

**NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Council Meeting**  
**Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.**  
**On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**24/127 Present:** Councillors Smith (Chairman), Clark, Harkness, Ibbs and Kelly,, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Doug Rathbone, one member of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Ball, and received from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook.

**24/128 Memoriam:**

A minute's silence was observed in memory of former Councillor and Chairman Ian Ellison, who died recently. The Chairman paid tribute to his work, both in the Council and the community.

**24/129 Public participation:** None.

**24/130 Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest, as a member of the Village Hall committee, should anything be discussed regarding the Hall and Councillors Kelly and Ibbs declared a personal interest should any matters relating to the Church be discussed.

**24/131 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**24/132 Westmorland & Furness Councillors:**

*Councillor Rathbone reported as follows:*

- a. He will continue to engage with residents regarding the parking at the K Shoes Site.
- b. In view of the road closure notified by Westmorland & Furness Council, it is proposed to cancel the 552 bus service for that period. Councillor Ibbs has been in touch with the Council about this; Councillor Rathbone will follow it up further.
- c. There is no further news on the proposed introduction of a 20mph speed limit in the village.
- d. It was suggested, as a future footpath from Natland to Kendal is one of this Council's priorities, that CIL money could be used to fund a survey to assess its feasibility.

### **24/133 Planning:**

An application arrived too late for inclusion on the agenda – there were no objections. (2024/2064/FPA Fairhavens, Fell Close, Oxenholme. Two storey side extension including internal platform lift to replace existing external stairs and two storey structure).

### **24/134 Finance:**

- a. The monthly cash and budget statements were noted.
- b. The application forms for the new bank account with Lloyds were returned, owing to incorrect instructions being given by the bank. They have now been re-submitted.
- c. Councillors were reminded to submit any new items for the 2025-26 Budget to the Clerk in time for the issue of the agenda for the Precept Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January. It was resolved to add £75 for an annual Remembrance Wreath, including a donation to the Royal British Legion, and ensure the inclusion of the churchyard contribution.

### **24/135 Tree Maintenance:**

A second opinion had been sought on the proposed work on the tree at the Village Green and it was very different from the first one the Council had obtained. It is recommended that the Council draft a Tree Policy for adoption at a future meeting and Councillor Ibbs agreed to do this and to contact a local tree surgeon for advice. It is suggested that all trees need a health check every three to five years. The Clerk will send details of the Council's insurance policy to Councillor Harkness.

### **24/136 Potholes:**

The Clerk had written to Chaplows again for an estimate for the repairs to the potholes at the Village Hall, but had today been informed that the Company had ceased trading. Councillor Harkness will make some further enquiries.

### **24/137 Parking by The K Shoes Site:**

This had been mentioned earlier in the meeting and Councillor Rathbone is following it up.

### **24/138 20mph Speed Limit:**

This had already been mentioned earlier in the meeting.

### **24/139 Co-option procedure:**

The Clerk had circulated the Co-options Policy recently adopted by Casterton Parish Council and it was agreed to adopt this for Natland, the Clerk to make the necessary alterations and ask for it to be uploaded to the blogsite.

#### **24/140 Pay Award 2024-25:**

The nationally agreed Pay Award for 2025-26 was noted and adopted. This equates to around a 3.9% increase in Clerk's salaries. The Clerk at Natland is currently employed for 23.5 hours per month, on Salary Point 20.

#### **24/141 Reports from Councillors:**

- a. **Highwayman** – Potholes continue to be reported. Councillor Smith agreed to report the flooding on the Village Green to Westmorland & Furness Highways.
- b. **Footpaths** – The footpath around Cracalt Farm, including the broken foot bridge has been reported to Westmorland & Furness Council. It was wondered if the path could possibly be re-routed so it did not go through the farmyard.
- c. **Village Hall** – the recent Craft Fair raised £800 for the Hall's funds.
- d. **CALC** - nothing to report.

#### **24/142 Highways actions agreed:**

Councillor Smith agreed to report the flooding/soakaway on the Village Green to Westmorland & Furness Highways, as well as checking all gulleys that feed into the Green. The Clerk will also report flooding on the Green.

**24/143 Correspondence (including emails and phone calls):** None reported.

#### **24/144 Date and place of the next meeting:**

***Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall  
(This will be the Precept Meeting)***

*The meeting closed at 8pm*

*Signed:*

*Dated:*