

Hesket Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Hesket Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7.30pm at Low Hesket Village Hall.

Present: Parish Councillors: Gillian Campbell, Elaine Martin (Chair), Shaun Long (Vice-Chair), Dawn Pollock, Gillian Gibson, Kelley Peacock, Vivien Waugh, Ruth Murray, Andrew Williamson, John Harris, David Ryland, Maxine Graham

Westmorland and Furness

Councillor: Hilary Carrick

Officers: Lisa Beken (Clerk)

One member of the public was also present

01/26/1. **Apologies for absence:** **RESOLVED** that the following apologies were received:
Councillor Dowes, due to previous engagement.
Councillor Everingham, due to ill health,

01/26/2. **Declarations of interest:** **RESOLVED** that there were no declarations to be made.

01/26/3. **Minutes:** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2025 and the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 were both agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

01/26/4. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** **RESOLVED** that there were no matters arising.

01/26/5. **Public participation:** **RESOLVED** that the following matters were raised:

- A member of the public raised concerns regarding lorries using the road at Crooks Bridge. The resident showed the Council photos of HGVs and agricultural vehicles which have been unable to navigate the road, having to turn around in a confined space. Issues are exacerbated by poor road conditions. Signs have previously been placed to deter lorries, but one of these is missing. The situation is dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Councillor Carrick discussed the matter with the meeting, agreeing that there are ongoing issues, with the road highly unsuitable for HGVs and agricultural traffic. There are particular difficulties in restricting certain vehicles. Councillor Carrick will request speed monitoring, which will also provide information on the weight of vehicles using route. A bespoke solution is required. Councillor Carrick to take forward.

01/26/6. **Westmorland and Furness Council Report:** **RESOLVED** that Councillor Carrick raised the following matters;

- Devolution – The new combined authority will be formed in the next few months. The joint committee are currently engaged in recruitment to senior posts and a draft constitution has been produced.
- Council budget – Central government funding is determined by a national formula, called the fair funding formula. This has recently been reassessed, with greater emphasis on urban deprivation and less emphasis on the cost of providing rural services. Westmorland and Furness will receive a lower grant allocation. At the Cabinet meeting in December an update on finances was provided, with a forecast of an approximate £10 million overspend at the end of financial year.
- Budget consultation – The Council launched its budget consultation on 16th December. Proposals are for a 4.99% in Council Tax, an increase in fees and charges across the board at 3.8%, and a 10% increase in car park charges. Option for garden waste proposed are for one free bin with a £60 annual charge for additional bins, or for a £60 charge for any green waste bin for all bins.
- Councillor Carrick reported back on issues at with parking at High Hesket which has caused obstructed bus access. This has been passed on to highways, but if there is an obstruction, it is a police matter. Councillor Carrick to provide cones to church to try to alleviate issues.

- Councillor Carrick reported back on the issue of bad odours at Southwaite. Environmental health officers have visited three times, and contacted complainant. There is no evidence of an issue at the present time.
- With regard to grass cutting along the Daffodil Walk at Low Hesket, Councillor Carrick confirmed that the area falls outside the Council's grass cutting remit.

01/26/7. **Gillians Well, Calthwaite:** **RESOLVED** that Councillor Harris confirmed that repairs to the wall are appreciated by local residents. Genesis Homes have begun remedial work has started on site, with the Westmorland and Furness enforcement officer continuing to work with Genesis to resolve issues.

01/26/8. **Call for Sites:** **RESOLVED** that Councillors were informed that Westmorland and Furness Council had launched a second Call for Sites for the Local Plan, due to insufficient sites being put forward. The sites submitted in the first Call for Sited had been assessed in the first instance for constraints. The Council is not conducting consultation at this time, but will be consulting with Parish Councils and other stakeholders in the near future.

01/26/9. **Noticeboards:** **RESOLVED** to order two three bay noticeboards, for Low Hesket and Armathwaite.

01/26/10. **Green Waste Collections:** **RESOLVED** to pursue options for extra skip collections.

01/26/11. **Policies:** **RESOLVED** that the following policy was approved as amended;

- Disciplinary and Grievance Policy

01/26/12. **Committees:** **RESOLVED** to form the following committees and approve the Terms of Reference as circulated with the following membership:

- Staffing Committee – Chair, Vice-Chair, Councillor Murray
- Finance Committee – Councillors Graham, Pollock, Ryland and Harris.

01/26/13. **Fellrunner Bus Service:** **RESOLVED** that Councillor were presented with further information from the Fellrunner Bus Service and agreed to a grant of £479.

01/26/14. **Planning matters:** The following matters were raised:

- Planning applications:** **RESOLVED** that the following comments submitted on planning application since the last meeting of the Parish Council were noted;
 - 2025/2138/LBC** at Dovecote, Barrock Park, Southwaite, Carlisle, CA4 0JS for Listed Building Consent for alterations to enable change of use of former dovecote to holiday let accommodation and associated works
No objections
 - 2025/2099/FPA** at Dovecote, Barrock Park, Southwaite, Carlisle, CA4 0JS for change of use of former dovecote to holiday let accommodation and associated alterations and works.
No objections
- Planning applications:** **RESOLVED** that the following comments on planning applications currently open in the Parish were agreed;
 - 2025/2400/HOU** at 7 Laikin View, Calthwaite, Penrith, CA11 9QW for Proposed first floor side extension to provide bedroom.
No objections
- Planning decisions:** **RESOLVED** that the following planning decision notices made since the last meeting of the Parish Council were acknowledged;
 - 2024/2272/FPA at Elm House Cottage, High Hesket, Carlisle, CA4 0HS, for retrospective change of use of ancillary annexe accommodation to holiday let accommodation.
REFUSED
 - 2025/1865/FPA at Former Telephone Repeater Station, Plumpton, CA11 9NS for change of use of former telephone repeater station (Sui Generis) to storage (use class B8).
GRANTED
- Other planning matters:** **RESOLVED** that no other matters were raised.

- Financial matters:** **RESOLVED** that the following matters related to finance were agreed;
- The following payments were authorised;

Payee	Particulars	Amount
L Beken	Clerk expenses	£18.45
L Beken	Administration	£18.60
Neil Ruddick	Grass cutting	£2,620.00

Councillor agreed to extend Neil Ruddick's contract by one year, subject to costings.

- b) That payments made since the last meeting of the Parish Council were acknowledged.
- c) That the cashbook balance was acknowledged.
- d) To renew the Parish Council insurance policy, as quoted.

01/26/16. **Correspondence:** **RESOLVED** that correspondence received, as per the correspondence register, was acknowledged.

01/26/17. **Parish maintenance:** **RESOLVED** that the following matters were raised;

- Councillor Graham - the bench at the bus stop of the southbound A6 at Plumpton, is not repairable. Contractor has suggested that the seat could be replaced with wood, and ornate metal sides repaired. Councillor Graham to ask for images and bring to March meeting.

01/26/18. **Council matters:** **RESOLVED** that the following matters were raised;

- Councillor Waugh - Calthwaite Road, from crossroads down to bridge, drains need clearing as gravel gathering at base under bridge causing flooding.
- Councillor Graham – A6 layby, litter is causing an issue.
- Councillor Campbell – the sign outside High Hesket school has not been replaced, and painting on road has not been renewed.
- Councillor Gibson – pot holes, Ling to Harrington Ling Farm, Southwaite, to Peteril Bridge End, Ling Top, Southwaite to Peteril Bank Ford, Southwaite, Winderbog to Ewelock particularly bad pot hole. Under railway bridge at Peteril Bank, the road is eroding. The tree outside village hall is potentially dangerous and could hit hall if it falls – Clerk to discuss with Highways.
- Councillor Graham - noted ongoing issues with traffic signs left after roadworks etc. completed.
- Councillor Ryland – informed the Council that the white lines at the T junction on the Armathwaite road at Hazel Cottage have now been painted, and the pot hole opposite has been filled.

01/26/19. **Date of next Ordinary Meeting** – Tuesday 10th March 2026 to be held at Armathwaite Old School Hall.

Meeting end: 20:55

Action Points

Minute number	Action	Actioner
01/26/9	<i>Order noticeboards</i>	<i>Clerk</i>
01/26/9	<i>Arrange for noticeboards to be replaced</i>	<i>Councillor Ryland</i>
01/26/12	<i>Arrange Finance Committee meeting</i>	<i>Clerk</i>
01/26/15	<i>Discuss contract extension with contractor</i>	<i>Clerk</i>
01/26/17	<i>Obtain images for A6 bench</i>	<i>Councillor Graham</i>
01/26/18	<i>Raise concerns regarding tree at Low Hesket Village Hall</i>	<i>Clerk</i>