

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.
On Monday 28th October 2024

24/111 Present: Councillors Smith (Chairman), Ball, Clark, Ibbs and Kelly,, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Doug Rathbone, one member of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Ellison and Harkness, and received from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook.

24/112 Public participation:

A member of the public had mentioned the fact that St Mark's School is becoming more popular, and numbers are increasing; this may bring greater traffic/parking problems in the future. This was noted.

24/113 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.

24/114 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

24/115 Westmorland & Furness Councillors:

Councillor Rathbone reported as follows:

- a. 20mph speed limit. There had been a very good response to the recent survey and Natland residents had responded particularly well, 80% being in favour of the proposals.
- b. Ward Boundaries: A further stage in the consultation will be held next spring, closing on 12th May 2025, following which the decisions would be put in place in September 2025. He confirmed that Westmorland & Furness Council would continue to have 65 Councillors.

24/116 Planning: None.

24/117 Finance:

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

John Chandler £48.30
Travel/expenses in representing the Council at the 50th Anniversary of the County of Cumbria at Carlisle Cathedral.

T Flitcroft	£90.00	Payroll administration – annual payment
Open Spaces Society		
	£45.00	Annual subscription
K M Price	£131.58	Quarterly expenses to 30 th September, Including use of home office and travel.

- b. The monthly cash and budget statements were noted. The Clerk agreed to make a small adjustment in the layout of the budget statement.
- c. The Clerk reported on further difficulties with transferring the Council's banking arrangements to Lloyds; instructions given by phone seemed to be contradicted by the letter received since the last meeting. It was therefore resolved to remain with Barclays and to simply add further signatories to the account. All Councillors are happy to be signatories if required. Councillor Clark agreed to visit the Branch to ask if this can be put in hand as soon as possible. The Clerk will supply him with evidence that this has been agreed at a meeting of the Council.

24/118 Tree Maintenance:

A quotation for tree maintenance work on the Village Green was considered. It was resolved that a second professional assessment should be obtained before making a decision. Councillor Ibbs kindly agreed to take this for action.

24/119 Highways and Local Council Agreements:

Consideration was given as to the extent to which, at this stage, the Council wishes to engage with the Highways and Local Council Agreements process proposed by Westmorland & Furness Council. It was resolved that the Council will 'keep a watching brief' on the situation and its development, for the time being.

24/120 Potholes:

The Clerk is awaiting a response from Chaplows, following the request for a quotation for the repair of potholes in the driveway on the north side of The Green. He will re-send the request and copy Councillor Rathbone into it.

24/121 Bus shelter graffiti:

Individual Councillors have expressed a willingness to investigate how much of the graffiti can be removed, without using a commercial establishment. It was agreed that the effectiveness of this will be reviewed before a further decision is taken.

24/122 Parking by the K Shoes Site:

Councillor Ibbs has sent a photograph, as agreed (minute 24/105e refers) of the area in question, to Councillor Rathbone, who had passed it on. He had not yet received a reply but will follow it up.

24/123 20mph Speed Limit:

This had been covered under item 24/115 (above).

24/124 Reports from Councillors:

- a. Highwayman: Councillor Clark continues to report potholes in the parish.
- b. Footpaths Officer: Councillor Kelly has reported the condition of the footpath passing Cracalt, where the gate and the stile are difficult to use; the ground is also extremely muddy.
- c. Village Hall Representative: Councillor Smith said that the Craft Fair is to be held at the Hall on Saturday 9th November. This is the main fund-raising event of the year for the Hall.
- d. CALC Representative: There was nothing to report at present.

24/125 Correspondence (including emails and phone calls)

- a. The resignation of Ian Ellison as a Councillor was received with regret. The Clerk will notify Westmorland & Furness Council of this. There is now a 'waiting period', of up to three weeks, before Westmorland & Furness Council confirm whether the vacancy is to be filled by Election or co-option.
- b. The Chairman asked for clarification on the process to co-opt new Councillors. The Clerk said he would circulate the recently produced document that Casterton Parish Council has adopted. This could be adopted at Natland if approved at the next meeting.
- c. A letter had been received from John Chandler, thanking the Council for nominating him and his wife to attend the 50th Anniversary of the County of Cumbria, held at Carlisle Cathedral. The Clerk will circulate the letter to all Councillors.
- d. Details of the National Pay Award for 2024-25 had been received from NALC and CALC. As it arrived too late for inclusion on the agenda for this meeting, it will be listed for approval at the next meeting. It appears to indicate an increase of around 3.9%.

24/126 Date and place of the next meeting:

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

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed:

Dated: