



HETHERSGILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Hethersgill Parish Council held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 18th November 2025

Present: Cllrs S Barratt, D Beer, L McDonagh, A Sisson, C Williams J.P.

In attendance: The Clerk A Dawes.

057/25 Apologies for Absence - Cllrs. J Bryant, M Irving and L Summerfield sent apologies for absence, and they were accepted. At this point the Chair announced that she had received the resignation of Cllr. Bryant which was accepted with regret but accepted his offer to be involved in any way (Working Party) regarding the I.T. and e-mail issues in the future. Clerk to contact Cllr. Bryant with thanks from the Council.

058/25 Declarations of Interest and Request for Dispensations - No declarations of interest were made and no requests for dispensation has been received.

059/25 Minutes of the meeting(s) of the Parish Council held on 16th September 2025 - RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting as a true record.

060/25 Public Participation – No members of the public were in attendance.

No report from the Cumberland Councillor.

Representatives from the Police were in attendance and gave an update report of crime in the rural area incorporating Hethersgill (and a small area of Scaleby). Indications were that crime was still at a very low level with only 3 reported throughout the year which was a further reduction from the last reporting year. Concentrated efforts at this time of year were on road safety with particular emphasis on drink and drug drivers.

The Clerk (on behalf of members) asked if they could help in any way regarding the road safety aspects of the crossroads in the village. Council members had canvassed the County Council on numerous occasions over the last 2 years to have the markings renewed even resorting to letters and verbal communication with the local M.P. but so far, the only response was that it was “in the plan”. The Clerk would contact the police by email to register concern, and they would see if they could do anything to help.

At this point the police representatives left the meeting after accepting the thanks of the Council for attending and giving assurance that they would be coming on at least 1 occasion per year.

The Clerk was asked to contact Riverside Housing in respect of the hedge at property 1 Dacre Road as this hedge was completely hiding the Give Way and encroaching on to the road at the crossroads.

061/25 Administrative Matters

061/25.2 I.T. and email – with regard to Assertion 10 it was agreed that the council needs to ensure that we are compliant with our digital and data protection responsibilities. It goes beyond good intentions and places specific obligations on councils in the following areas: Email management; website compliance; personal data and GDPR and IT policy, and in view of the fact that the sub-committee had not met and the resignation of Cllr. Bryant, the Chair would draft any required policies and pass them to the Clerk for inclusion in the next agenda for ratification at the next meeting.

It was also determined that Council would have to decide how to move forward with the issue of personal e-mail usage and registration of Microsoft Office for any non-users of the technology available.

061/25.3 Highways - no new issues to report, other than Cllr. Williams indicated that she had been informed of bridge repairs in close proximity to her home and hoped that road closures would be kept to a minimum and plenty of notice received.

061/25.4 Common Land – in the absence of Cllr. Irving this item was held over to the next meeting.

061/25.5 Community Resilience – Cllr. Beer reported back on the event she attended at the Rheged Centre which involved around 70 individuals “role playing” various emergency scenarios. Cllr. Beer indicated that a lot of parishes already had a plan in place so it should be relatively easy to produce one for Hethersgill. This will be worked up in the coming months and a draft plan brought to Council for approval and may involve the purchase of capital equipment such as a generator and key boxes for example. Various sources of funding were discussed.

061/25.6 Facebook Page – in the absence of Cllr. Irving this item was held over to the next meeting.

061/25.7 Christmas Lights group – Cllr. Beer reported that a meeting was to take place of the group on the 19th November. Cllr. Sisson asked if the group could be reminded of the requirement to provide the Clerk with a receipt/invoice for the donation provided.

061/25.8 Community Lunch – feedback was given by both Cllr Sisson and Cllr. Beer about the event that had taken place on the 18th November supported by the Brampton Community Trust.

It was attended by around 25 people with numbers of individuals in recognised “in need of support” groups. This event was deemed a great success and Cllr. Sisson will try to

liaise with funding groups and Brampton Community Trust to see if this could become a regular event. **RESOLVED** Council to pay the cost of hire of the Supper Room.

061/25.9 Cross Border group – Cllr. Beer and Cllr. Williams gave feedback both on an online event and a meeting regarding the issue of Cross Border electricity infrastructure upgrade which, whilst not being inside the parish would be extremely close and would involve the turning over of a significant amount of agricultural land to the project as well as some very high pylons.

Whilst it was thought almost a fait accompli, feedback forms were distributed to members for completion and submission as part of the “consultation” exercise. The council agreed it was particularly important to complete the survey for possible future community benefit funding.

061/25.10 Defibrillator and replacement “parts” – Cllr. Sisson reported to members that currently the defibrillator was out of action awaiting delivery of a replacement battery. The Clerk indicated that this particular model of defibrillator was coming to the end of its life cycle and that replacement parts were now proving difficult to procure. The Clerk suggested that an amount of around £1,000 should be identified within the 2027 / 2028 Budget to allow for a replacement. **RESOLVED.**

061/25.11 Community Governance Review –after a brief discussion it was **RESOLVED** to agree to the inclusion of the parish in the specific review.

062/25 Planning Matters –

25/0555 Erection of front porch; single store Rear/Side extension to provide additional living accommodation. Wenalt, Hethersgill. CA6 6EH – no comment

25/0585 Change of use of barn to dwelling & associated works at Stone Flatts House, Kirklington. CA6 6DL – no comment

063/25 Finance Matters

063/25.1 RESOLVED to authorise the payments below

Date	Payee	Amount
18/09/2025	A Dawes	£344.14
18/09/2025	HMRC	£ 73.60
18/09/2025	Hethersgill Parish Hall	£250.00
18/09/2025	Christmas in the Village	£250.00
18/09/2025	The Black Lion	£ 63.00
18/09/2025	Hethersgill Parish Hall	£ 60.00
15/10/2025	The Defib Pad	£184.19
15/10/2025	Equiphase	£ 20.00
15/10/2025	Equiphase	£ 72.00
15/10/2025	A Dawes	£335.04
15/10/2025	HMRC	£ 73.60
15/10/2025	HMRC	£ 14.48

063/25.2 **RESOLVED** To receive bank reconciliation and finance papers relating to September and October 2025

063/25.3 **Precept and Budget 2026/2027** – after much discussion it was **RESOLVED** to approve the DRAFT Budget and subsequent effect on the precept as was presented by the Clerk. Proposed by Cllr. Williams seconded by Cllr. Beer.

064/25 Clerk Report The Clerk reported that, in line with the clause in the contract he was informing members of his decision to resign from the post. However, he will continue until either a successor is found or until the AGM at which the Council will need to resolve the matter. Cllr. Sisson and Cllr. Summerfield will liaise and move the recruitment process forward, probably in the New Year.

065/25 Councillor Matters – Councillors reported that the hand delivery of the Gill had gone as well as could have been anticipated and the Clerk reported that this had saved a good deal of money. More thoughts would be appreciated on how this process could be improved and the deadline dates for the next production would be agreed at the next meeting.

066/25 Date of Next Meeting - RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at on Tuesday 20th January 2026 still at 7.45pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall.