

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.
On Monday 25th September 2023.

23/66 Present: Councillors Ellison (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), Ball, Clark, Harkness, Kelly and Smith, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook, one member of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stuart Ibbs and Westmorland & Furness Councillor Doug Rathbone.

23/67 Election of Chair:

Councillor Peter Smith was unanimously elected as Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. He thanked the Council for electing him and said he looks forward to the new Council working together.

23/68 Public participation: None.

23/69 Declarations of Interest:

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

23/70 Minutes:

The minutes of the meetings of 26th June 2023, 10th July 2023, 31st July and 24th August 2023 (circulated) were agreed and signed by the Chair.

23/71 Westmorland & Furness Councillors:

Councillor Brook said that Westmorland & Furness Council has approved the process and criteria for communities to request 20mph speed in their villages.

23/72 Reports:

- a. Highwayman: Councillor Clark said that there had been a variety of responses to the Council's correspondence regarding traffic issues around Castlesteads. It is hoped that, ultimately, a crossing will be provided, which is much needed. He agreed to draft a response to Highways to re-emphasize the Council's request for a safe pedestrian crossing, particularly for Castlesteads residents, to be provided as soon as possible even if this was a temporary solution. The reply would also address speed limits on the A65 and the need for a continuous footpath on the Western side of the A65.
- b. Footpaths Officer: Councillor Kelly said she reported the overgrown footpath by the Jones Homes development and this is to be attended to shortly.
- c. Village Hall: Councillor Ball had been unable to attend the last meeting of the Village Hall committee but plans to be present at the next meeting.

Lighting in the main hall and a possible disabled toilet are issues being considered at present.

- d. CALC: The Chair agreed to be the CALC Representative..

23/73 Traffic issues:

The responses received from the Council's correspondence, agreed at the June meeting, had been circulated and were noted.

In the light of the new policy and the long standing wish of the Council and residents, it was resolved to formally apply for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Natland village.

23/74 Parish Notice Boards:

After discussion it was resolved to leave the notice boards where they are at present and to try to publicise their location more effectively. In the longer term, it was also agreed to explore the possibility of removing the bus shelter which is no longer by the bus stop.

23/75 Updates:

- a. The repair of Crow Park Bridge should be completed by the end of September.
- b. The location for the Speed Indicator Device (SID) depends, in part, on the outcome of the application for 20mph speed limits.

23/76 Civility and Respect:

The details of the 'Civility and Respect' had been circulated to all Councillors. The Clerk said that only about 28 Councils in Cumbria had signed up to this, including Burneside of the Councils he serves. It was agreed to put this on hold until such a time arises when it is felt to be necessary.

23/77 Affordable Housing issues:

Councillor Brook was asked for his advice on the issue of the long term provision of affordable and rental property. He noted that Westmorland & Furness Council were required to produce a new Local Plan within two years. The Council agreed that any issues in relation to affordable housing would be addressed during the consultation phase of the new plan.

23/78 Planning: None.

23/79 Finance:

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

HMRC	£237.60	PAYE
K M Price	£37.60	Back pay July/August (the Bank had still not adjusted the Standing Order)

- b. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. It was resolved, in view of the considerable difficulties experienced over the past three months in dealing with Barclays Bank, that steps are put in hand to transfer the Council's banking arrangement to Lloyds. The proposed signatories to the account are Councillors Clark, Ellison, Harkness and Smith. The Clerk will deal with the application and keep Councillors informed of progress.

23/80 Correspondence (including emails and phone calls):

Councillor Kelly agreed to follow up her suggestions regarding the regular checks of the defibrillator and the training in the use of the defibrillator.

23/81 Agenda items for the next meeting:

- a. D-Day 80 – 6th June 2024: To consider the Council's participation in this event.
- b. To note the draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2023.

(Any further agenda items can be sent to the Clerk no later than 14 days prior to the next meeting)

23/82 Future meeting dates (up to the end of the financial year 2023-24):

The following dates for meetings up to the end of the financial year 2023-24 were agreed (these had been checked with the Village Hall - all Mondays at 7pm):

23rd October
 27th November
 15th January (to fit in with the Precept deadline)
 26th February
 25th March

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed:

Dated:

