



HESKET NEWMARKET COMMUNITY SHOP LIMITED

AGM

**Caldbeck Village Hall
Saturday 19th September 2026 11am**

Agenda:

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|---|--------|
| 1. Welcome and Chair's Report | Page 2 |
| 2. Treasurer's Report | Page 4 |
| 3. Accounts for year ending 31 st March 2026 | |
| 4. Audit Requirements for next year | Page 7 |
| 5. Committee Elections | Page 8 |
| 6. General Updates | |
| 7. Question and Answer session | |

1 Chair's Report

Welcome and thank you for attending our second Annual General Meeting for the Hesket Newmarket Community Shop.

One of my first tasks is to extend my gratitude to the fantastic team who have worked so well on your behalf and have supported me throughout the last year. I am also pleased to say that the team still consists of dedicated people who have given their time freely and worked tirelessly on your behalf.

None of us have run a Village Shop and Post Office before and it's been a very steep learning curve for us all, we are not perfect and we have made mistakes, but we are still here!

BUT between us, the committee, the staff and the volunteers, we have, in the last eight months;

- Bought the premises
- Done all the legal bits
- Found our way round processes
- Introduced a new Point of Sale system
- Sorted out bank accounts
- Established an accounts system that integrates with our PoS and bank systems
- Established a rota of volunteers
- Liaised with suppliers
- Introduced some new local products
- Opened the tearoom
- Started some of our HUB sessions
- Attended training sessions
- Applied for funding
- Put in a planning application
- Started some renovations
- Gathered numerous quotes
- And stayed sane!! (or so we think)

When we finally opened as a community business on February 3rd this year we asked Diane Scott who had worked in the shop for over 28 years and the former owner Andy Bothamley to do the honours and officially cut the ribbon on that day.

Together, as a community, we have overcome challenges and achieved great successes. It was a great honour to welcome Cumbria's Deputy Lieutenant Iona Frost Penington to the village in May this year to our official opening and to preside over the Hesket Hat Trick celebration which was a joint effort with the Brewery and the Pub and it was a lovely day. We had stalls around the green and a variety of splendid music and dancing organised by Brigid and Brian Woodall.

Diane Hawkins, HM Lord Lieutenant for Greater Manchester (and a shareholder in all three businesses) surprised us with a congratulatory note from the King who remembered fondly his previous visits to Hesket Newmarket. We have also had visits from Shirley Fawcett our High Sheriff, Sir Chris Whitty, Colin Cox, amongst others, as well as visitors from far and wide but our main customer base is you, our friends and our neighbours.

Not only have we had your support and encouragement but some of you have provided professional services free of charge to ensure the success of our venture, this has been an amazing journey. To you all, we say a huge thank you, your support continues to be our driving force, and we want to express our deepest appreciation for your loyalty.

As of today, we have 311 shareholders and it is lovely when we are visited by shareholders who don't live locally, who pop in to say hello. 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.

In line with our constitution, we will shortly be standing down from the Management Team and some of us will be standing again for re-election. As ever these things do not happen without community engagement and we are still looking for people to join us to be able to secure the longevity of this venture, we need younger (than me!) dedicated people with a passion for keeping the community alive to come forward and join the team.

We are sorry to say a farewell to our wonderful secretary, Michelle Boundy, she has been with us from the start and has been a pillar of strength for us all. She needs to concentrate on her own career now but will stay on as a volunteer and support us with the Post Office. I seriously don't think we would be here running the business as we are today if it was not for her dedication and support.

At this point I would also like to say thank you to two of our committee members who stood down earlier this year. Simon Hewitt, as most of you will know, was a driving force from the outset and without him we would never have achieved so much so soon. He is sorely missed on the team but has been filling in by doing some shifts in the shop so he is still supporting us from the sidelines. Garry Hobson also left us in the Spring and we thank them for their help and wish them both well.

With goodbyes come hellos and Judith Kent has joined us and will be standing alongside those of us standing for election today.

We are also delighted to add thanks to members of our building sub-group, David Hughes and Stephen Turner who have done so much to push forward our vision for the remainder of the building and it is down to them that we got our planning application lodged on 23rd July and a decision is set for September 18th. Initially we are looking into the work to reopen the old Post Office doorway and install a stairway to access the upper floor so we can look to renting out the flat above the shop.

Work has begun to make a purpose-built storeroom in the old kitchen and so we can further include the old freezer room into the retail area.

The post office has been run well by our manager and our post office volunteers. We now accept Amazon returns as well as an extension to some of our services. Did you realise you can buy travel cards and get your travel money delivered to the shop?

These are exciting times and we look forward to your continuing support.



Philippa Groves, Chairperson

2 Treasurer's Report

At our last meeting the headline was that we had raised enough funds to buy the shop and post office, and this year has been a year of transitioning from a fundraising, shareholder- and volunteer- recruiting organisation to becoming a small business owner.

The financial year reflects this journey, with our previous fundraising activities now focused on running the shop. What this means in financial terms is: we've spent the planned amount of shareholders funds on the purchase of the shop and its stock, we've been trading for 2 months, and so far so good.

Although we took over an operating business, we have had to set up our financial processes from scratch. This involved buying and installing a new till system - Square - and setting up our accounts using an online software package - Xero. We have over 40 suppliers and have deliveries most days - all these invoices have to be scanned into Xero, and paid. The sales information from Square feeds into Xero, along with information from our bank account about our post office income, donations and grants, and customer account payments.

It's taken several months of trading to get to the point where we have a reasonable picture of what we're spending and what we're earning. As you can imagine, processing supplier invoices and posting bank transactions is a hefty job for a treasurer, to help we've just employed a book-keeper for a few hours a week.

Trading performance

Our turnover for the year was £25,174, with a net reported profit for the full year of £11,126, which is based on all income streams – donations, fundraising, shop takings and grants. This figure is net of income tax of £4,304, of which £931 is payable in-year due to capital allowance tax deferment.

Clearly our first 2 months hardly give an indication of future performance - however we are profitable, and increasing our cash every month. We ended the year with £42,200 in the bank.

Balance sheet

Total Shareholder equity is £409,794 vs £395,468 at prior year.

We have outstanding loans of £60,000 and £5,000, with initial payments for both due on the anniversary of our start-date.

Risks and outlook

Based on 2 months trading, we are showing healthy and increasing sales and cashflow. Projecting this forwards with any accuracy is impossible without understanding the seasonal pattern, which we have no history for. However our till system is allowing us to capture sales volume on a daily basis, so we are beginning to get sound data to forecast from. We monitor our profit & loss at the start of every month.

Community benefit

The shop is still here, and so far is thriving! We're learning how to run it together, our wonderful volunteers are keeping the community service going, and we are moving forwards.

Thank you to all our shareholders, volunteers and customers for your part in making this happen, and we look forward to a successful full trading year in 26/27!

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

Martin Woodham, Treasurer

3 Accounts for year ending 31st March 2026

Please see the accompanying accounts and report produced by our accountants Saint&Co.

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 recommends to the members that we carry out a limited audit for this year's accounts (for the year ending 31st March 2027). The Committee also recommends that we appoint Saint & Co. Accountants in Wigton 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 Saint & Co as our auditors (subject to fees).

5 Committee Elections

The following members are standing for election today:

- Philippa Groves
- Martin Woodham
- Martin Nicholson
- Judith Kent

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.

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 two 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.

Martin has a BSc in Electronics and an MBA

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 Hesketh 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.

Judith Kent

Judith worked in banking for 27 years both in branch banking and a number of project management roles throughout the UK. These involved a variety of roles involving change management; customer service; staff development and European Strategy.

She has a management qualification and spent several years implementing the European quality management model and investors in people across the banking group.

Since moving back to Cumbria 20 years ago Judith has worked for a local company where she still works part time. In her spare time Judith enjoys walking the fells with her dog and gardening. She is also a Trustee of Caldbeck Surgery Charitable Fund and is currently Treasurer and Secretary.

5 General updates

To be provided verbally at the meeting.

6 Question and Answer

As per tradition, we will hold a Q&A session to allow time for everyone, members and non-members, to ask questions about anything relating to the Society.