

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.
On Monday 28th November 2022.

22/161 Present:

Councillors Ellison (Chair), Clark, Houghton and Roberts, Kathryn Smith (Press Reporter), Andy Hope (prospective Councillor) and District Councillor Jonathan Brook. Apologies for absence were received from Parish Clerk Kevin Price and District Councillor Doug Rathbone.

22/162 Public participation: None.

22/163 Declarations of Interest:

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

22/164 Co-option of new Councillor:

Andy Hope was co-opted to the Council. He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

22/165 SLDC and CCC Report from the elected representatives

Councillor Brook reported on his meeting with Story Homes' representatives prior to the public consultation at which he emphasised the need for a footway/cycleway on Natland Road. He commended NPC's engagement with prospective developers. Westmorland and Furness Council will be operational on 1st April 2023 and is having difficulty filling certain roles. These are to be covered by temporary staff. Councillor Ellison asked how these changes will benefit Natland residents and Councillor Brook said removing a tier of local government will streamline procedures. It will take about five years for the transition to achieve this transformation. The pop-up Post Office at Oxenholme Station and SIDs were mentioned and these appear later in these minutes.

22/166 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 28th November 2022 were agreed and signed, with the following amendments:

22/167 SLDC Local Development Plan:

A late submission to the 'Call for sites 2021' consultation in respect of the three sites in Natland was agreed by the Council. The greenfield sites south of The Beeches and west of Natland Road at Watercrock were both deemed unacceptable. Re-development of the disused Clark's factory (part site - brownfield) and a small self-build residential site at Castle Mount were acceptable to the Council.

22/170 Provision of Post Office services in Natland:

Councillors were briefed on the consequences of Natland PO closure in 2021 for some of Natland's residents, particularly those who relied on an inadequate bus service to Kendal. It was agreed that a request for outreach PO provision in Natland should be submitted to PO Ltd. The MP has already written to PO Regional manager making a similar request on behalf of residents.

Correspondence (minute 22/175)

Councillor's consensus was that there were three items of correspondence from:

- a. A resident of Natland, re heap of road salt.
- b. The driver of the school bus, re the impact of chaotic parking in Natland at school drop-off and pick-up times, which is not only an issue for the school bus but also with potential consequences for obstructed or delayed blue light services' vehicles.
- c. A resident of Oxenholme Lane, re Story Homes development proposal.

22/167 SLDC Local Development Plan:

Cllr Roberts recommended that the Council resubmits its comments on the other sites put forward in the 2020-21 'call for sites'. De-allocation of land South of the K Shoes site is unacceptable and no longer required for employment. She recommended acceptance of the land at Castle Mount for self-build residential use. It was agreed that she should draft a reply to be sent on behalf of the Clerk.

22/168 Home Field development:

Councillor Ellison was concerned about the road safety implication of Jones Homes' failure to meet Planning Condition 14, 'Line of Sight', for access to Sedgwick Road. He awaits a reply to his personal correspondence with the Chair of the Planning Committee on this matter. Councillor Clark raised concerns about water pooling on much of the site and was assured that the private soakaways on each property should deal with this issue. Tarmac road surfaces are to be replaced by porous block paving.

NPC has not been consulted about the name of the site, 'Helmdale'. Further communication about street names is awaited.

22/169 Traffic calming:

The Council is awaiting further information about the costs and changed regulations for Speed Indicator Device (SID) use. Councillor Houghton asked if the Council should continue as it is now difficult and expensive to get approval. Councillor Roberts questioned the effectiveness of a SID located close to the pinch point of the Hawes Lane, Oxenholme Lane and Natland Road junction. Councillor Ellison pointed out that the SID site at the northern end of Natland Road, near the Beeches estate, was approved before the estate was built and is no longer in the right place.

Councillor Clark suggested the Highways Authority should take responsibility for road safety issues and pay for and enforce traffic calming measures in narrow village streets. He questioned the rule that limits Parish Council SIDs to a maximum of three weeks installation, unlike those on the A65 in Endmoor. It was agreed that the Council should await details on costs before deciding on SIDs. 20 MPH speed limits were also discussed.

22/170 Provision of Post Office services in Natland:

The Council discussed 'Outreach' provision of Post Office services at Oxenholme Station (two hours, two days a week). It was not considered of much use to Natland residents as there are no direct bus service to the station, and a similar distance from Natland to the full time Rinkfield Post Office on Burton Road. Councillor Roberts outlined how an outreach facility could be accommodated in the Village Hall. It was agreed that she should draft a letter to the Post Office explaining that an Outreach service will be of particular use to many of Natland's more elderly residents who have difficulty in accessing the existing provision, and who relied on the, now closed, Natland Post Office.

22/171 Story Homes proposed development:

Councillor Ellison asked if the consultation had been a 'box ticking' exercise. He had been invited to a meeting before the public consultation session, but this had taken place without him. Councillor Brook did attend the pre-consultation meeting and reported on this earlier. Councillor Roberts said that, compared with other recent developments, this had been a good example of a pre-planning consultation, but it had no statutory meaning. Councillor Clark was concerned that participation in this exercise might give the proposal more credibility than it deserved. His impression was that Story Homes' team had little understanding of the location or of the development's implications. Their proposal is based on a calculation of unmet need for residential development that is probably incorrect. Councillor Roberts' analysis shows that the supply of land for residential development meets current requirements and that future allocation should take place after the local plan process is completed. Even if a 'broad allocation' to meet a local shortfall were accepted, the plan Story Homes refer to only mentions 200 homes on an area larger than where they propose 340. They are seeking to develop this site because it is the only one available to them in this area. Councillor Ellison said that the proposal is contrary to Kendal Vision. This identifies more appropriate sites for housing development and renovation within the existing built up area. In reply to Councillor Ellison's question 'do we want it or not?', Councillor Roberts said that a full planning application is required if the Council is to propose its rejection. It is probably too late to engage in Story Homes' consultation exercise. Councillors Clark and Houghton suggested this is better avoided. It was agreed that Councillor Ellison should prepare, circulate and, if agreed, send a letter to the Chair of the Planning Committee giving our reasons for objecting to Story Homes' proposals for housing development to the west of Burton Road. The response should be co-ordinated with Sedgwick Parish Council. It should be sent via the Parish Clerk.

22/172 Reports:

Highways: There is nothing particular to report, but questions were asked about on-going road works in Abbey Drive. Unusual levels of traffic chaos and parking difficulty in recent weeks were discussed. The bus shelters on Burton Road have been cleaned to a reasonable standard.

Footpaths: These are in a season condition and minor pruning back of vegetation is required to ensure access.

22/173 Planning – there were currently no planning matters.

22/174 Finance:

a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

Ian Ellison	£4.90	Paper
Ian Ellison	£12.00	Printer cartridge
Continental Landscapes		
	£480.00	Grasscutting (see below)
SLDC	£1,438.52	Street lighting 2022-23
K M Price	£165.58	Back Pay to 1st April 2022

Grasscutting invoice – payment will be held back so the final invoice can be checked. Councillor Roberts will contact the Parish Clerk about this.

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

c. The recent Pay Award for Clerks was reported and it was agreed to pay the appropriate back pay to 1st April 2022 and to amend the bank Standing Orders.

22/175 Correspondence (including emails and phone calls).

Mr Inglesfield wrote to ask the Council to deal with the heap of road salt that has been put on a wildflower rich verge towards the top of Helm Lane. This will be an agenda item for next meeting.

Mr Butterfield wrote to object to the Story Homes development proposal and to suggest ways of dealing with the traffic chaos outside the Village Hall. His objections will be incorporated in the Council's letter of objection to the proposal. The traffic issue will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

22/176 Open Forum:

Councillor Ellison raised the issue of boundary changes and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

22/177 Date and place of the next meeting:

***Monday 16th January 2023 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall
(This will be the Precept Meeting)***

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed:

Dated: