

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Natland Village Hall On Thursday 10th May 2018 at 7.30pm.

Welcome:

The Chair, Cllr David Peters, welcomed around 35 people, including District Councillor Chris Hogg and the Clerk Mr K M Price.

1. Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Brenda Gray, District Councillors Jonathan Brook and Douglas Rathbone, Sue Ashton, John Chandler, Ian Ellison, Meg Hill, Joan Lind, Pam Mansfield, Helen Moriarty and Angela Whittaker.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 18th May 2017:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 18th May 2017 were available in the Hall and were on the Natland website. These were taken as read and they were approved to be signed.

3. Report from the Community Police Officer: None.

4. Annual Report and Interim Accounts of the Parish Council:

These accounts were available in the Hall and were received by the meeting.

The Chair made the following comments:

- a. CCC Highways has £20,000 in their budget for the provision of a soakaway on the Village Green and a further £20,000 for a soakaway and drainage system at the Helm Lane/Robby Lea Drive junction.
- b. The road resurfacing priority should be Helm Lane from the Village Green to the farm, but he presumed that would await completion of the drainage works.
- c. CCC Highways has a much-improved system for reporting defects online which anyone can use.
- d. Significant amounts of public money were going towards the canal 'Towpath Trail' and the unsegregated shared-use footway/cycleway along A65/Burton Road, which could end up as 'white elephants', while Natland's real need - a footway (at least) along Natland Road - remains unfunded and unprogrammed.
- e. The outcome of the forthcoming Appeal by Oakmere Homes relating to land east of Long Meadow Lane would be a significant event and CCC Highways watering down its objections was disappointing.
- f. After the recent elections there were three vacancies on the Parish Council which could be filled by co-option.

5. Report from the elected County and District Councillors:

Cllr Gray's report was read by the Clerk and will be appended to these minutes in the file.

Cllr Hogg explained the recent introduction of three-member wards in SLDC and said it was early days yet for the impact to be assessed. He said that one District Councillor should be present at all Council meetings. Work continues towards the securing of funding for the projected footway from Natland to Kendal, but the cost could be as high as £300,000.

6. Reports from other Parish Institutions:

Reports were presented by Peter Barfoot (St Mark's School), Rob Davies (Appletree School), Martin Jayne (St Mark's Church), and Rhian Peters (Village Hall) and these are appended to the minutes in the file and on the blogsite..

7. Reports from other Natland-based groups:

Reports were given by:

Neighbourhood Watch (Barry Evans)

Monday Club (Barry Evans)

Midge Fairhurst (Age UK Young at Heart)

WI (Hilary Atkinson, on behalf of Joan Ratcliffe)

Cherrie Whiteley (Pre-school committee)

Table Tennis (read by the Clerk on behalf of Peter Leahy)

Brownies (read by the Clerk on behalf of Ann Tilney)

Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership (read by the Clerk on behalf of Helen Moriarty)

All these will be appended to the minutes in the file and on the blogsite.

8. Motions:

Three Motions were considered:

- a. From Natland Parish Council, that:

'This meeting would support a No Cold Calling Zone covering the whole of Natland Village'

The Chair explained that Cllr Fisher had conducted a survey of some residents and most of these were in favour of such a scheme. Upon being put to the vote, however, only four voted in favour and 18 against. The Motion was therefore lost.

b. From Guy Weller that:

' This meeting request that the Parish Council drop the proposal for a combined cycleway/footpath along Natland Road from their objectives'.

An amendment to add the words "and replace it by a footway only" at the end of the Motion was carried by 19 votes to two. The substantive Motion was then carried by 19 votes to three".

c. From Guy Weller that:

' This meeting request that the Parish Council lobbies for imposition of a continuous 40mph speed limit on Natland Road between the village northern boundary and the start of the 30mph limit in Kendal.

27 voted in favour and none against. The Motion was therefore carried.

9. Open Forum: None.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed:

Dated:

AGE UK YOUNG AT HEART GROUP

This group meets in our Village Hall on the second Monday of every month at 1.45pm for a cup of tea, a chat and activities which vary from month to month.

Next Monday, 14 May, a volunteer will be bringing his collection of board games from yesteryear so we will have a choice of games to play.

Everyone is very welcome to come and join us.

BROWNIES

Natland Brownies have many interested things in their programme. In the last twelve months we have worked on some badges, including 'Friend to Animals' 'Out and About' 'Traditions Badge'.

We also go out and about e.g. Walk over the Helm, Kendal College for a Hairdressing evening, We went to a Rolla Disco with all the other Brownie packs in Kendal, and a walk along by the river. We also had a recycle evening and the next week took all the recyclable items to the 'bins' at Asda and took the opportunity to look at Fare Trade items on sale in the supermarket.

We have also had a 'Teddy Bear's picnic', played rounders' and had a sports evening on the village green. We had a Halloween party and a Christmas Fayre and also a Christmas party. We also had a trip by train to the Beatrix Potter exhibition in Windermere.

We don't have many girls at the moment (only 11) but as long as we have girls wanting to come we will continue to meet, There has been a Brownie Pack in the village for over 50 years and we would like to keep it going for many years to come. So we are looking for new girls interested in joining us and we are also still on the lookout for adult help.

Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership

The Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership secured a Capital Improvement Grant from South Lakeland District Council in June 2017. The purpose of the grant is to improve the current Public Right of Way along the former canal, between Kendal and Natland, and increase the accessibility of the route.

The Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership nominated two partners as lead accountable bodies (The Inland Waterways Association and Cumbria County Council) to administer the SLDC grant on behalf of LCRP. The transfer agreements between these organisations are nearing completion. Once complete, LCRP will appoint a Land Agent to liaise with the relevant Land Owners to secure permissions, confirm design and set suitable timescales.

In the meantime, LCRP have progressed the following funding packages for the wider Towpath Trail project:

Secured

£1.3 million Heritage Lottery Funding - *to repair Stainton Aqueduct and deliver a 2year community activity and interpretation project together with Canal and River Trust*

£15,000 Arts Council Funding - *to create 'The Lanky' Comic Art Book*

£6,000 Inland Waterways Association Funding - *to fund a consultant led 'Access Strategy'*

Project Management contributions from LCRP membership

2nd Stage Application

Sport England £150,000 – *to improve Towpath surfaces*

Fells and Dales LEADER £50,000 - *to create a Towpath Trail brand and install new branded signage and maps on the route*

1st Stage Application / Expression of Interest

ERADF £150,000 - *to create access through Hincaster Tunnel*

Highways England - *to create A road detours near Junction 34*

Natland and Oxenholme preschool.

The preschool has been situated in the village hall for over 40 years and there has been much fun and enjoyment had by the children using this facility.

However, it has been a difficult year for the committee and some hard decisions have been taken in order to continue to provide a sustainable childcare service in the village.

With the help of Cumbria County Council and St Mark's school we have the exciting prospect of moving into a room in St Mark's school. We will continue to use the village hall and relocate at some point during the Summer Term.

Our new manager Kate Clarke, who has much experience in early years provision, is readying the staff for this change.

The preschool committee would like to thank everyone who has been involved in supporting the preschool at the village hall and hope that this will continue as we move into St Mark's school.

Natland & Oxenholme Village Hall Management Committee

The Hall continues to carry out a programme of improvements.

Work carried out so far this year:

Upgrade to toilets, including ventilation, new flooring, skylights and electric mixer taps

Ventilation to the kitchen

Tree and laurel hedge removal at rear

All doors refurbished

New stacking tables to replace old grey ones

Re-wiring of the small hall, entrance lobby and rear

Upgrade to LED lighting

This summer a large project is planned to re-roof the flat roof and replace 3 windows in the small hall. Two grant applications have been successful, and others have been submitted – we are grateful to our Chair, Sarah Roberts for her diligent work in this respect.

The Hall is well used. It is a registered charity and committee members are all Management Trustees. The land-holding of the property has now been transferred to the Official Custodian for charities, which means that it is no longer necessary to appoint land-holding trustees and keep a legal track of their resignations and appointments.

After many years at the hall, Pre-school will re-locate to St Mark's School in September. We were not able to offer additional bookings to Pre-school to accommodate the 30 hours' free care to working parents of 3-4 year olds offered by the Government. The move was not unexpected, but will have a considerable impact on our finances, freeing up a considerable amount of booking time which we hope can be filled by new groups. This will be a priority for the Committee.

The Village Hall plays a huge part in our community. Our Committee comprises 10 members, 7 appointed by their organisations, and 3 elected at the AGM. We are very grateful to Pauline Mc Donnell for stepping forward to fill the vacant post of Treasurer. Many of you here will be regular users and have enjoyed events organised by the Committee. We have room for additional members to help us make good decisions. If you're not a committee person, you could still volunteer on an ad hoc basis to help out with events, maintenance, baking cakes..... and why not support us by joining the 200 Club – for an annual subscription of £12 there are 3 draws each month, 50% goes in prizes and 50% to hall funds.

Natland and Oxenholme WI Report

The WI meets on the third Wednesday of each month, usually at 7.15 pm.
We currently have 46 members.

The monthly meetings cover a range of topics, speakers and activities, covering, for example aspects of the environment, health, skills, local history, community support and changes in farming practice. Alongside our regular meetings there are interest groups including:

Walking
Poetry
Cinema and Theatre

Members also have access to the wide range of courses, meetings and activities organised at County and National WI levels, and delegates attend the County and National Meetings.

In addition to our regular monthly meetings activities undertaken over the past 12 months include:

July 2017 An Afternoon Tea Cruise on the Canal from Lancaster. This was enjoyed so much that a number of members and their husbands went on a Quiz, Fish and Chips Cruise 3 weeks later.

August Twelve members were treated to seeing a huge collection of dolls' houses at a WI member's home in Orton, followed by lunch and a guided walk around the village.

September Various members entered successful individual and cooperative exhibits in the WI section of the Westmorland Show.

October Members supported the Natland defibrillator fundraising day at the Post Office by baking and serving cakes. A number of members heard a very interesting talk in Endmoor Village Hall, about Railway Children in India.

January 2018 A New Year lunch was enjoyed at Stonecross Manor. Members also watched a brilliant performance of 'Peter Pan' by drama students at The Box.

February Several members were lucky enough to be in the audience at a packed Burneside Institute to hear a fascinating presentation by David Joy on his family's history as Cowkeepers of Liverpool.

April We hosted the Annual Group Meeting of 70 members from our neighbouring WIs of Crosscrake, Old Hutton and Preston Patrick. We enjoyed entertainment from the *a capella* ladies' group, Pandora's Handbag, and a delicious buffet supper.

NATLAND AND OXENHOLME TABLE TENNIS CLUB,

Natland and Oxenholme Table Tennis Club has had another good season. We meet for practice on a Tuesday evening, have junior sessions on a Monday at 6 pm, followed by Kendal and District League matches at 7.30 pm, all in the Village Hall. We also held League matches in the Hall on Wednesday evenings this season. We have 37 club members, 15 of whom are juniors. We entered 5 teams in the Kendal and District League and the final league placings were as follows:

Division 1

Natland A 2nd
Natland B 7th

Division 2

Natland C 7th
Natland D 4th

Division 3

Natland E 4th

Our C Team won the League Knock Out Cup, a handicap competition. Bernard Pickthall won the Crook Veterans Tournament. We also held our own Club tournament at the Hall on Sunday 4th March. Two other Sundays were used to host League coaching days.

We are always keen to attract new players and we promote the Club through our Facebook site run by our member Louise Thomas. In the last 28 days we have reached 1000 people through this medium.

Our Chair, Carol Catnach, with husband Simon, organised a very successful Quiz Night in November. This was very well attended by local residents. The proceeds of this event have supported a subsidy of new Club shirts for next season.

The junior sessions are organised and run by our qualified coach Roger Pimblett, helped by Louise Thompson. This is a big commitment for both and we are very grateful for their hard work.

A very special thank you goes to our president Charles Usher who is stepping down this year. He and Bob Gale, our current vice chair, with a couple of others were the prime movers in setting up the club in 1978.

Many thanks to Mick Taylor who stood down from the role of secretary this year, staying on to help Peter Leahy into the role for which we were very grateful. He was a great secretary and has a wealth of knowledge about the Club. Thankfully he still advises us when needed and remains our Village Hall representative.

FUTURE:

We will be running a Summer League again this year commencing on the 22nd May and running until the end of June. It has attracted a lot of interest and is full, so we will be looking forward to some great competition over the next month or so.

Finally, new members of any standard are always welcome. Please get in touch with Peter Leahy if you are interested. Details are on the Natland website or on our club Facebook page.

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL – NATLAND **Update from the County Councillor.**

I regret that I am not able to be at Natland Parish Council's annual meeting this year. Natland has a pro-active parish council that looks after the interests of the residents very well, supported by an efficient and friendly clerk.

Cumbria County Council is continuing to modernise and streamline the working practices of the council so that it can make the best possible use of an ever decreasing budget. Half the budget will be spent on social care and staff costs. The next largest cost demand areas are highways and waste disposal.

The CCC Local Committee for South Lakeland decided to spend more on dealing with drainage which is gradually improving the situation. However, as with a domestic budget, pennies can only be spent once so a balance needs to be achieved if potholes etc. are also to be filled.

Very good news for South Lakeland is that as long as the MBT (Mechanical and Biological Treatment) plant is working none of our waste is going to landfill. It is either recycled or goes to the MBT plant. The small residue from the MBT process is re-used.

In addition to these three main responsibilities, Cumbria County Council supports those activities concerned with public safety and healthy lifestyles and also fosters economic opportunities and apprenticeships both with CCC and partners.

Natland Neighbourhood Watch Report 2017/18

We in the village are fortunate to experience low levels of crime which means that our Neighbourhood Watch is not overburdened. We function quietly in the background and one of our main functions is to pass on email alerts received from Cumbria police, fire service, Neighbourhood Watch Cumbria and N W at national level.

Our Natland N W members pass on to their immediate neighbours such messages as are appropriate. Typical examples are two messages I received today, the first warning of the attempted circulation of £50 notes, the second being the latest N W national newsletter.

Natland Monday Club Report 2017/18

The Monday Club is a social group which meets on the third Monday of the months September to June. Two of those meetings are to enjoy a Christmas and a summer lunch, the remaining eight, here in this hall at 2 pm are to be entertained by a speaker, followed by a cuppa and biscuits over a chat with friends. There is also a popular bookstall.

Our June meeting this year is lunch at the Netherwood Hotel, Grange-over-Sands. We then resume at 2 pm on the third Monday of September. Anyone wishing to join us then to see if it's for them will be most welcome.

A Report on behalf of St Mark's Church for the Annual Parish Meeting 2018

Another busy year! In addition to regular worship on Sundays and Thursdays there have been study groups, Sunday School, work with St Mark's CE School and Appletree, pre-school, the Brownies and Age UK. The monthly Coffee Mornings continue to flourish helping to raise money for charities (or to boost church funds) and providing a time, space and opportunity to get together and talk. Other fundraising and social events have filled our diaries very nicely too.

Last year we mentioned that the tower roof needed some attention in addition to other roof works and work to the gutters and downpipes. In December the church clock stopped working, much to the concern of many, and could not be repaired on site. Scaffolding, and teams of workers on site Monday to Friday, perhaps show us that work is currently underway to address all of these concerns, and is progressing well. This would not be possible without a lot of time given by various members of the church community to consider these works and the way ahead – and of course excellent fundraising efforts, donations and a generous legacy.

As part of the wider Church we have been involved in various diocesan initiatives including Moving Mountains and Mission Community consultations. Both have helped us, or are helping us, to think creatively about how to be and to share good news. The latter also forces us to acknowledge that we live in changing times and that we may have to do some things differently in the future.

We very much value the support and encouragement given to us by so many, and amongst that support with paying for the churchyard to be mowed. I hope you agree the churchyard looks lovely.

Do come and join in the things we do. Or simply come and be.... St Mark's Church offers a community of faith to be part of, but also a physical place ie. the building for peace and reflection.

Appletree School

Appletree School and Residential Home was opened in 1995. We look after boys and girls aged between 6 and 12 years.

Our Mission is to help support traumatised young children whose lives have been severely disrupted to grow socially and emotionally and learn to cope with school. We help them to return to families and day schools before they reach their teenage years.

Appletree continues to work closely with St Mark's School with Children gaining valuable mainstream experiences which helps prepare them for a move to families. Three of our children who have attended St Mark's during the last year have recently been informed that they will be moving to foster carers and attending mainstream schools.

It was lovely to be a part of the Natland Lantern Procession on Remembrance Night with children from both schools performing a dance on the village Green. In January four of the Appletree children joined the St Mark's School choir and performed in the Young Voices event at Manchester Arena in a choir of more than 7000 children. A couple of Appletree children will join the St Mark's School Council for what has now become an annual trip to the House of Commons in June.

Our children joined St Mark's School for the Harvest Festival Service at the church. Angela is very supportive and has attended school events. It is wonderful for our children that Natland provides so many opportunities for them to feel part of a community. I would like to say a big thankyou to residents for being nice when they are in the village.

Appletree children and staff will be in the Village and on the Helme picking up litter on Friday the 6th of July. This is in support of The Great Cumbrian Litter Pick. Please feel free to join us if you have the time.

Notes for Verbal Report to Natland Parish Council AGM Thursday 10th May 2018

Pupils

- 174 on roll. Some movement for a variety of reasons in and out of school. Numbers remain more or less static. We have been allocated 20 in our intake to Reception class in September. This number is likely to increase.

Staff

- This year a long serving member of staff, Elspeth Mujerji, who had worked as a class teacher and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, left us to re-train in Waldorf-Steiner education. A class teacher has taken on the role of SENDCo one day per week.

Building

- We completed a major re-furbishment of our external drainage in the Summer of 2017. The pipework dated back to the original 1967 build and was beginning to crack and cause blockages.
- We are currently waiting for the outcome of a bid for funds for a 2 phase project to replace the original heating system throughout the older parts of the school building. This is very timely as we had a winter with 3 classrooms requiring the hire of extra electrical heaters after a failure of part of the system.

Projects

- We have been working closely with the Kendal Collaborative Partnership, an association of all the schools in Kendal, to improve our Maths teaching. Known as Mint Maths this is a new approach to the teaching of maths involving more hands on activity, problem solving and reasoning and trying to get the children to talk more than the teacher !

Sport

- Team participation and individual achievement at a high level in a range of sports.

Activities

- We have had a range of extra-curricular activities on offer for different groups of children throughout the year. These have included Craft, Construction, Table Tennis, Cross Country, Chess, Uno, Cricket and Knitting.
- Our choir of 45 joined over 6,000 other children from schools in the North West to take part in the national Young Voices event at the Manchester Arena. All the participating school choirs had learned a set of songs in the preceding weeks and we then came together to perform as one massed choir. It is a truly memorable experience.

Community

- We continue to develop our excellent relationships with local groups in the village. This is particularly the case with Appletree School. We have offered mainstream class experience to four different pupils during the year, shared in joint professional development opportunities and worked together on the dance piece performed as part of the Lighting Up the Natland Night event which this year was bigger than ever.
- It was good to get involved in the fund-raising initiative for the village defibrillator, now installed outside the Village Hall. Many of our children took part in a sponsored 'run an extra mile' which raised over £800.
- Our choir performed at Christmas for residents of the Kendal Care Home.
- A group from the older year groups choreographed and original dance piece for a performance in march as part of the at the Brewery Arts Centre Dance Platform.

Celebrations

- In June 2017 we celebrated 50 years of St Mark's School on its current site.

The Future

- We are working hard to prepare for the Natland and Oxenholme Pre-School to begin offering their provision on the school site. We have made a room available, establishing a new ramp and dedicated entrance and will lease this space to the Pre-School, which will remain an independent organisation separate from school and registered directly with Ofsted. This is a big change for the village and the Village Hall in particular, but the need to offer 30 hours per week in the form of full days care has led to the move. If parents do not use the provision in the village then the Pre-School would not be viable and, in turn, the school roll would suffer.