

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm
On Monday 29th November 2021

21/115 Present:

Cllr David Peters in the Chair, Cllrs Clark, Houghton, Rhian Peters and Roberts, District Councillor Doug Rathbone, one member of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor White and received from District Councillor Jonathan Brook.

21/116 Public participation: None.

21/117 Declarations of Interest:

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

21/118 SLDC and CCC reports from the elected representatives:

Councillor Rathbone reported as follows:

- a. The government review of plans for the new Unitary Authority has indicated that there will be 65 Councillors; Natland will continue in the same Electoral District and will have two members of the 'shadow' Authority.
- b. Planning application SL/2021/0383 - a date is not yet fixed for this application to come before SLDC Planning Committee, but it could be in December.
- c. The offer from Councillor Rathbone's SLDC allowance towards the provision of a new notice board still stands, if needed. An indication has also been received from Councillor Hogg that £500 is available from his allowance.

21/119 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 27th September 2021 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

21/120 Matters arising:

- a. (minutes 21/77b and 21/103 refer). There has been no further correspondence from CADENT or from CCC Highways regarding reinstatements.
- b. (minutes 21/81c and 21/107 refer). The removal of the grit/salt bin on Helm Lane has been requested. It was reported that this has recently been filled up.
- c. (minutes 21/91c and 21/109a refer). There has been no response from CCC Highways yet regarding the two flights of concrete steps at Helm Lane.
- d. (minute 21/112 refers). The request to SLDC to reinstate Natland Village Green onto the Register of Community Assets is being processed.

21/121 Natland Post Office:

A response had been received from James Harkness (minute 21/106 refers) informing the council that whilst no specific plans for the Post Office have yet been decided, the Council will be kept informed and the necessary planning processes followed.

Planning permission (PN/2021/0094) had been granted for the post box to be moved to a new location on the Village Green, although the Council had not been notified of this application, nor had a notice been displayed; this was under Schedule 6 of the Post Office Service Act 2000 and no additional consent is required.

However, the Council considers that the Village Green is not a 'street' within the meaning of the 2000 Act, so it was agreed that both the Landowner and the Parish Council would be required to give their consent if the Village Green was to be considered as a site for the post box. On balance, the Council would prefer the south-west corner to be used. The Clerk agreed to communicate this to Royal Mail.

21/122 New notice boards outside Village Hall:

Quotations from *The Sign Man* for a Council notice board and a community notice board were considered and it was resolved to purchase two boards, for the outside wall of the Village Hall, the right hand board to be for Parish Council notices.

It was resolved that these will be paid for using the CIL funding, although the Council expressed its thanks for the kind offers of assistance from Councillors Hogg and Rathbone.

21/123 Proposed Taylor memorial seat:

(The business of the Council was suspended to allow the applicant to speak to the Council)

An objection had been made by a resident against the proposed siting of the seat and it was felt that a compromise was appropriate and an alternative site was suggested. It was also suggested that a tree might be planted as a memorial instead. It was mutually agreed that this be deferred for the time being, while an alternative proposal is considered.

21/124 Inglesfield Memorial seat:

It was resolved that:

- a. Natland Parish Council proceeds towards replacing the existing Inglesfield memorial seat on the Village Green with a new low-maintenance alternative, using its CIL funding to cover the cost of purchase with a memorial plaque, and installation.
- b. The seat should be a Phoenix recycled material seat by Glasdon, in Enviropol.

Councillor Rhian Peters agreed to request a quotation from Simon Pinch for fitting the seat.

21/125 Flooding on Abbey Drive:

A letter had been received from a resident, asking for the Council's support in the request, sent to CCC Highways, for the soakaway on Abbey Drive, which is full, to be replaced. In heavy rain, or just persistent average rainfall, a pond forms at the base of their drive and that of their neighbours. This has been the case for years but has worsened latterly. CCC has cleared out the gullies a few times, most recently in October and the problem has been reported on numerous occasions. The Council agreed to endorse this request. The Clerk will contact CCC Highways and copy to Councillors Gray and Rathbone.

21/126 Parish Elections 2022:

It was resolved to distribute a flyer in January, advertising for new Councillors, prior to the May 2022 Parish Election. The way forward will be considered at the next meeting - as things stand at present, the Council could be reduced to its quorum of three Councillors.

21/127 Reports:

- a. Highwayman: No report.
- b. Footpaths: No report.

21/128 Planning:

- a. The following application was considered and approval recommended:

SL/2021/1019 Deva, 5 Hawes Lane, Natland. Demolition of existing single rear story extension & erection of 2 story rear extension.

- b. SL/2021/0383 The recent appearance on the SLDC website of documents from the applicant relating to the St Mark's Fold Section 38 Agreement (relevant to visibility splays from the footway on the Home Field side of Sedgwick Road) and the response from CCC (as the Highways Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority) recommending approval with conditions is a significant moment and may speed up progress, possibly towards a Committee decision on 16th December 2021.

It was resolved to contact SLDC with the following:

"The Council wishes to comment on recently published documents regarding SL/2021/0383, including the 23/11/21 response from CCHLLFA.

The Council notes references to the 29/9/2000 Section 38 Agreement (of which the Council has a certified copy but no record of the re-negotiated Agreement of 2013) in respect of the St Mark's Fold development by Russell Armer Limited.

With regard to the footway created along the west side of C5071 Sedgwick Road, the Agreement specifies 2.0m x 70.0m visibility splays onto the C5071 and that the existing hedge between the footway and the carriageway be reduced in height to 900mm where within the visibility splays. How that height should be measured - above footway or above carriageway - was not specified.

The suggestion (in recent postings by the applicant and seemingly accepted by the CCHLLFA response) that the stone wall at the Appletree entrance that obstructs visibility to the south is "within the control of the applicant and/or the highway authority" should be checked with the current owners of Appletree (whoever they may be - it was formerly owned by the then Church of England's Children's Society, a party to the 2000 S38 Agreement as owner of the Home Field).

Adoption of the St Mark's Fold highways, including the footway along Sedgwick Road, took place on 16/10/13. CCC cuts the footway hedge once a year, mainly to reduce obstruction to pedestrians. Most of the year the hedge within the visibility splays is well above the specified maximum height. On the evidence of this chronic failure by CCC to maintain the visibility splays it agreed for the footway, the Council is concerned about the Authority's ability to maintain the specified visibility splays for the new development's accesses.

So there is a need to design easily-maintainable visibility splays, which may point to a more radical solution, involving the creation of a continuous footway along the east side of the C5071 between St Mark's Fold and Town End Court, as suggested in the Council's submission of 9/6/21 and reiterated in its 2/9/21 updating. As then, the Council is keen to be involved in any discussions about how that might be achieved.

The footway was only created on the west side of C5071 because the east side was occupied by Holmes's Nursery. When the Nursery was replaced by the Rowan Gardens housing development, with a footway along the east side, the then intention to extend that footway to St Mark's Fold was frustrated by the refusal of a home-owner to agree to the removal of the return end of a stone wall in the highway verge; that home has since changed ownership."

The purpose of making this extra submission is to influence the Officer's report to committee and/or any subsequent negotiations over the new Section 38 Agreement. Deciding whether, and how, the Council should address the Planning Committee (possibly on 16th December 2021) can be left until the Officer's report and recommendations to the Committee have been published with the meeting Agenda.

21/129 Finance:

- a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

Natland & Oxenholme Village Hall	
£27.36	Hire of hall

Continental Landscapes		
	£480.00	Grasscutting
K M Price	£120.29	Quarterly expenses to 30th September, including use of home office and travel.

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

21/130 Correspondence (including emails and phone calls): None.

21/131 Open Forum: None.

21/132 Date of place of the next meeting:

*Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall
(This will be the Precept Meeting).*

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:

Dated: