

HEVERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **Wednesday 24 September 2025** at 7.30pm in The Athenaeum, Leasgill

Present – Cllrs. Adrian Bland (Vice-Chair who acted as Chair), Tom Grindey, Adrian Tayler, Mary Capstick and Natalie Fletcher; Westmorland & Furness (W&F) Cllr. Janet Battye, the Clerk and no members of the public

98/25 Apologies were received from Cllrs. Peter Clarke (Chair) and Elizabeth Moffat (reasons accepted and noted). The Council also noted the sad death of Norma Morris and were to send condolence cards to her family

99/25 Minutes: It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2025 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair

100/25 Declarations of Interest: None

101/25 Requests for Dispensation: None

102/25 Public Participation: None

103/25 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: The Council continued to pursue the requested extension to Plumtree which was under review. Some incorrect parking had been noted recently but had not been reported to the Police. The need to report and to take photos was emphasised
- Field of Dreams: A reply to the Council's claim was still awaited
- Village 20 mph application update: The result of the consultation was that there was clear support for the scheme and the proposal would be discussed at the W&F Locality Board meeting on 16 October 2025
- Community resilience (emergency planning) policy: It was noted that the meeting with CALC's resilience officer was to take place on 16 October 2025
- Proposed autumn newsletter: It was agreed to leave this until the Spring

104/25 Reports

- a. Westmorland & Furness Cllr. Battye reported regarding progress on the harmonisation of waste and recycling collections with a possible charge for second or more green bins and on preparations for the devolution decision
- b. The Athenaeum: Cllr. Grindey reported that there was to be a Cake Bake on 26 October 2025. The Receipts and Payments Accounts, Trustees' Annual Report and the Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 July 2025 were received. **Resolved** that the Accounts and the Annual Report be approved by the Council and signed by two Trustees. The Council's thanks were expressed to the Treasurer and the Independent Examiner
- c. Cumbria Police: Reports had been received including the Neighbourhood Policing Team update for August 2025; (emailed to Cllrs. 19/9/25)

105/25 Planning

- i) It was noted that the following planning application had been **submitted** to W&FC and circulated to members of the Council since the last meeting:
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
The Council had **no comments** on this application
- ii) It was noted that the following planning application had been **approved** by W&FC since the last meeting:
2025/1233/NMA Valley View, Leasgill
Non-material amendment to planning permission 2024/0064/FPA to revise the positions of windows and doors, Install wooden strip fencing within the existing hedgerow and introduce a new pedestrian access gate :
- iii) Neighbourhood Plan group: There was no report

106/25 Highways / Footpaths / Trees and Woods

Highways:

- a) No potholes had been reported

Footpaths/Tracks:

- i) Possible options for easing passage on the squeeze stile by the Old Grammar School were being pursued

Trees and Woods:

- i) There was no report

107/25 Playground Report

- i) Cllr. Capstick had inspected the playground since the last meeting and reported no immediate problems although the bridge had been vandalised
- ii) Cllr. Capstick would monitor the equipment and carry out the inspections until the next meeting
- iii) Cllr. Bland said that he would speak to the contractor regarding the cutting of the grass
- iv) Cllr. Bland reported that the play tractor had been installed and that the fencing was due to be done shortly

108/25 Leasgill Quarry Trust

There were no requests for new funding 2025/26

109/25 Street Lighting Electricity:

It was agreed that this matter should be closed to the public and to W&F Cllr. Battye due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. It was adjourned to be the last item on the agenda and W&F Cllr. Battye left before the discussion took place. The Clerk reported that he had received a reply on 15 August 2025 offering to pay for the pole purchased in 2024/25 but stating that there was no provision to refund our 2024/25 lighting costs. After discussion, it was unanimously **agreed** that the Clerk should write to the Monitoring Officer firstly regarding the long delays in replying to correspondence and secondly regarding the ignoring of comments made by ourselves in relation to transparency, the cost of the waiving of recharges and the unfairness of the decisions taken

An email had been received from the owners of Valley View concerning the nearby street light and it was agreed that the Council didn't accept the validity of the comments made but that this matter would be for W&FC to resolve

110/25 Finance

- a) It was noted that there had been the following receipt since the last meeting:
 - J Thacker & Sons – field of dreams rent - £380.00
 - Leasgill Quarry Trust – play tractor grant - £1,300.00
- b) The following payments made by direct debit since the last meeting were approved:
 - Npower – street lighting electricity June 2025 - £104.99
 - Npower – street lighting electricity July 2025 - £111.22
 - D&C Atkinson – mowing July 2025 - £140.00
 - D&C Atkinson – mowing August 2025 - £140.00
- c) The following payment was approved:
 - Booths Groundworks – installation of play tractor - £610.00 - cheque 775
- d) It was noted that the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26 had been finalised giving an increase of 56p per hour to the Clerk from 1 April 2025
- e) **Resolved** that it be noted that the closing bank balance at 31 August 2025 was £25,692.17, which had been reconciled with the bank account, and that the bank statement be signed by the Chair

111/25 Correspondence

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

- i) W&FC – Support available to help young people travel for education, learning and training (emailed to Cllrs.28/7/25)
- ii) W&FC welcomes the voices of Cumbrian citizens in tackling climate change (emailed to Cllrs.29/7/25)
- iii) W&FC – Supported bus services open up car free travel this summer (emailed to Cllrs.29/7/25)
- iv) KEY – 10 Year celebrations on 29/10/25 (emailed to Cllrs.19/9/25)
- v) CALC – Slides from the Citizens Advice presentations on 24/7/25 (emailed to Cllrs.19/9/25)
- vi) W&FC – Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy summer newsletter (emailed to Cllrs.19/9/25)
- vii) CALC – Nuclear Waste Services begins wintering birds surveys (emailed to Cllrs.19/9/25)
- viii) CALC – ACT update September 2025 (emailed to Cllrs.19/9/25)
- ix) W&FC agrees new harmonised waste and recycling collections (emailed to Cllrs.19/9/25)
- x) W&FC – Temporary road closure – Woodhouse Lane 24/9/25 (emailed to Cllrs.19/9/25)
- xi) W&FC agrees sale of former care home to provide more affordable homes (emailed to Cllrs.19/9/25)
- xii) CALC – Agenda for CALC Annual General Meeting on 4/10/25 (emailed to Cllrs.19/9/25)
- xiii) W&FC – Regional unity to drive north west's clean power ambitions (emailed to Cllrs.19/9/25)
- xiv) CALC – Recording of presentation by Cumbria's Lord Lieutenant is on CALC website (emailed to Cllrs.19/9/25)

112/25 Westmorland Gazette – Matters from this meeting to be reported for the Westmorland Gazette:

- None

113/25 Items for Information – no decisions or action permitted

- It was reported that the primary school warning lights were still flashing and that the reason given to Cllr. Battye was that Dallam School had said that there was still a possibility of the school being used for education
- The Clerk reported that there were new requirements (Assertion 10) in the Practitioners' Guide for Town and Parish Councils, focussing on digital and data protection responsibilities, which take effect from 1 April 2025. They included the need for all councillors to have gov.uk addresses and the Clerk was working with A2A Advertising Ltd to put the requirements in place. A2A's charges had been quoted at £225 plus VAT
- The Clerk reported that HSBC Bank had stopped charging a monthly fee of £5 but still made transaction charges
- An email had been received stating that there was an incorrect date on the parish noticeboards

114/25 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- a. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree Scheme Plaque – When new trees are ready in 2026
- b. Primary School warning lights
- c. Assertion 10 above
- d. The incorrect date on the parish noticeboards
- e. Cllr. Clarke had asked the Council to consider whether a spring open evening with wine and cheese would be beneficial particularly to new residents and it was agreed that this should be part of the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting

115/25 Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 22 October 2025 and will commence at 7.30pm in The Athenaeum, Leasgill

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

