

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Natland Village Hall On Thursday 16th May 2019 at 7.30pm.

Welcome:

The Chair, Cllr David Peters, welcomed around 20 people, including most of the Parish Councillors and the Clerk Mr K M Price.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard White, District Councillors Jonathan Brook, Chris Hogg and Douglas Rathbone, Jenny Brindle, John Chandler, Barry Evans, Martin Jayne, Judy Sharps and Marion Want.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 10th May 2018:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 10th May 2018 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. The Community Governance Review of South Lakeland. The Council is to finalise its response at the next meeting, the deadline being 26th May. Affected residents have been contacted very recently by SLDC to ascertain their views.
- b. The forthcoming Public Inquiry into an Appeal following refusal of planning permission for up to 26 dwellings on land north of Natland Mill Beck Lane. The Council will need to consider whether to make any further comments or to take part in the Inquiry.
- c. Two further co-options to the Council have taken place and there is now only one vacancy which can be filled by co-option.

5. 'Care for the Community of Natland':

This has been an agenda item at recent Council meetings and Councillor John Houghton introduced the topic.

Natland would like to be a 'Dementia-friendly community' but it is probably not possible to set up new schemes for this as these are provided nearby in Kendal.

Questions put to the meeting included

- a. What does the village need in this respect?

- b. What currently exists?
- c. What can be done about it?

Various agencies work together and it was felt that this may be sufficient, providing very good, albeit informal, care in the community. Assistance is given with driving, shopping and hospital visits, through the Women's Institute, Neighbourhood Watch and various individuals.

6. Reports from the elected County and District Councillors:

No reports had been submitted.

7. Reports from other Parish Institutions:

Reports were received from St Mark's School (Peter Barfoot), Appletree School (Rob Davies), Natland & Oxenholme Village Hall (Rhian Peters), and St Mark's Church (read by the Clerk on behalf of Martin Jayne) and these will all be appended to the minutes in the file and on the blogsite.

8. Reports from other Natland-based groups:

Reports were given by:

Neighbourhood Watch (read by the Clerk on behalf of Barry Evans)

Monday Club (ditto)

WI (read by the Clerk on behalf of Marion Want)

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

Blogsite (Elspeth Jayne)

Natland & Oxenholme Pre-School (read by Peter Barfoot on behalf of Fiona Renkin)

Yoga (read by the Clerk on behalf of Jenny Brindle)

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

9. Motions received:

No Motions had been received.

10. Open Forum:

- a. Ian Ellison referred to the removal of the light at the southern end of the footway outside St Mark's School on Oxenholme Lane, opposite the Vicarage. The Chair said the Council is currently investigating the latter via SLDC.
- b. Ian Ellison said that traffic calming/possible 20mph speed limit is necessary on Natland Road and Sedgwick Road. There are also excessive speeding on Oxenholme Lane. The Chair said the Council is already in discussion with CCC Highways concerning issues of speeding and road safety in general is being considered by the Council.

- c. The railway bridge on Helm Lane is still causing flooding on the lane, despite many attempts to have this dealt with. The Clerk to extract previous correspondence from the files and take the matter up again with Network Rail.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed:

Dated:

REPORTS:

St Mark's CE Primary School, Natland

Pupils

160 on roll at the beginning of the year. Lower than in recent years after a large cohort transferred to secondary school and a small cohort began in the Reception class. We have welcomed 7 pupils moving from other local schools for a variety of reasons in recent months. Current pupil roll is 167. We have been allocated 22 in our intake to Reception class in September and hope that this number will increase.

Staff

Mr Fonth, who worked in our Year 6 class for two years, left the staff team in August 2018. The role has been shared this year between two part-time temporary teachers. Following the transfer from another school in the new year of a child with specific needs we have taken on more Teaching Assistant hours, employing local resident, and very experienced special needs teacher, Mrs Watson.

Building

We have been successful in bidding for government funding over two successive years through the LCVAP scheme for Church of England schools to upgrade and improve the heating system throughout the school. Phase 1 was completed in October 2018 and the second phase is due for completion in the long summer break 2019.

Projects

The Natland and Oxenholme Pre-School is now well established on-site, with the school leasing a dedicated classroom and outside area to the setting. The school is benefitting hugely from the increase in numbers of children transferring from the Pre-school to the Reception Class. The Pre-School children benefit from having access to school facilities, events and grounds, making the relationship mutually positive with greater collaboration yet to develop.

Sport

In September 2018 we were awarded Gold in the Sainsbury's School Games award scheme. This reflects the wide range of sporting activities offered and the high levels of participation across the school. We are still running the Mile a Day programme, and all of our Reception children having been awarded their 100 mile medals already earlier this year.

Activities

We have had a range of extra-curricular activities on offer for different groups of children throughout the year. These have included Origami, Construction, Football and Dodgeball, Cross Country, Chess, Cricket and Choir.

Once again our choir of 40 joined over 7,000 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 learn a set of songs in the preceding weeks and then come together to perform as one massed choir. It is always a truly memorable experience, this year's highlight was the sequence of songs from the Greatest Showman, led by former Spandau Ballet frontman Tony Hadley.

Community

We continue to develop our relationships with local groups in the village. Our work with Appletree School continues to develop with joint events, projects and staff training.

The Lighting Up the Natland Night event in November 2018 was a great success, with more people joining us and more lanterns lighting up the night than ever before. This year's theme was 'peace'.

As last year, a group from the older year groups choreographed an original dance piece for a performance in March as part of the Dance Platform event at the Brewery Arts Centre. They built their incredibly moving piece around the inspirational experience and story of Mulala Yousafzai who survived an direct attack by the Taliban.

Celebrations

We use St Mark's Church to celebrate key times in the church and school calendars. Celebrations this year have included Harvest (with produce from our own school garden, known as the 'Hidden Haven'), Christmas and Easter, this year led by children from our Year 4 class. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War we held our own Remembrance service.

Our Book Week this year was a celebration of poetry which culminated in an 'Off by Heart' poetry competition featuring children from each year group in school reciting and, in some cases, fully performing, a range of poems from past and present.

The Future

The St Mark's PTA is currently on track to raise over £20,000 for the re-development of the outside playground space. We are hoping to create:
a large shelter area with seating and planters
a fenced multi-use games area (MUGA)
new playground markings to encourage movement, games and learning.

Appletree School

Appletree 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 before they reach their teenage years. We provide a home and school for boys and girls between the age of 6 and 12. At the last meeting I spoke about the children being involved in the "Great British Tidy". The children and school staff completed a litter pick in the village. Some of the Natland residents joined in and talked to the children which was lovely to see. Since the last meeting five of our children have moved on to foster carers or biological families. Three of those children returned to mainstream schools. Two of our children have recently received news that foster carers have been identified for them. They are very excited about moving on and will leave Appletree at the end of the summer term.

We continue to work closely with St Mark's School and are very appreciative of their ongoing support. In February Appletree Children joined St Mark's at the Manchester Arena for the Young Voices event with thousands of children from around the country. Fortunately this year as I did not attend they were not subjected to my singing. Some of our children joined St Mark's for an Easter Service at the church. In June two of the Appletree children will make the long train journey to London with St Mark's School Council. They will on their return have the opportunity to discuss what they learned from their time in the House of Commons.

Recently we have been joined by three boys all aged 7 from as far south as Cornwall. We hope that with our love and support they will move on from us within a couple of years, allowing them to have the remainder of their childhood in a family home.

Natland & Oxenholme Preschool:

We are pleased to report that Natland still has preschool provision located within the Village at a time when Kendal has seen so many nursery closures.

After changes to government funding and policy, Natland & Oxenholme Preschool was forced to find alternative premises, being unable to offer 30 hours a week at the Village Hall where it has been for so many years.

We were delighted that a classroom became available at the right time at St. Mark's Primary School and that funding from Cumbria County Council was provided to enable necessary alterations to be done in a timely manner.

The move took place in June 2018 and the Preschool has been open for over 30 hours per week since September, offering Early Years education to over 25 families thusfar.

The Preschool Trustees would like to acknowledge the Village Hall for allowing us to have a home there for so many years.

The Preschool Trustees would also like to thank everyone from the Community who helped with the move and supported us through the transition to School. We also thank Cumbria County Council Early Years Department, The Cumbria Community Foundation, The Frieda Scott Charitable Trust, The Hadfield Trust and James Cropper Plc.

St Mark's Church:

The major item to report from the Parish Church is that it is now in a great state of repair thanks to a large legacy from an Old Boy of the former St Mark's Boys Home. Villagers will have been interested to see last summer's scaffolding and then not see much difference beyond the new lime mortar pointing! But a lot was done out of sight; the entire tower roof was rebuilt with new lead guttering replacing the old leaky ones which were beginning to cause rot in the timbers. The flagpole is now firmly attached to the tower turret and not sticking up through the roof and allowing water in. Roof Gutters all around the church have been repaired or replaced as necessary and painted to look as new. Other lead areas of roof have been repaired and are now covered by Close Circuit Television security cameras linked to a 24 hour monitoring station. Anyone on the roof in the future is likely to be up to no good and if anyone sees someone up there, call the police. Kirkby Lonsdale and Kendal Parish Churches have lost lead to thieves in the past year and these are town centre buildings.

The churchyard is in very good order and we are grateful for the Parish Council sharing in the cost of keeping the grounds looking so well. We are also grateful to parishioners who help in keeping our church active and our church building beautiful and who support our coffee mornings and other social events which help to keep our community lively.

Our Vicar is on sabbatical study leave at the moment and when she returns she will be taking on the responsibility for training a new full time curate who will be ordained at the end of June, busy times ahead.

Natland & Oxenholme Village Hall – Annual Report (2018-2019)

The village hall's management committee continues to meet monthly. The committee includes both representatives of Hall user groups and directly elected members. There are vacancies for additional committee members to be elected at the hall's AGM in May 2019.

Keeping the hall in operation for the benefit of the whole community relies on many local volunteers who give their time and skills to maintain the hall and assist with fund-raising events. Their help is much appreciated and without them the financial challenges would be significantly greater. A recent initiative was the launch of 'Friends of the Village Hall' to provide hall news and feedback to the community and tap into the pool of potential volunteer talent in Natland and Oxenholme.

The hall has continued to be used by many village groups and societies, as well as other groups with wider catchment. It was also used as a Polling Station for the local election in May 2018. However there was a major reduction in hall usage when, after many years, the local Preschool moved to premises co-located with Natland primary school. This created an immediate 30% shortfall in hire income, with new bookings sought to utilise the vacated time and other initiatives sought to boost the hall's income.

During refurbishments undertaken in 2017, deficiencies in the flat roof of kitchen and toilet areas were identified. Plans were initiated in January 2018 to replace the roof during summer 2018, and despite news of the imminent drop in regular income these plans went ahead, substantially assisted by funding from Frieda Scott Trust, Cumbria Community Foundation, Harold & Alice Bridges Charity, a Cumbria County Council Community grant, and funding already promised by Hadfield Trust in March 2018.

The hall now has a cosy flat roof and some new windows including an opening window to provide ventilation in the small hall. The back door and rear windows were repainted in the autumn, and other minor improvements undertaken during the year included fitting of a glazed fire door to the kitchen, installation of some cycle stands and replacement of a cumbersome serving hatch shutter. Planning has already started for re-decoration of the entrance lobby later in 2019.

As in previous years the committee organised a Craft Fair, an Art Exhibition of works by local artists, and again provided teas for the village's Open Gardens day in July 2018. These events and the 200 Club subscriptions raised additional funds for the hall.

(agreed by Village Hall Management Committee (8 April 2019)

Natland Monday Club

The club is a social group of some 55 members who meet in the village hall on the third Monday of each month with the exceptions of July and August.

Meetings feature a speaker on eight of the ten occasions each year, the other two being a Christmas Lunch, followed by entertainment and a summer event which varies in both location and content.

Membership currently costs £12 per person per annum and includes tea or coffee and biscuits at each of the eight meetings. There is also an inexpensive second – hand book club.

New members and guests are welcome and details of each meeting are displayed on the Post Office notice board, online on the Natland News blogspot and in the parish magazine. Just turn up on the day.

Neighbourhood Watch:

Natland Neighbourhood Watch continues to operate quietly in the background of the village life. Fifteen members are linked into Neighbourhood Watch Cumbria and National NHW. Security messages warning of such activities as theft from domestic and business premises in surrounding areas are received from Cumbria Police.

Information is available about how to improve the security of your home or how to report suspected crime anonymously to the charity Crimestoppers should you so wish.

We have two vacancies due to former residents no longer living in Natland. If there is anyone with an interest in our work and would like more information please contact the Co-ordinator for Natland, Barry Evans on 015395 60382.

WI:

Natland and Oxenholme WI is part of the Cumbria/ Westmorland Federation of WI's. We meet on the third Wednesday each month , in Natland and Oxenholme Village Hall at 7.30pm. We have at present 47 members. We have interesting and varied programmes throughout the year, with August being our holiday month. We have speakers each month, with a little bit of entertainment at the Christmas meeting, where we also bring "Christmas Presents" to be delivered to the Riverside Residential Home. In August last year we had our annual outing and visited Holker Hall. This year we plan to go further afield and visit Raby Castle Co. Durham. In April we hosted an Easter Coffee Morning in the village hall, complete with a show of 'Easter Bonnets' we were very pleased to end with a worthwhile profit, enabling us to make a donation to the village hall. Last year we competed successfully at the Westmorland County Show. We obtained a first for our co-operative entry of "Sweet Biscuits" and a second for our co-operative staging of "An Inspirational Woman". We also had many individual entries who also gained the highest points in various categories. This year we are very enthusiastic to enter again, and plans have been set in motion already. We have a poetry group, who meet once a month, a walking group who meet once a month between March and October. We now also have a newly formed craft group. In Early October we plan to have an Autumn/Winter fashion show to display the new collection by Kitty Brown Boutique of Carnforth. We will be taking part in the village fete in June, and In November we have our AGM when we nominate and elect our President and Committee for the following 12 months. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Yoga:

A yoga class takes place at the village hall on Fridays 10-11.15am. Yoga is becoming increasingly popular due to its benefits for both mind and body. I specialise in teaching local community classes and offering options to suit all, including those who are older or not so fit. My classes in other villages are going well but the Natland class could do with a few more members - so if anyone has ever thought about trying yoga, they would be very welcome to come along for a free trial class.

(It is understood that this class has since closed)

NATLAND AND OXENHOLME TABLE TENNIS CLUB,
REPORT FOR VILLAGE MEETING 16th MAY 2019

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 have 37 club members, 14 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 3rd
Natland B 9th relegated

Division 2

Natland C 2nd promoted
Natland D 3rd
Natland E 6th

Our E Team won the League Knock Out Cup, a handicap competition. We also held our own Club tournament at the Hall on Sunday 3rd March.

We are always keen to attract new players and we promote the Club through our Facebook site run by our member Louise Thomas. 6 people messaged the page over the last year resulting in 3 new members

Our Chair, Carol Catnach, with husband Simon, again organised a very successful Quiz Night in November supported by Club members and local residents. Last season we used the proceeds of the quiz night to support a subsidy for new Club shirts. We have also purchased some new nets. Going forward we plan a programme of table replacement, upgrading to rollaway/foldaway tables.

Congratulations to our President, Bob Gale OBE, who won the North West "Contribution to Table Tennis Award" organised by Table Tennis England. Bob is a founder member of our Club and has been active in Cumbria table tennis since the 1960's holding many senior offices.

FUTURE:

We will be running a Summer League again this year commencing on the 21nd 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.