

## **NATLAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

**Monday 29 April 2024 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall**

The Annual Parish Meeting provides an opportunity for all residents of Natland and those interested in the welfare of the community to share their views about Natland. It also provides an opportunity for village institutions and groups to report their activities to the community.

Everyone has a right to submit a motion for discussion at this meeting. These must be with the Parish Clerk Kevin Price (kevtherev7@hotmail.com) seven clear days before the meeting, so that they can be publicised on the Parish Council's notice board outside the Village Hall and on the website. However, there will also be an open forum session at which any resident can raise any matter they wish to discuss.

Our Westmorland and Furness Councillors and a member of Cumbria Police have been invited to speak or submit reports. All village organisations within the Parish are invited to send representatives to the meeting to give a brief report on their group's membership and activities during the year. There is always a section of the meeting allocated for this important exchange of information; please ensure your organisation is represented or sends a written report.

### **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR**

Council meetings are normally held on the final Monday of each month (excluding August and December) at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. All residents are cordially invited, indeed have a legal right, to attend. The Council has a procedure for electors to raise matters in person at council meetings under 'public participation'.

Four residents, Jenny Kelly, Stuart Ibbs, Philip Ball, and Mike Harkness, volunteered to join the Council in May and were coopted as new Councillors. Peter Smith was co-opted in August, which, along with Ian Ellison and Mike Clark, brought the Council to a full complement. In June Ian Ellison stood down as Chairman and in September Peter Smith was elected as Chair of the Council.

On behalf of the village, I should like to record our thanks to the retiring Councillors who stood down at the start of the year, Ian Gleave, John Houghton, Andy Hope, and Sarah Roberts, and to Ian Ellison for his service to the Community as the Chairman of the Council. And special thanks to the ever-reliable Clerk, Kevin Price.

In the 2021 census Natland civil parish had a population of about 990 living in 460 households. This is up from a population of about 796 living in 385 households in the 2011 census. This increase is probably mainly due to the Beeches development. The current figure is already larger due to the Castlesteads View development. According to Jones Homes the development to be known as Helmdale is due for completion in September. This will again raise the numbers.

This increase in the population, augmented by developments in the surrounding areas has inevitably increased the traffic in the village and along the A65. Much of the

Council's work this year has focussed on traffic issues. Councillor Mike Clark has led this work. He will present a summary of the Council's formal application for a 20mph speed limit and the work highlighting the danger of fast traffic on the A65 and the need for speed controls and pedestrian friendly measures. Councillor Stuart Ibbs will present a summary of the Council's proposals for improving the pedestrian footway on the eastern side of the Green.

You will realise that there is very little new in this work. When I started as Chair, I referred to the excellent Parish Plans of 2004 and 2014 both of which called for a 20mph speed limit. I hope that at last we will see this happen. Another long-standing aspiration from the Parish Plans is the footpath along Natland Road. This I hope will be an important part of our effort for the upcoming year. Residents have already made suggestions as to how this could be accomplished. School traffic and parking remains an unresolved issue.

The Parish Plan 2014 recognised the importance of volunteering to benefit the fabric and appearance of the Parish and importantly the welfare of the residents, there are too many examples of residents volunteering to list them all but here are just a few recent ones:

The Church organised a wide-ranging village litter-pick this month supported by a good turn-out of volunteers. However, for litter-picking a special mention must go to Josie and Martin Rushton who have collected the litter for several years along Hawes Lane and Natland Road. They deserve our special thanks.

In 2017 Pam Mansfield led a working group to raise funds to install the defibrillator at the Village Hall. The Endmoor First Responders supported this with a training session in its use. Councillor Jenny Kelly realised that new residents and forgetful older ones would benefit from a refresher course and arranged for another training session which was held in April and was fully subscribed. Jenny is also responsible for reporting problems with the network of footpaths in the parish.

Natland Community Website [natlandnews.blogspot.com](http://natlandnews.blogspot.com) continues to provide an excellent and nowadays vital service under the voluntary care of Elspeth Jayne. You are all encouraged to visit the site and see what is available, which includes information about village institutions and organisations, forthcoming events and not least the Parish Council Agendas, Minutes, and other documents.

I am fortunate to Chair a Council made up of hardworking, imaginative and committed volunteer councillors and on behalf of the whole village I should like to thank them for their voluntary service to the community.

Peter Smith – Chair of Natland Parish Council – 11 April 2024

## NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL

### Interim Receipts and Payment Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024

	£	£	£
<b>Balances at 01.04.23</b>			
Community (current) Account		5075.45	
Business Bonus (deposit) Account		5232.69	
Restricted Funds (CIL)		<u>4420.79</u>	<u>14728.93</u>
<b>Receipts</b>			
Precept - SLDC		11000.00	
Interest		64.72	
Locality Grant – Councillor Rathbone		500.00	
CIL – Westmorland & Furness Council		9564.95	
			<u>21129.67</u>
			<u>35858.60</u>
<b>Payments</b>			
Clerk's salary & PAYE (including holiday pay)		5054.86	
Grass cutting		850.00	
Donations			
North West Air Ambulance	100.00		
Great North Air Ambulance	100.00		
Kendal Mountain Rescue Team	100.00		
South Lakes CAB	100.00		
Christmas tree – Village Green	<u>45.00</u>	445.00	
Internal Auditor remuneration	70.00		
Insurance	715.55		
Maintenance	80.00		
Training	75.00		
Subscriptions			
Cumbria Assn of Local Councils	264.62		
Information Commissioner's Office	35.00		
Open Spaces Society	<u>45.00</u>	344.62	
Meetings		124.20	
Clerk's expenses		291.85	
Clerk – use of office		312.00	
Payroll administration		90.00	
VAT paid		<u>186.00</u>	<u>8639.08</u>
<b>Balances at 31.03.24</b>			
Community (current) Account		7636.26	
Business Bonus (deposit) Account		<u>5597.41</u>	
Total Non-Restricted Funds		13233.67	
Restricted Funds (CIL)		<u>13985.85</u>	<u>27219.52</u>
			<u>35858.60</u>

Kevin M. Price – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer