

## HEVERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Present** – Cllrs. Peter Clarke (Chair), Adrian Bland (from 7.55pm), Tom Grindey, Mary Capstick and Natalie Fletcher (from 7.45pm); Westmorland & Furness (W&F) Cllr. Janet Battye; Lyn Richardson (W&FC); the Clerk and no members of the public

**1/25 Apologies** were received from Cllrs. Adrian Tayler and Elizabeth Moffat (reasons accepted and noted)

**2/25 Minutes:** It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2024 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair

**3/25 Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Grindey declared an interest with regard to item 15/25e - Martin Tyson

**4/25 Requests for Dispensation:** None

**5/25 Public Participation:** None

**6/25 Playground Finance:** The Council discussed possible playground improvements with Lyn Richardson and she informed the Council that W&FC had a grant finder facility and that the Locality Board were a possible funder. It was agreed to use the imminent newsletter and the Annual Parish Meeting to ascertain the wishes of parishioners

### 7/25 Ongoing Items

- Extension of 50mph limit to Levens: The proposal had been approved and the signs were in place
- Crow Wood: No reply had yet been received regarding clarification of the ownership of the area used for parking
- Yellow line parking restrictions: The proposal had been approved but we were awaiting confirmation of the details
- Field of Dreams: A reply to the Council's claim was still awaited
- Village 20 mph application update: The scheme had been selected as one to be progressed in 2025/26 and an initial engagement Teams meeting had been arranged for 28 March 2025 at 1.00pm, It was agreed that Cllrs. Clarke and Capstick would attend as the Council's representatives
- Newsletter update: It was agreed to leave this until more was known about the 20 mph application
- Gabions policy: It was agreed to not have a policy but to consider action if gabions were included in future applications
- Community resilience (emergency planning) policy: Workshops were to be held on 6 and 12 March 2025 and it was agreed to consider the need for a policy at the next meeting

### 8/25 Reports

- a. Westmorland & Furness Cllr. Battye reported on the electoral review, which would result in the parish council elections being held in 2027 instead of 2028 with the aim of reducing election costs; the devolution priority programme; re-arranging waste collection and the proposed new Local Plan. Cllr. Bland asked who held W&FC to account for uncollected road signs, which were similar to fly-tipping. Cllr. Grindey raised the problems caused by the 555 bus service not serving the village for 10 days and the 755 service not always being diverted as he was informed that no-one had told the drivers. Cllr. Battye said that she would inform the W&FC bus officer and the Clerk was asked to write to Stagecoach
- b. The Athenaeum: The Clerk reported that the half-year's Accounts to 31 January 2025 had been received and emailed to Cllrs on 7/2/25. Cllr. Grindey reported that there was to be a quiz night to raise funds
- c. Cumbria Police: Reports had been received from Cumbria Police including the 2024 Roundup; the Neighbourhood Policing Team updates for December 2024 and January 2025; a letter about their Neighbourhood Policy Pledge (including a request for council representatives); and a report regarding Operation Enhance (anti-social behaviour) (emailed to Cllrs. 21/1/25, 21/1/25, 17/2/25, 17/2/25 and 21/2/25 respectively). Cllr. Tayler's email regarding the lack of interest in a hawker was noted and the Clerk was asked to contact Hayley Newman
- d. Anti-social behaviour in the Boarding School car park was noted

### 9/25 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:

#### **SL/2023/0255 Heversham House, Heversham (Re-consultation)**

Revised elevations, stonework details and window openings attached to planning permission SL/2020/0917 (change of use from residential care home (use class 2) to single dwelling (use class 3), alterations to the vehicular access, extensions and alterations, erection of detached garage, erection of retaining walls and removal of trees to the western boundary)

The Council had **commented** inter alia that whilst we welcome the owner's evident investment in making the property fit for purpose, we do not feel able to comment on the finer points of architectural detail that are in dispute and that we would be hugely concerned should the disagreements result in a prolonged period of inactivity with the house left as a building site

#### **2025/0182/HOU Sundown, Heversham**

Detached single storey garage

#### **2025/0023/FPA Blue Ridge, Woodhouse Lane, Heversham**

Replacement double glazed uPVC timber effect window in north east and north west elevations. New glazed uPVC wood effect door and double glazed uPVC timber effect window to replace garage door. Replacement insulated up and over garage door

The Council had **no comments** to make on the above two applications

- ii) It was noted that no planning applications had been **approved** by W&FC since the last meeting:
- iii) Neighbourhood Plan group: There was nothing to report other than monitoring of the new Local Plan proposals

### 10/25 Highways / Footpaths / Trees and Woods

#### Highways:

- a) Cllr. Tayler had reported potholes at the junction with Woodhouse Lane by the church and he was awaiting action on those recorded near Sands Cottage and at the junction with the A6 south
- b) It was reported that the request for a grit bin at the top of Dugg Hill had been successful

#### Footpaths/Tracks:

- i) There was nothing to report

#### Trees and Woods:

- i) There was nothing to report

### 11/25 Playground Report

- i) Cllr. Capstick had inspected the playground since the last meeting and had reported no immediate problems. Cllr. Bland had found some climbing net fittings and had arranged for them to be fitted
- ii) Cllr. Capstick would monitor the equipment and carry out the inspections until the next meeting
- iii) Cllr. Bland reported that the repair and replacement of the fencing would be started in March
- iv) Following the discussion with Lyn Richardson above, it was agreed to proceed with the purchase of a play tractor for toddlers and the Clerk was authorised to negotiate terms with or without delivery and installation

**12/25 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. The Chair said that he would include this in an update of current items to go in the Parish News

**13/25 Annual Parish Meeting:** It was agreed to hold the meeting on 24 April 2025. The agenda was agreed

**14/25 Street Lighting Electricity:** The Clerk reported on the W&FC proposals and it was agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting after the W&FC policy had been finalised at their meeting on 18 March 2025

### 15/25 Finance

- a) It was noted that there had been the following receipts since the last meeting:
  - Westmorland & Furness Council – playground fencing grant - £500.00
  - Sale of fallen wood - £20.00
- b) The following payments made by direct debit since the last meeting were approved:
  - Npower – street lighting electricity December 2024 - £155.27
  - Npower – street lighting electricity January 2025 - £162.36
- c) The following payments made between meetings were approved:
  - Drew Ford Garden machinery – mower service – £261.40 – cheque 754
  - A2A Advertising Ltd – SSL web hosting fee - £48.00 – cheque 755
  - M R Richardson – salary and expenses to 31/1/25 – £1,598.11 – cheque 756
- d) The following payment was approved:
  - HMRC – PAYE re M R Richardson – £359.60 – cheque 757
- e) The Contractor tenders for 2025 were considered and it was agreed to accept that from D & C Atkinson in the amount of £1,400 plus VAT. The Clerk was asked to write to Martin Tyson to thank him for his excellent work over the many years that he has been the contractor to the Council, Cllr Grindey had withdrawn from the room for this item
- f) The 2025/26 Financial Risk Assessment was received and approved
- g) **Resolved** that it be noted that the closing bank balance at 31 January 2025 was £18,461.07, which had been reconciled with the bank account, and that the bank statement be signed by the Chair

### 16/25 Correspondence

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

- i) CALC – BT Digital Voice switchover webinars on 22/1/25 and 27/1/25 (emailed to Cllrs.20/1/25)
- ii) W&FC seeking residents' views as they look to improve customer service offer (emailed to Cllrs.20/1/25)
- iii) National Highways – Works to instal A590 safety cameras between Brettagh Holt and Ayside (emailed to Cllrs.20/1/25)
- iv) W&FC – Council agree to join government's devolution journey (emailed to Cllrs.20/1/25)
- v) W&FC – Council launches surveys to help shape future of library services (emailed to Cllrs.21/1/25)
- vi) W&FC – Council seeks input on potential Circular Economy Hub (emailed to Cllrs.21/1/25)
- vii) W&FC – Help shape the future of electric vehicle infrastructure in W&F (emailed to Cllrs.21/1/25)
- viii) W&FC – Council announces ambitious housing strategy to address local needs (emailed to Cllrs.21/1/25)
- ix) National Highways – safety improvement works to the A590 between Brettagh Holt and M6 Junction 36 on 24-26 February 2025 (emailed to Cllrs.16/2/25)
- x) CALC News November & December 2024 emailed to Cllrs.16/2/25)
- xi) W&FC welcomes government devolution inclusion (emailed to Cllrs.17/2/25)
- xii) W&FC – Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy newsletter Spring 2025 (emailed to Cllrs.17/2/25)
- xiii) W&FC protects front line services in tough financial times (emailed to Cllrs.17/2/25)
- xiv) W&FC launches free parenting support app for families (emailed to Cllrs.17/2/25)
- xv) CALC – Springfield domestic abuse charity – Cross The Bay walk 21/6/25 (emailed to Cllrs.17/2/25)
- xvi) W&FC – £1 million to boost active journeys across W&F (emailed to Cllrs.17/2/25)
- xvii) CALC – Devolution update – government consultation now live (emailed to Cllrs.18/2/25)
- xviii) CALC – LSE/NALC emergency planning survey (emailed to Cllrs.20/2/25)
- xix) W&FC – Electoral review of Westmorland & Furness Council (emailed to Cllrs.20/2/25)
- xx) CALC - Presentation and discussions on 27/2/25 regarding ACT rural survey (emailed to Cllrs.25/2/25)

**17/25 Westmorland Gazette** – Matters from this meeting to be reported for the Westmorland Gazette:

- None

**18/25 Items for Information** – *no decisions or action permitted*

- None

**19/25 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree Scheme Plaque – When new trees are ready in 2025
- Sexual Harassment Policy – March 2025

**20/25 Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 26 March 2025 and will commence at 7.30pm in The Athenaeum, Leasgill

The meeting closed at 9.50pm