

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm
On Monday 27th September 2021

21/98 Present:

Cllr David Peters in the Chair, Cllrs Clark, Houghton, Rhian Peters, Roberts and White, District Councillors Jonathan Brook and Doug Rathbone, and Parish Clerk Kevin Price.

The Chair said the meeting was being recorded and this would be deleted once the minutes had been written up.

21/99 Public participation: None.

21/100 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest made in respect of any matters on the agenda.

21/101 SLDC and CCC reports from the elected representatives:

Councillor Rathbone reported as follows:

- a. Planning application SL/2021/0383 could come before SLDC Planning Committee on 28th October. Further comments have appeared on the planning portal but there are no substantive changes to the application.
- b. The offer from Councillor's Rathbone's SLDC allowance towards the provision of a new notice board, still stands, if needed.

Councillor Brook reported as follows:

- a. The closing date for comments on the SLDC Local Development Plan Review has been extended to 29th October.
- b. The Unitary is expected to come into being in 2023, with a shadow Council being in place from 2022. Discussion continues regarding the name of the new Authority and the number of Councillors.

21/102 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 26th July 2021 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

21/103 Matters arising:

(minute 21/77b refers). The Clerk has now received an acknowledgement from CADENT, but nothing else as yet. He will continue to follow this matter up and also ask CCC Highways again regarding the reinstatement of the affected sections of the road.

21/104 SLDC Local Plan Review: Issues and Options Consultation:

It was agreed to submit the Council's response to this consultation, using the online survey form. Application will not be made for the de-allocating of the Home Field site. The Chair was delegated to submit the response as discussed and agreed.

21/105 Proposed memorial seat:

A request has been received for the siting of a memorial seat in the village. The Council discussed the matter and agreed that it would be acceptable in principle to install a seat, provided and paid for by the family concerned, beside the bus stop outside No 2 Charnley Fold, subject to following the process of obtaining a permit from CCC to place a seat in the highway. The Council will need details of the proposed seat for its own agreement and for CCC's permit. CCC will require the Council to own and be responsible for the seat and this Council will need to formally minute its agreement before the permit is issued; it is hoped that can be at the next meeting on 29th November. The Clerk will ask the applicant to provide details of the seat that is proposed.

21/106 Natland Post Office:

Since the last meeting, SLDC has confirmed its belief that a 'change of use' planning application is required and has advised the 'customer' to submit a Lawful Development Certificate so that an officer can determine whether that belief is correct, but, as yet, nothing has appeared. The Clerk agreed to communicate further with James Harkness and SLDC, asking that this process be followed.

The Clerk has received a response from the Post Office indicating that the closure was only temporary. He has not yet received a reply from Royal Mail regarding the post box.

The Village Hall Management Committee has agreed to the re-siting of the Council's notice board and a possible community notice board on the wall of the Hall.

The Chair agreed to visit the 'Sign Man' in Kendal to obtain a quotation for a new (locked) Council notice board and a new (open access) community notice board, bearing in mind the kind offer of assistance from Councillor Rathbone.

21/107 Helm Lane grit/salt bin:

(minute 21/81c refers) Following further discussion it was resolved to request the removal of this bin, rather than its replacement.

21/108 Code of Conduct:

The 2021 Code of Conduct for SLDC had been circulated to all Councillors and the Council was asked to consider its adoption.

Upon being put to the vote, the voting was three for the proposal to adopt the new Code of Conduct and three against. The Chair has a second vote in such circumstances. He pointed to the convention of using the Chair's casting vote impartially in order to leave the question open for future consideration, and voted against adoption. Therefore the SLDC Code will be disregarded as the Present Code of Conduct this Parish Council operates under is perfectly compliant with the Law.

21/109 Reports:

Highwayman: Councillor David Peters reported as follows:

- a. (minute 21/91c refers). (Concern was raised regarding two flights of concrete steps installed at Helm Lane by Network Rail for their workers safety; it was felt that the guard rail at the foot of the steps is rather close to the carriageway). It was resolved to ask CCC Highways if they are aware of this issue. The Parish Council has a neutral view.
- b. Following enquiries with CCC Highways, it had been confirmed that Rochester Gardens is a private estate and signs that have appeared there are not the concern of CCC Highways.

Footpaths: Councillor Rhian Peters reported as follows:

- a. The broken stile on the canal footpath from Larkrigg has been replaced by a new kissing gate.
- b. The canal path from Natland Road to Burton Road will be out of action for five weeks some time after 1st October, but a section will be kept open as long as possible.

21/110 Planning:

It was noted that application SL/2021/0383 (Land west of Sedgwick Road, Natland. 29 dwellings along with associated infrastructure) has not yet been decided. The following comments in respect of this application were submitted to SLDC under the Clerk's delegated authority:

'The Council does not wish to amend its previous response. However, the Council notes the continued absence of information about street lighting and about the accesses onto Sedgwick Road and wishes to re-emphasise the need to radically alter the C5071 Sedgwick Road in order to create adequate visibility splays and a continuous footway along the east side between St Mark's Fold and Town End Court. The Council is keen to be involved in any discussions about how that might be achieved'.

21/111 Finance:

a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

HRMC	£221.20	PAYE
T Flitcroft	£90.00	Annual charge for Payroll Administration

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

21/112 Correspondence (including emails and phone calls):

SLDC has notified the Council that Natland Village Green has been removed from the SLDC's Community Asset Register, under the provisions of the Localism Act 2013, as the five year period has now expired. The Council resolved to request that it be reinstated onto the Register for a further period.

21/113 Open Forum:

An agenda item for a future meeting will be to discuss the Parish Elections due in 2022 and the need to recruit new Councillors.

21/114 Date and place of the next meeting:

Monday 29th November 2021 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall.

(it was resolved to cancel the meeting planned for 18th October 2021)

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:

Dated: