

Hawkshead Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Hawkshead Parish Council

Held in the Lower Market Hall, Hawkshead on Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 7.30 pm

Present: Chair Cllr Spedding; Cllrs Johnston, Brown, Bremner, Berry and Moulton
Clerk – Janet Taffs
5 Member of the public in attendance

183/01/26 Apologies

RESOLVED that apologies for absence are received from Cllr MacLennan and were accepted.

184/01/26 Requests for Dispensations

RESOLVED It was noted that no member declared any dispensations on items on the agenda.

185/01/26 Declaration of Interest

RESOLVED It was noted that no member declared any interests in items on the agenda.

186/01/26 Minutes

RESOLVED The minutes of the meeting of Hawkshead Parish Council held on Tuesday, 16th December 2025, were confirmed to be an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

187/01/26 Public Participation

187.1 To receive reports from

- **Police**

Local PCSO invited to attend Debbie Ross attended. The department has grown in size with the addition of a new sergeant. and three new community beat officers. Hawkshead has sheep worrying reported, and stock being killed with dogs off the lead. PCSO Ross was asked why crimes recorded on the website are difficult to establish; they are vague incident classifications, but this is to protect the victim. If it is felt to have an impact on the community, they will be informed. Mobile patrols are going out in our area. PCSO Ross stressed the importance of reporting all incidents. The allocation of officers is based on the crime numbers in the area. If crimes are not reported, the statistics will not accurately reflect the number of incidents. You can report incidents by calling 101 Emailing 101Emails@cumbria.police Or online

The parking issues that many residents were having in the area were put to PCSO Ross. As many are on private land, all the police can do is make a polite request not to park there. But if there is an obstruction and emergency vehicles cannot pass, then report as above.

- **Westmorland and Furness Councillor**

Cllr Pender provided a quick update on the County situation. The Council has a bad settlement for next year. The staffing situation is poor. Morecambe Bay Health Authority deficit is poor, 18 beds to go at FGH, and more at Lancaster. Unemployment is up in the area Fibrus complaints have been submitted. Coniston and Skelwith are not going to merge/group, unlike previously thought. Skelwith has requested the possibility of grouping with Hawkshead. The Parish Council disagreed with the parking opposite the Chocolate shop being reclassified as one-hour parking, so Cllr Pender has not requested this from W&F.

- **National Trust**

No update relevant to Hawkshead. The existing contact has left and the clerk has not been introduced to the new contact to date

187.2 Comments and representations from members of the public in relation to any item on the agenda.

Blocked drains on the bottom of Hawksgarth. This has already been reported to Highways there is a big hole in the verge.

Parking in OCP Cars parking without a parking permit and poorly parked. The Parish Council has stated that the clerk will write to the businesses to remind them to ask clients not to park in the car park and to request that the enforcement officer come out more often.

Landslip up vicarage lane. Clerk to report to LDNPA

Pot hole outside Red Lion Clerk to report to Highways

The parking on Hawksgarth was discussed and Photographs of the area will be provided and the Clerk will contact South Lakeland to see if further signage could be arranged.

188/01/26 Update on Ongoing Issues and Actions from Last Meeting

Initials of the Chair _____ --Date _____

Hawkshead Parish Council

- 188.1 Resolved to stay on the agenda for updates. Gritting has started, and all Parish contracts have been signed. The contract for Shaun was agreed and signed by both parties.
Invoice from Shaun for £1536 received; however, £1000 from Cllr Pender paid, and £727 owing on invoices to the parishes so far to date. It was agreed that the Parish Council would like to apply for additional funding from the locality board to keep in reserve for maintenance costs of £ 1,000. Claife's money goes down quickly as 50% higher on the bills.
Request from a resident, their elderly relative who lives on Skinner How Lane and has a daily visit from a local carer, wondering if the road could be included in the route. The Clerk has spoken to Shaun, and the road is not suitable for the gritter due to the hedges. It is not possible to add this route to the winter arrangements services.
The old gritter is nearly at the stage of being able to sell; this would enable funds to be earmarked for future maintenance of the new gritter.
The clerk had planned to insure the gritter; however, it is insured under Shaun's policy.
- 188.2 UNRESOLVED the cracked water trough on Roger Ground E1/221633. The clerk complained to W&F, as this has been going on for a year now. It needs to be looked at with ice forming on the road now it is winter. No response has raised with Cllr Pender to see if she can expedite. Cllr Pender seemed to think that W&F were not responsible for the trough. Cllr Spedding to visit the trough to look at the damage.
- 188.3 UNRESOLVED Housing Action with communities in Cumbria is still continuing to look for available space.
- 188.4 UNRESOLVED Clerk has no further update on the building in the centre of the square. To keep on the agenda for now. The clerk will contact the agent for an update for the next meeting, as it was thought the building contacts would have started now.
- 188.5 UNRESOLVED The SIDs have been discussed between Cllr Brown and the Lenghtsman. The size of the posts has been agreed upon, and replacements are needed. A price of £190 each from Jamie for correctly sized poles, excluding labour, has been quoted. Agreed to purchase.
- 188.6 UNRESOLVED: no progress on the litter bin by the Chocolate shop and on the Rec. More of a summer problem. Look again next year.
- 188.7 UNRESOLVED The Old Hawkshead sign, still being restored. A piece of wood has been sourced, and work is continuing.
- 188.8 UNRESOLVED The noticeboard on the side of the King's Arms. The Clerk has contacted the King's Arms with the wording and is awaiting a new sign to be erected.
- 188.9 UNRESOLVED The pothole on the Miles without styles walk from Hawkshead to Wray on the LDNPA work program to repair. Tarmac is now in as a temporary repair
- 188.10 RESOLVED The large sign in the village advertising a restaurant on a private house has been removed.
- 188.11 RESOLVED The 1-hour parking spaces opposite the Chocolate shop. Discussed 187.1
- 188.12 RESOLVED The Community Governance Review has been produced, and it has been noted that Hawkshead and Claife would consider merging in the future, but it is not something to consider at this time. The report states that Coniston and Skelwith are considering grouping, but as per 187.1, this is no longer the case.

189/01/26 New matters arising

- 189.1 RESOLVED the advertisement for the Hawkshead Village grass cutting and ground maintenance of the Old Police Car Park contract for three years. To be advertised on the notice boards and on the Fb page. The current contractor is to be contacted to tender.
- 189.2 RESOLVED It was discussed to consider the grids and clear them in other areas of the parish apart from the centre. The lengthman had provided a map of the 112 grids he cleared in the village itself; it was felt that grids outside the centre should be cleared. Shaun has offered to help with the tractor to cut down the time this would take, so the rain runs into the grids and not down the road. Given the current financial situation, it was decided to report the Betty Fold grids to W&F and revisit if funds allow. Clerk to report to Highways.
- 189.3 RESOLVED Age-friendly would like to visit and talk to the Parish Council about services. Information would be better advertised on the FB and community pages. Clerk to respond.
- 189.4 UNRESOLVED To review the Emergency plan to allow us to apply for funding for sandbags. The subject of sandbags is currently being discussed with Cllr Pender, as they are single-use and this is not felt to be environmentally friendly. To look at a further meeting.

Initials of the Chair _____ --Date_____

Hawkshead Parish Council

190/01/26. Highways

To note Highways issues in the Parish

- 190.1 UNRESOLVED the drains blocked on the North Lonsdale Road E1/215114 and now all local drains need clearing E1/177362. Complaint submitted on 6/11/25, reference E1/265826. The team have advised that following an inspection, further investigatory works have been added to our programme to inspect the drainage and undertake any necessary repairs. However, they are unable to provide a definitive timescale as to when these works will be undertaken at this time.
- 190.2 UNRESOLVED The hole developing on the road edge near Lakes Lodges E1/110351,
- 190.3 UNRESOLVED Potholes in the Outgate area E1/226058 Clerk submitted a complaint on the condition of the road. No further correspondence.
- 190.4 UNRESOLVED potholes outside Gingerbread Shop E1/245629 Chased on 2/10/25, and what 3 words provided. Put a complaint in on 6/11/25 as water is collecting in them and you are unable to see. Clerk uploaded photos on 11/11/25
- 190.5 UNRESOLVED the grid at the Coniston Junction on the way to Outgate. E1/253802 Assigned to highways, date not known.
- 190.6 UNRESOLVED the grid at Springwood E1/253804 Assigned to Highways on 22/7/25 Chased for a response 6/11/25
- 190.7 UNRESOLVED To update on the school road markings following the road resurfacing. E1/257392 Referred to the highways team. Cllr Pender has agreed to email W&F
- 190.8 UNRESOLVED W3W provided for the lifting of the tarmac on Flag Street and the Clerk to report to Highways.
- 190.9 UNRESOLVED the flag stone near the Kings Arms has been reported to highways ref E1/267957
- 190.10 UNRESOLVED the drains near Hawksgarth have been reported to Highways E1/267960
- 190.11 UNRESOLVED LDNPA lights in the main car park are not working clerk reported that all lights are out. Chased but no response.

200/01/2026 Finance & Governance Issues

- 200.1 To authorise payment of the following accounts:-
- | | |
|--|-----------|
| Clerk wages | £ 510.65 |
| Lengthsman | £ 131.99 |
| Shaun Taylforth training hours 20 gritting hours | £ 1536.00 |
| Luscombe Plant Hire | £ 381.50 |
| National Trust Annual rent | £ 207.60 |
- 200.2 To acknowledge income sources:
- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Car parking permits | £ 00.00 |
| Main street car park | £ 1095.00 |
- 200.3 Monthly update of the finances. Balances of accounts as of 6/1/26 Current account 5582.35, deposit £22823.25
- 200.4 The Cllrs discussed the budget for 2026/27 The Precept has been received. £ 12,297.87 Annual running costs are 22636.98. The External Audit for 2024/2025 flagged that three-month reserves were not being held. CALC have been consulted the Precept amount, and 3 months' reserves would increase the % of council tax increase to an unrealistic level. As the Parish Council has more than 3 months in the bank account, and although this is not held in general reserves, more than 3 months are held in earmarked reserves, so the Parish Council are not under financial strain. The car park earmark amount does need looking at, and how that money was obtained and earmarked. Clerk to look back through all the minutes to establish this. It was unclear who was responsible for the risk assessments on the Old Police Car Park. Clerk to contact the National Trust. The Precept was agreed at £13,500, with a 9.87% increase for the Parish Council on the Council Tax, although this does not fully cover the running costs of the Parish Council it was decided that no further increase to the council tax should be made.
- 200.5 RESOLVED The clerk reported that she has contacted the internal auditor for Haverthwaite, who will be happy to carry out the internal audit. The clerk has a list of all minute documents required for the audit. The cost will be £75-£100. The more work the clerk does, the less the auditor needs to look for the information.
- 200.6 UNRESOLVED The clerk updated on the online banking situation. The authority we previously signed, which transpires, has given the clerk the authority to conduct transactions online without a

Initials of the Chair _____ --Date_____

Hawkshead Parish Council

second authority. This is not what was requested. The clerk had requested the second authority. They have suggested we contact Bankline to provide this service, but we have been unable to reach them, the clerk will go into the bank's pop-up banking sessions and see what they can establish, as the online assistant is no use.

200.7 Resolved The quotation for the SID posts was considered as per point 188.5

200.8 Resolved the Quotation from Zurich was discussed and agreed.

201/01/26 **Planning Application**

The following planning applications were discussed

RESOLVED The following application was discussed 7/2025/5689 Location: Land at Outgate, Ambleside, LA22 ONH Proposal: Erection of an agricultural building There is no provision for consultation on this type of application

202/01/26 **Planning permission decisions. The following decisions were noted.**

RESOLVED No Decisions to report

203/01/26 **Lengthsman**

Previously discussed in items 188.5 and 189.2

204/01/26 **Councillor Matters**

It was discussed that there used to be a Grit bin by the doctors, but it went. Was it possible to have a grit bin by the entrance to the Old Police Car Park? Clerk to request.

205/01/26 **Correspondence**

- Neighbourhood policing update
- Fibrus road closure 15th January 2026
- Hiking experts winter update from LDNPA
- Climate change strategy meetings W&F
- Sandbag funding-Cllr Pender
- Windermere Marathon update
- W&F addressing recycling concerns
- W&F Government funding and Council Tax increases
- Newsletter from the Locality board, Cllr Pender is the Chair
- Road resurfacing programme
- Coniston Parish Council invite to the Parish Meeting
- Planting for pollinators

206/01/26 **Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be Tuesday, 17th February 2026, at 7.30 pm in the Lower Market Hall, Hawkshead
Meeting concluded at 9.08pm