill and knowledge. The Clerk had stated that he was very happy in his role. The Council expressed their warm acknowledgment and it was agreed that the Clerk should detail any overtime for approval and payment
k) **Resolved** that it be noted that the closing bank balance at 31 October 2025 was £21,154.88, which had been reconciled with the bank account, and that the bank statement be signed by the Chair

150/25 Correspondence

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

- i) National Highways – M6 Jct 36 upcoming drainage works (emailed to Cllrs.28/10/25 & 11/11/25)
ii) W&FC – Child Friendly W&F initiative launch (emailed to Cllrs.29/10/25)
iii) W&FC – New housing measures introduced to protect poultry and captive birds in W&F (emailed to Cllrs.29/10/25)
iv) W&FC – Have your say on Kendal riverside Active Travel route (emailed to Cllrs.30/10/25)
v) W&FC – Draft Design Code for new developments for comment (emailed to Cllrs.12/11/25)
vi) W&FC – Supporting care leavers to thrive in W&F (emailed to Cllrs.12/11/25)
vii) W&FC – Cumbria's Local Nature Recovery Strategy published (emailed to Cllrs.12/11/25)
viii) CALC – W&F branch event on 26/11/25 – Winter Readiness (emailed to Cllrs.12/11/25)
ix) CALC – Cumbria Local Nature Partnership news (emailed to Cllrs.12/11/25)
x) CALC – Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy launch & celebratory event on 5 Dec (emailed to Cllrs.12/11/25)
xi) W&FC – Week of action to highlight importance of safeguarding adults (emailed to Cllrs.12/11/25)
xii) W&FC – Council warns against battery disposal n bins (emailed to Cllrs.14/11/25)
xiii) W&FC – Landslip road repair presents "difficult challenge" (emailed to Cllrs.14/11/25)
xiv) CALC News September & October 2025 (emailed to Cllrs.18/11/25)
xv) CALC – Useful Charity Commission resources (emailed to Cllrs.18/11/25)
xvi) CALC - W&F branch event on 10/12/25 – prevent radicalisation and grooming (emailed to Cllrs.20/11/25)

151/25 Westmorland Gazette – Matters from this meeting to be reported for the Westmorland Gazette:

- None

152/25 Items for Information – no decisions or action permitted

- Cllr. Grindey reported that the village poppy appeal had for the first time achieved £500

153/25 Items for consideration for a future agenda

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

154/25 Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 17 December 2025 and will commence at 7.30pm in The Athenaeum, Leasgill

The meeting closed at 9.02pm