

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.
On Monday 26th February 2024

24/15 Present: Councillors Smith (Chair), Ball, Clark and Ibbs, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook, three members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Ellison, Harkness and Kelly and received from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Doug Rathbone.

24/16 Public participation: None at the start of the meeting.

24/17 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest, as a member of the Village Hall committee, should anything be discussed regarding the Hall. Councillor Ibbs declared a personal interest, should any matters relating to St Mark's Church be discussed.

24/18 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 27th November 2023 (circulated) were agreed and signed by the Chair.

24/19 Westmorland & Furness Councillors:

Councillor Brook reported as follows:

- a. The Chief Executive of Westmorland & Furness Council, Sam Plum, had visited all the Wards in the Council's area on 14th February.
- b. The Council's attention is at present focused upon the A65 and traffic/safety issues there.
- c. Councillor Rathbone had met with the Head Teacher at St Mark's School, to discuss the voluntary one-way system at the school,
- d. Some signage improvements have been agreed.
- e. Councillor Brook will be meeting the Head Teacher soon.
- f. The possibility of additional parking being provided at the Old Vicarage is an interesting one and further news is awaited in due course.
- g. The Council's request for a 20mph limit in the village has been submitted and is in process of being considered.
- h. 'Health & Well Bring' event (up to 19 years of age) is taking place at the Kendal Tapestry on 4th March at 1.,30pm.

(Councillor Brook left the meeting at 7.10pm)

24/20 Planning: None.

24/21 Pavement in front of Church:

Councillor Ibbs had spoken to the Churchwardens and has also contact Westmorland & Furness Highways. The Parish Council owns the bus shelter and is therefore is empowered to remove it but any re-surfacing of the pavement and the lowering of the kerb would need to be undertaken by Highways. The kerb would need to be lengthened too. The Council had received an email from a resident who was concerned that any changes should enhance the safety of pedestrians.

Councillor Ibbs agreed to keep the Council informed of the likely cost and process to be followed in due course.

24/22 20mph Speed Limit:

The official request has now been made to Westmorland & Furness Council and this has been acknowledged. All requests received will need to be prioritised and this could take some time. An email had been received from a resident strongly supporting the urgent need for the 20mph speed limit.

24/23 Defibrillator training:

Council Kelly had submitted a written report which had been circulated to all Councillors. She had now booked the Village Hall for a training session on Thursday 18th March from 7 to 9pm. 17 places have already been booked out of a maximum of 20.

24/24 Proposed use of Vicarage Grounds for School Parking:

Councillor Ibbs had spoken to the Header Teacher of St Mark's School who is totally in agreement with the Council's thoughts of this matter.

In the meantime, a response had been received from the Diocese of Carlisle, which included the following:

"The Trustees have however deferred marketing the property to give the Parish Council and the school an opportunity to respond. The next full meeting of the Trustees is in mid-March. At that meeting I would expect the Trustees to decide to proceed to sale unless firm proposals for how a scheme could be viably designed and funded are submitted by Monday 10 March".

It was agreed that a draft response prepared by Councillor Ibbs, stating that this is a 'now or never' opportunity for the Council to use some of the land for the long-term benefit of the village and school, and that this should be sent within the next 48 hours.

24/25 Road safety on A65:

Council Clark reported that moves to improve safety on the A65 were looking promising and he agreed to ask Westmorland & Furness Council about the use of a SID (Speed Indicator Device) on this stretch of road.

24/26 Finance:

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

HMRC	£285.00	PAYE
Kendal Mountain Rescue Team	£100.00	Grant
North West Air Ambulance	£100.00	Grant
Great North Air Ambulance	£100.00	Grant
Citizens Advice South Lakes	£100.00	Grant

b. The monthly cash and budget statements were noted.

c. The Clerk reported that the transition of the Council's banking arrangements to Lloyds Bank is progressing and the new account should be open soon.

24/27 Reports:

a. **Highwayman:** A number of potholes have been reported and action is awaited.

b. **Footpaths Officer:** A report had been received from Councillor Kelly. She had received a complaint about the state of the footpath from Little Cracalt round Cracalt farm. This has now been checked out and a report will be sent to Westmorland & Furness Council. The footbridge is partially rotten, two stiles are difficult to negotiate, the bottom step of one is rotten wood, and the metal gates very difficult to open single handed.

c. **Village Hall:** No report.

d. **CALC:** No report

e. **Common Land:** No report.

24/28 Correspondence (including emails and phone calls):

a. Councillor Clark had written a draft response to the recently published Fire & Rescue Plan. This had been circulated to all Councillors and it was resolved that this should be sent on behalf of the Council.

b. Two emails had been received expressing concern that vehicles were driving on the verges of the Village Green and other green areas in the village.

c. *(The Chairman suspended the meeting in order to allow a resident to speak in support of two emails he had sent to the Council)*

i. The resident expressed his concern that some recent activity had interfered with the legal right of all residents to enjoy the Village Green. In discussing the problem of vehicles encroaching on to the verges, he noted that possible solutions such as rocks placed on the verges might in themselves interfere with public enjoyment of the Green.

ii. The same resident described his suggestion for a footpath adjacent to Natland Road utilising a modified routing of the existing public footpath to the East of the road. *(The Chairman reopened the meeting.)*

d. The Council had received the details of the official portrait of HM the King. It was agreed to request a framed copy of the portrait and to request of the Village Hall trustees that it be hung in the small hall.

24/29 Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meetings:

The following dates are proposed, subject to confirmation at the March meeting:

Monday 29th April – Annual Parish Meeting, followed by monthly Parish Council meeting.

Monday 27th May (Bank Holiday) – Annual Parish Council meeting – with a shortened agenda.

24/30 Date of the next meeting:

Monday 25th March 2024 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed:

Dated: