

HESKET NEWMARKET COMMUNITY SHOP LIMITED
AGM and Big Lunch
Caldbeck Village Hall
Saturday 14th June 2025

Management Committee members in attendance:

Philippa Groves (Chair)
Simon Hewitt (Vice-chair)
Martin Woodham (Treasurer)
Michelle Boundy (Secretary)
Martin Nicholson
Helena Davies
John Brown

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Chair's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Audited Accounts for year ending 31st March 2025
4. Audit Requirements for next year
5. Committee Elections
6. General updates
7. Question and Answer session

APPENDIX: The AGM report pack.

1 Welcome and Chair's Report

Philippa formally welcomed everyone to the meeting and set out the agenda for the 10th public meeting and AGM. She declared that the meeting was quorate.

Philippa announced that the Society had been successful in its application to the Post Office, and confirmed that the current contract would transfer from Andy to the Society in due course.

In addition to presenting her report, Philippa thanked the Heskett Newmarket Brewery for donating a barrel of their new beer, the Heskett Hat-Trick. This was created in celebration of Heskett Newmarket's three community-owned businesses. Philippa thanked the representatives of the Old Crown pub and the Brewery for attending the AGM and said she was looking forward to exploring how the three businesses could work together.

Philippa also thanked Cumberland Council for their grant of £200 towards the cost of the Big Lunch. She explained that the Lunch was part of the Eden Project, the purpose of which is to bring communities together and support sustainability. She

said all the food was locally sourced, including burgers from Warrandale Wagyu Ltd and sausages from Johnby Hall.

2 Treasurer's Report

Martin Woodham presented his report. He highlighted that in addition to the share capital, together the community had raised almost £22,000 through various events and £20,000 in donations. He thanked the fundraising team for their hard work and the community for their huge support.

3 Audited Accounts for year ending 31st March 2025

Martin Woodham presented the annual accounts, and thanked David Absalom for his report. There were no questions raised.

4 Audit Requirements for next year

Simon explained that, as a community benefit society, we need to decide each year whether to carry out a full or a limited audit on the accounts. On behalf of the Management Committee, he recommended that we carry out a limited audit of this year's accounts, being the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026.

Simon introduced the following motions:

- Motion 4.1 To disapply the requirement to appoint a qualified auditor (to carry out a full audit).
- Motion 4.2 To appoint Dodd&Co. Accountants in Penrith as our auditors (subject to fees).

The motions were carried with no abstentions or objections.

5 Committee Elections

Michelle confirmed that, as this was our first AGM, all the current and co-opted members of the Committee were standing down and that the following people were standing for election:

1. Michelle Boundy
2. Philippa Groves
3. Simon Hewitt
4. Martin Woodham
5. Martin Nicholson
6. Garry Hobson

Michelle introduced the following motion:

- Motion 5.1 To approve the election of those listed to the Management Committee.

John Brown acted as the teller for this vote, and confirmed that the motion was carried with no abstentions or objections.

6 General updates

Simon said that aside from being awarded the Post Office contract, there were no further updates to give. He thanked the shop team of Andy, Diane, Ann and Pat for their continued support.

Diane said in response that she was very pleased that the Society had come together to save the shop, and that it was unlikely the shop would have continued without it. She also confirmed that she was going to stay on for a while to help with the transition.

7 Q & A

Will there be a launch event?

We will certainly put on an event to officially launch the shop and post office as a community-owned business. We hope to take over the running of both towards the end of the summer and will plan an event, hopefully in conjunction with the Pub and the Brewery, at an appropriate time.

Will there be a paid person carrying out the role of the Assistant for the Post Office?

Anyone can act as a Post Office Assistant once they are vetted by the Post Office and go through their formal training. We plan to have several people able to do this role, starting with two of the Management Committee, probably Simon and Michelle, followed by our volunteers in due course. We will appoint a full-time paid manager (or more likely two part-time managers) once we've been up and running for a while, and these people will also go through the post office training.

Could we get the King to officially open the shop?

We can certainly try – we'll leave this one to Philippa!

APPENDIX – the AGM report pack

1 Chair's Report

Welcome to our first AGM for our Hesket Newmarket Community Shop!

Most of you here will be shareholders so special thanks to you for your attendance today. My first task for this AGM is to thank the fantastic team who have worked so well on your behalf and have supported me throughout the last year. I am also happy to say that the team consists of highly professional and dedicated people who have given their time freely and worked tirelessly to achieve such a great result. It is my privilege to be standing here and to be able to deliver such positive and encouraging news.

Thanks should also be noted for Andy Bothamley, Diane Scott and Ann Armstrong who have been with us all the way through this process and have been fully supportive of the initiative.

Together, as a community, we have overcome challenges and achieved great successes. Your strength and support continue to be our driving force, and I want to express my deepest appreciation for your loyalty. We owe all our shareholders and the wider community a huge thank you as we really could not have done it without you.

Not only have you been behind us throughout this journey, you supported our various fundraising events with everything from adventurous illustrated talks to a wonderful Ceilidh, but you also made sure our share offer was a huge success to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of government funding. Some have even provided professional services free of charge in a bid to ensure the success of our venture, this has been a truly humbling experience for us all.

In line with our constitution, in a little while we will all be standing down from the Management Committee and some of us will be standing again for re-election. At this point I would like to say a huge thank you to two of our committee who are not standing again, firstly we are losing John Brown, our most senior member of the team who has been involved with all three community owned businesses in one way or another and it was he who patented our logo for us. Thank you, John.

Secondly, Helena Davies has done some amazing work and has been behind our website, social media, and our publications, her design skills have set us apart by creating a strong brand and making it all look very professional. However, she cannot be expected to continue to juggle a full-time job, a young family and many other commitments. Happily, she will move sideways and remain in our Skills Pool and help when she can which is brilliant. Thank you, Helena.

Whilst it is obvious to us all the need to keep a shop and Post Office in the area, I don't think any of us imagined the strength of support we would find from within the community. And it has been with that behind us that we have been encouraged and supported along the way to where we stand now.

As of today we have 304 members owning a total of £354,911 shares. It was very important to us to create an affordable share offer, and we set a minimum share holding at £100. This amount is held by almost a quarter of our members. Every member has one vote in decisions made at the AGM, irrespective of how many shares they own. And everyone gets the chance to ask questions, as you'll know from our many public meetings throughout the year.

So - we have done what we set out to do! That was to raise sufficient funds to buy the premises and run the shop and the Post Office – all we need now is your continued support to ensure that the business thrives.

Our application to take over the Post Office and subsequent training is now coming together and that too has been a small mountain to climb but this amazing team have become very 'proficient climbers'. We have secured this facility for the future so the community will be able to continue to benefit from its amazing support hub at its heart.

This is not just a shop, this is not just a post office, it's that and so much more! It's the information centre, the ticket office, the contact point for so many organisations amongst many other things. But even more than that, it will develop, with your help over the years into an amazing community hub and whilst still providing some basic jobs, there will be many volunteering opportunities. Our plans for immediately reopening the tearoom and eventually expanding the facilities will not only benefit locals but will bring renewed life to the village and its other businesses.

There is nothing so true as the old saying, 'If it aint broke, don't fix it!', so to begin with we intend to carry on as exactly as it has been running but with the help of our volunteers and our User Group we hope to eventually enhance the present offering and provide more everyday essentials and extra niche products. We are aiming to find more local suppliers and continue to work with the other businesses in the area.

We are even more proud to be standing here and to announce that together we have achieved a rare thing and that is this amazing community, in the wilds of Cumbria, has done what we believe no one has ever done before and that is to form not one, not two but three community owned businesses in one village and the celebrate that we got together with the pub and the brewery who have produced a new beer called 'Hesket Hat Trick' and that, we hope, is to be launched today and will be available in the pub and at the shop.

Thank you again for attending today.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Philippa R Groves'. The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of 'Philippa' and 'Groves' being capitalized and prominent.

Philippa Groves, Chairperson

2 Treasurer's Report

From a financial perspective, we have had a successful first year, having achieved our key objective of raising enough money to buy the shop and post office.

This has been achieved in spite of the withdrawal of the Community Ownership Fund, which we had intended seeking grant funding from. The fund was paused when the general election was announced last year and has not been reinstated. Although we've been successful in obtaining small grants, our original intention of raising half our requirements from the COF hasn't materialised.

Our fundraising team has stepped into the breach however and have raised a staggering £21,806 across a huge variety of events, further bolstered by £19,676 in donations. Of course, the majority of these funds have been raised in the community, so once again the weight of community support lies behind these figures.

We've managed to constrain our outgoings (setup expenses, fundraising and share offer costs, website and socials etc) to £3,543, which at less than 1% of total funds raised is very pleasing.

At the year end, we hold £353,911 of share funding, and £41,557 surplus of income over expenditure.

Together with loan funding - currently being finalised - that will fall into next financial year 2025/26, we have sufficient funds to buy the shop and post office and fund initial works, stocks and salaries in line with our business plan.

To all who have participated in the financial side of our enterprise, from being a shareholder or donor, to running or supporting our fundraising - this is your achievement, and we are grateful for your ongoing commitment and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Woodham', followed by a long horizontal line.

Martin Woodham, Treasurer

3 Audited Accounts for year ending 31st March 2025

Hesket Newmarket Community Shop Limited

Administrative Information

Committee members	Philippa Groves Simon Hewitt Martin Woodham Michelle Boundy Martin Nicholson John Brown Helena Davies
Secretary	Michelle Boundy
Financial Conduct Authority Registration Number	9295
Company Number	RS009295
Date of registration	15 May 2024
Registered address	Toppin House Millhouse Hesket Newmarket CA7 8HR
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank p.l.c. 1 Balloon Street Manchester M4 4BE
Auditor	David Absalom FCA Heggle Foot Heggle Lane Hesket Newmarket CA7 8HX

Hesket Newmarket Community Shop Limited

Preparation of the Financial Statement

The Financial Statement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, and the Financial Conduct Authority's accounting and audit requirements (under RFCCBS 7).



Michelle Boundy, Secretary

21st May 2025

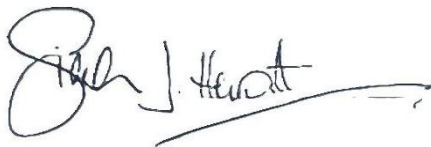
Date



Philippa Groves, Chairperson

21st May 2025

Date



Simon Hewitt, Vice-chairperson

21st May 2025

Date

In my opinion as an independent accountant:

- The Financial Statement is in agreement with the books of account kept by the Society for the year ending 31st March 2025.
- I have reviewed the Society's books of account, the member share records, the bank account statements and other documentation. I have also discussed the report with the Committee members.
- The Statement meets the requirements of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, and the Society meets the financial criteria allowing the production of this report instead of a full audit.



David Absalom FCA, Auditor

30/05/2025

Date

Hesket Newmarket Community Shop Limited

Financial Statement for year ending 31st March 2025

Receipts

Share issues	£ 353,911
Donations	£ 19,676
Fundraising	£ 21,806
Bank interest	£ 3,618
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	£ 399,011

Expenditure

Setup costs	£ 1,292
Fundraising costs	£ 1,105
Fees	£ 55
Postage	£ 183
Printing	£ 275
Running costs	£ 399
Share offer	£ 234
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	£ 3,543

Net income	<hr/>
	£ 395,468

Represented by:

Current account	£ 7,690
Deposit account	£ 387,778
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Total funds	£ 395,468

4 Audit Requirements for next year

In each year of account, a registered society must appoint one or more qualified auditors to audit its accounts and balance sheet for that year (Section 83 Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014). Small societies, with a turnover of less than £5,000, are exempt from this requirement. Societies can choose to disapply this requirement if the value of their assets and turnover are below certain thresholds, being £2.8 million and £5.6 million respectively.

The decision to disapply the requirement holds for a year, so must be decided each year. If a society does not disapply this requirement, it must have a full audit. A full audit would examine internal controls and compliance, as well as reviewing the accounts and balance sheet. A limited audit focuses on the accounts and balance sheet.

The Committee appointed a qualified auditor, David Absalom, to carry out a limited audit of the 2025 accounts and balance sheet. We're grateful to David for his time and expertise, and his ongoing support.

The Committee recommends to the members that we carry out a similar limited audit for this year's accounts (for the year ending 31st March 2026). The Committee also recommends that we appoint Dodd&Co. Accountants in Penrith as our auditors, subject to the agreement of fees.

Motion 4.1 To disapply the requirement to appoint a qualified auditor (to carry out a full audit).

Motion 4.2 To appoint Dodd&Co. Accountants in Penrith as our auditors (subject to fees).

5 Committee Elections

The following members are standing for election today:

- Philippa Groves
- Simon Hewitt
- Michelle Boundy
- Martin Woodham
- Martin Nicholson
- Garry Hobson

A short bio for each person is included in the following pages.

We can elect those standing en masse, with a single motion. If the motion isn't carried, we'll move to separate motions for each individual.

Motion 5.1 To approve the election of those listed to the Management Committee.

Philippa Groves M.B.E. F.R.S.A

Philippa trained as a ceramist in the 1970s, setting up and running her own pottery supplying local galleries and promotional work for companies such as International Spinners and The Gallaher Group. She moved into the fabrics trade in the 1980s, designing and setting up major exhibitions at Earls Court and Olympia.

Philippa later set up an equestrian business in Yorkshire, manufacturing and supplying goods to organisations such as The Metropolitan Police and Burberry where she advised and supplied all the goods for the launch of Burberry's first Equestrian line. She worked closely with the International League for the Protection of Horses and the World Farriers Association coordinating sending goods abroad to alleviate the suffering of working animals in many countries.

Mother of three sons, a doting grandmother and passionate about donkeys, Philippa moved to Cumbria in 2000 and became actively involved in the community volunteering with the Northern Fells Group, eventually becoming one of the first village agents.

A founder member of the Community First Responders team, she started her own charity, the Eden Lifeline Project, which was set up to raise funds for defibrillators in schools and village halls and to educate and train people about defibrillators.

Philippa is the Chairperson of the Castle Sowerby Parish Council. She was awarded an M.B.E. in 2021 for Services to Cumbria. She is trustee for the Northern Fells Group community charity.

Simon Hewitt

The majority of Simon's career was spent in the Civil Service where he worked for the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), and his focus has been on operational delivery.

Having successfully created and established a GB wide Centre for International Trade, Simon played a key role in modernising and reshaping the operational structure of the Agency and established four other GB wide specialist service centres delivering work on behalf of the Scottish, Welsh and English Governments. As Operational Director for APHA, Simon played a leading role in the Agency's international trade related preparations for Brexit, including working closely with Trade Unions to change existing working practices at a national level, and to implement new border control inspection regimes aimed at preventing the incursion of exotic disease.

Prior to joining the Civil Service, Simon set up and established successful retail businesses. Now retired, Simon lives with his wife and three dogs in the home they have shared in Castle Sowerby for over 35 years. He has been part of the local community since his early days in Caldbeck Young Farmers Club.

In his spare time, Simon is a mentor for young adults as part of the Prince's Trust organisation and supports a local Red Squirrel Charity by playing an active role in conserving our native red squirrels.

Michelle Boundy

Michelle has lived in Millhouse with her husband Francis since 2020, swapping London commutes for a quieter life with their dogs near the fells. The presence of a pub and a shop drew them to Hesket Newmarket.

Michelle has worked as a financial ombudsman for the last ten years and is a trained mediator. She has considerable regulatory and business management experience having set up and run two community credit unions: one as a volunteer Board Director, the other as CEO.

Michelle spent eight years working in local government in policy, program management and organisational development roles. She began her career as a geophysicist in the energy industry and holds an M.Sc. in Natural Sciences.

In her spare time, when she's not DIYing, Michelle can be found hiking on the Cumbrian fells, wild swimming or walking her dogs. She also volunteers with Caldbeck's Community First Responder team and has recently been appointed as an Independent Person for Westmorland and Furness Council.

Martin Woodham

Martin's early career was in the British Army where he attained the rank of Captain before retiring from the armed forces.

His main career was as a management consultant at IBM, where he advised large businesses on transformational programmes of work, usually related to technical implementations or outsources in areas such as retail, aerospace, engineering, distribution, government, chemicals and finance industries.

A former GP practice manager, Martin ran one of the top four highest-rated GP practices in England, rated 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission.

Having recently retired, Martin currently does some part-time consultancy work for the local out-of-hours GP service, helping to run six daytime GP practices and focusing on improving Primary Care.

In his spare time Martin has his hands full with teenage children but manages to get out in the Cumbrian fells with the dog from time to time!

Martin Nicholson

Coming from a farming background, Martin trained at Askham Bryan Agricultural College before returning to the family farm from where he established a well-known herd of pedigree Aberdeen Angus cattle.

Having achieved the appropriate technical and animal welfare related authorisations to transport livestock, alongside running the farm, Martin established and ran a successful bloodstock haulage business transporting animals across many countries.

Regularly facilitating the complex procedures involved with the export of sport horses to America, Martin managed the associated challenges of coordinating the veterinary health certification, customs declarations and airport clearances.

Prior to retiring in 2019, Martin established and ran a successful farm animal feedstuffs business at the local market before relocating to Cumbria.

Relocating to Cumbria just prior to the Covid pandemic, Martin quickly became involved with the Northern Fells Group as a Lend a Hand volunteer and found his way around the area by delivering lunches and afternoon teas from local hostelrys and deliveries of papers and groceries from the Hesket Newmarket shop.

In his spare time, Martin helps several older residents with heavier gardening and handyman odd jobs. Martin is on the Patient Participation Group for the Caldbeck Doctors Surgery.

Garry Hobson BSc (Hons) MBA

Garry trained as an engineer in the late 70's at Leeds University where he obtained an honours degree in Mechanical Engineering. His early career was with Ford Motor Company as a design engineer, before moving into the oil industry. He lived and worked in Europe as a Senior Field Engineer for four years.

He subsequently gained an MBA from Cranfield University and joined the retail motor industry where he worked for over twenty years in various roles including MD/CEO. Prior to setting up his own consultancy, Garry moved into international car leasing where he was MD for several businesses across Northern Europe. Garry's consultancy service advised Boards of Directors on internet and digital strategies.

In his spare time Garry plays squash at Penrith Squash and Racketball Club where he is Vice Chairperson. He also enjoys hiking and cycling the Cumbrian fells having moved to the area in 2022. He is a keen supporter of the blood transfusion service and has been donating blood for over 40 years.