



## **HETHERSGILL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of Hethersgill Parish Council held in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Present:** Cllr C Williams (Chairman); Clls S Barratt, J Bryant, M Irving, L McDonagh, A Sisson, L Summerfield.

**In attendance:** The Locum Clerk A Dawes. Cumberland Council member J Mallinson and 2 Members of the Public.

#### **013/24 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs. D Beer F Heaton sent apologies for absence and they were accepted by the Council.

#### **014/24 Declarations of Interest and Request for Dispensations**

No declarations of interest were made and no requests for dispensation has been received.

#### **015/24 Minutes of the meeting(s) of the Parish Council held on 16th January 2024**

**Resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting as a true record.

#### **016/24 Public Participation**

**016/24.1** The members of the Public were welcomed to the meeting and asked to speak on a particular subject regarding planning approval. This was an item that had already been to Council and received a “No comment” response. They were both invited to stay and attend any future meetings and at 7.45 they left the meeting.

**016/24.2** Cumberland Council Update - Cllr Mallinson gave a brief report highlighting the current progress with Cumberland Council paying particular attention to the shortfall in the Budget for the coming financial year. Cllr. Summerfield sought clarification regarding the Social Care element of the Council tax and confirmation that Cumbria had received its quota of “levelling-up” monies. These were both confirmed by Cllr Mallinson.

Highways were still a major issue for the Parish especially potholes.

#### **017/24 Administrative Matters**

##### **017/24.1 Public Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

After discussion Council **RESOLVED** to hold the “Programme” for the meeting in the Village Hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The Clerk was asked to see if Natural England would be able to send a representative. Clerk and Cllr. Williams to meet up to determine the item Parish Plan.

Arrivals – 6.30 for “Wine & Nibbles” and chat.

Presentations to commence at 7.00 and include:-

Himalayan Balsam  
Parish Plan  
Neighbourhood watch  
Social Committee

Precise timings to be determined on the evening.  
Various “stalls” would have information available on a variety of topics.

**017/24.2 Grants and Donations Policy** – this item was deferred to the next Council Meeting

**017/24.3 The Gill – after discussion** Council **RESOLVED** to have the Newsletter produced twice each year at around Springtime and the end of Autumn.  
Deadline for production of the next issue to be June 21<sup>st</sup> 2024.

**017/24.5 Himalayan Balsam Bashers** – Cllr Williams brought members up-to-date with the Group and explained that further funding had been sought and that volunteer training would be undertaken.

**017/24.6 Broadband & I.T. issues Annual Parish Meeting – RESOLVED** to ensure the Council met it's obligation regarding transparency and GDPR it would arrange for multiple versions of Microsoft 365 products to protect the council.

Cllr Mallinson asked if the Clerk could provide details and he would see if any funding would be available.

**018/24 Planning Matters** – none received for consideration

**019/24 Highways** - no new issues to report

**020/24 Finance Matters**

**020/24.1 Payments**

**Resolved** to authorise the payments below:

Allan Dawes, Salary January and Expenses £375.74  
HMRC, PAYE January, £63.92  
Hethersgill Parish Hall, £153.00  
Allan Dawes, Salary February and Expenses £325.39  
HMRC, PAYE February, £68.33  
Balsam Bashers, £280.34

**020/24.2 Budget Update and Bank Reconciliation**

**RESOLVED** council to approve an update of expenditure and forecast out-turn for 2023  
2024

**020/24.3 Banking Arrangements** – Council **RESOLVED** to authorise the Chair and Clerk to continue closure of the HSBC account.

**021/24 Confidential item** – at this point Allan Dawes left the meeting while the Council discussed confidential matters relating to the recruitment of a Clerk / RFO from 1st April. After discussion Allan Dawes returned to the meeting and was appointed Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Contracts to be finalised, drawn up and signed as soon as possible.

**022/24 Items for next Agenda –**  
Donations Policy - URGENT

**023/24 Date of Next Meeting**

**Resolved** that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at on Tuesday 21st May 2024 after the Annual Parish Meeting @7.30pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.40pm.