

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.
On Monday 16th January 2023.

23/1 Present: Councillors Ellison (Chair), Clark, Hope, Houghton and Roberts, District Councillor Doug Rathbone, Kathryn Smith (Press Reporter), two members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor Jonathan Brook.

23/2 Public participation:

Members of the public were present to hear/join in with the 'Traffic issues' item of the agenda.

23/3 Declarations of Interest:

Councillors Clark and Ellison declared a personal interest in matters relating to the school and traffic, as close residents.

23/4 SLDC and CCC Report from the elected representatives:

Councillor Rathbone mention a recent incident on The Helm, when a member of the public had been attacked by a dog. The Helm is currently being used by professional dog walkers, amongst others.

23/5 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 28th November 2022 were agree 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.

The actions regarding each of these three issues were as minuted.

23/6 Publication of Council correspondence:

The Clerk explained that, ordinarily, Council correspondence is not published, although anyone can ask to view it. Sometimes, if a public consultation is taking place, the body consulting will often make public all responses on their website. The Council could, if wished, have a 'Publication Policy' if that was felt to be helpful.

23/7 Home Field Development:

The Chair has made a personal objection regarding this development.

23/8 Story Homes Development:

The Clerk will send the final version of the Council's response, objecting to the Story Homes proposals, to Mr John Jackson, Head of strategic Land and Planning. A copy of the letter can be obtained by email on application to the Parish Clerk.

23/9 SLDC Local Development Plan:

The Council's comments have already been submitted.

23/10 Traffic issues:

The Chair reported that a young child had been injured today outside the school, not seriously, but Police and ambulance had been called. The Chair has stressed to the Police and Highways the need for the Council to be involved in any traffic consultation, to ease the congestion that occurs each day, especially at opening and closing times. The Clerk will contact the Chair of the school governors, outlining the Council's serious concerns and ask for the help and co-operation of the governors to address the situation.

23/11 Finance:

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

Natland & Oxenholme Village Hall		
	£34.20	Hire of hall
CALC	£30.00	Training
HMRC	£268.00	PAYE
K M Price	£26.40	Backpay for December
K M Price	£143.96	Quarterly expenses to 31 st December, Including use of home office and travel.

- b. It was resolved to make a contribution to Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council of £80 towards the Clerk's new computer equipment.
- c. Charitable contributions were agreed as follows, for £100 each:

Kendal Mountain Rescue Team
Citizens Advice South Lakeland
North West Air Ambulance
Great North Air Ambulance

- d. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- e. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved to make a Precept upon South Lakeland District Council/Westmorland and Furness Council in the sum of £11,000 for the financial year 2023-24.

23/12 Provision of Post Office Services in Natland:

The Clerk has sent a letter to Post Office Ltd as agreed at the last meeting and awaits a response.

23/13 Helm Lane grit/salt:

The Chair had responded to correspondence from a resident regarding gritting on Helm Lane.

23/14 Updates:

The Clerk reported as follows:

- a. Street naming/numbering; SLDC maintains the Council's response to the consultation was too late.
- b. Village Green as Community Asset; application is being made to re-register.

- c. Outstanding invoice for grasscutting; Following further correspondence, Continental Landscapes has offered to make the first cut of the new season at half price, ie £50 as a gesture of goodwill. It was resolved to accept this kind offer and to send the cheque already issued for the current season.

23/15 Reports:

The Chair said the footpaths are all in a seasonal condition.

23/16 Planning: None.

23/17 Forthcoming Boundary changes:

The opportunity to comment on these proposals has gone so a decision is now awaited.

23/18 Speed Indicator Devices:

Councillor Houghton gave an update on the use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). Further information/decision is awaited from CCC Highways. The Clerk will let Councillor Houghton know what costs were involved at Crook PC.

23/19 ‘Designing out light pollution’:

Councillor Clark agreed to make a positive response to the circular received and circulate this to Councillors. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

23/20 Correspondence (including emails and phone calls):

- a. An email was read from Rev Martin Jayne, on behalf of St Mark’s PCC, asking the Council to consider funding for the grasscutting/churchyard maintenance at St Mark’s Church. The Council had already received advice from CALC and NALC to say that, under the Local Government Act of 1894, Councils are not allowed to contribute to any religious organisation. A Parish Council can be a Burial Authority, but this would only change the situation were the churchyard be a ‘closed churchyard’, whereas it is not. The Clerk will write to Rev Jayne to explain.
- b. The resignation of Councillor Ian Gleave as a Parish Councillor was noted.

23/21 Open Forum: None.

23/22 Agenda items for the next meeting:

- a. SID – decision
- b. CIL monies – update

23/23 Date and place of the next meeting:

Monday 27th February 2023 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed:

Dated: