

NATLAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Thursday 10th April 2025 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting provides an opportunity for all residents of Natland and those interested in the welfare of the community to share their views about Natland. It also provides an opportunity for village institutions and groups to report their activities to the community.

Everyone has a right to submit a motion for discussion at this meeting. These must be with the Parish Clerk Kevin Price (kevtherev7@hotmail.com) seven clear days before the meeting, so that they can be publicised on the Parish Council's notice board outside the Village Hall and on the website. However, there will also be an open forum session at which any resident can raise any matter they wish to discuss.

Our Westmorland and Furness Councillors have been invited to speak or submit reports. All village organisations within the Parish are invited to send representatives to the meeting to give a brief report on their group's membership and activities during the year. There is always a section of the meeting allocated for this important exchange of information; please ensure your organisation is represented or sends a written report.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR

Council meetings are normally held on the final Monday of each month (excluding August and December) at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. All residents are cordially invited, indeed have a legal right, to attend. The Council has a procedure for electors to raise matters in person at council meetings under 'public participation'.

The year was saddened for the Council by the death of Ian Ellison. Ian served as Chairman of the Council until his illness forced his retirement and I should like to record the debt we all owe to him for his service to the community.

Otherwise, the Council has been stable with six residents, Philip Ball, Mike Clark, Mike Harkness, Stuart Ibbs, Jenny Kelly and Peter Smith continuing to volunteer as Councillors. As the Council year comes to an end, we are delighted to co-opt and welcome Philip Wilson, a new volunteer to the Council. This brings the Council back to a full complement of seven. And of course we have been guided and supported throughout the year by our ever reliable Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Kevin Price.

In the 2021 census Natland civil parish had a population of about 990 living in 460 households. Recent developments at Castlesteads View and the development known as Helmdale will have pushed the population well over a 1000 and the number of households close to 500. It is a relief to the village that the Helmdale development is now complete and we can put the disruption behind us and welcome the new residents.

This increase in the population, augmented by developments in the surrounding areas has inevitably increased the traffic through the village and along Natland Road and along the A65. Much of the Council's work again this year has focussed on traffic issues. Councillor Mike Clark has led this work. His formal application for a 20mph speed limit through the village and extended speed limits on the A65, which he prepared for the Council, was accepted by Westmorland and Furness Council and the work to change the speed limits will start very soon. There remains the pressing issue of pedestrian safety on Natland Road and while crossing the A65 at Helm Lane, at Castlesteads View, and at Helmside Road. The Council will continue to press for these to be addressed. In this and other aspects of the Council's work, we have been grateful for the support and advice of our Westmorland and Furness Councillors, Jonathan Brook and Doug Rathbone.

School traffic and parking remains an unresolved issue. This year has seen an increase in school traffic problems exacerbated by so many road works on Oxenholme Lane. The frustration this causes may have led to examples of a few, very few, people driving over the edges of The Green. This is particularly noticeable opposite the exit from the car park by the Village Hall and along Helm Lane up from the junction with Robby Lea. Everyone is encouraged to treat The Green and all the grass areas in the village with the respect that such areas deserve. Council work around the Green this year has included: trimming the trees to remove dead wood, and improve clearance: along with the Village Hall management committee, filling the potholes in the car parking area; and not least removing the redundant bus shelter.

If you look at the Council's accounts on the back page, you will see that the Council holds £21,159 of Community Infrastructure Levy (this is a payment levied on developers to allow communities to make small improvements to the village infrastructure.) The Council has been retaining this with a view to improving Natland Road pedestrian safety. However, the Council would welcome suggestions from residents on how the money should be spent – playground improvements have already been suggested. If you have ideas then please do get in touch.

There is no doubting the importance of volunteering to benefit the fabric and appearance of the Parish and importantly the welfare of the residents. There are too many examples of residents volunteering to list them all but one voluntary activity the Council depends on is the Natland Community Website natlandnews.blogspot.com continues to provide an excellent and nowadays vital service. You are all encouraged to visit the site and see what is available, which includes information about village institutions and organisations, forthcoming events and not least the Parish Council Agendas, Minutes, and other documents.

I am fortunate to Chair a Council made up of hardworking, imaginative and committed volunteer councillors and on behalf of the whole village I should like to thank them for their voluntary service to the community.

Peter Smith – Chair of Natland Parish Council – 31 March 2025

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Interim Receipts and Payment Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025

	£	£	£
Balances at 01.04.24			
Community (current) Account		7636.26	
Business Bonus (deposit) Account		5597.41	
Restricted Funds (CIL)		<u>13985.85</u>	<u>27219.52</u>
Receipts			
Precept – Westmorland & Furness		11000.00	
Parish Grant		198.60	
Interest		63.99	
CIL – Westmorland & Furness Council		7173.45	
Barclays Bank – historic payment		146.68	
Natland Village Hall – tarmacking		1000.00	
K M Price – refund of salary (HMRC adjustment)		295.88	
		<u>47098.12</u>	<u>19878.60</u>
Payments			
Clerk's salary & PAYE (including holiday pay)		5673.40	
Grass cutting		1225.00	
Donations			
North West Air Ambulance	100.00		
Great North Air Ambulance	100.00		
Kendal Mountain Rescue Team	100.00		
South Lakes CAB	100.00		
Cumbria Foundation	100.00		
St Mark's Church – Natland – Grasscutting	600.00		
Endmoor First Responders	150.00		
Christmas tree – Village Green	<u>80.00</u>	<u>1330.00</u>	
Internal Auditor remuneration	70.00		
Insurance	832.22		
Maintenance	80.00		
Subscriptions			
Cumbria Assn of Local Councils	301.78		
Information Commissioner's Office	35.00		
Open Spaces Society	<u>45.00</u>		
ZOOM licence (share of)	12.47	<u>394.25</u>	
Projects		2890.30	
Meetings		93.24	
Clerk's expenses		260.75	
Clerk – use of office		312.00	
Payroll administration		90.00	
VAT paid		<u>695.00</u>	13946.16
Balances at 31.03.25			
Community (current) Account		6056.26	
Business Bonus (deposit) Account		5936.40	
Total Non-Restricted Funds		11992.66	
Restricted Funds (CIL)		<u>21159.30</u>	<u>33151.96</u>
			<u>47098.12</u>

Kevin M. Price – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer