

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Natland Village Hall On Thursday 10th April 2025 at 7pm.

Welcome:

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Smith, welcomed 17 people, including District Councillor Doug Rathbone, most of the Parish Councillors and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were received from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook, Councillor Mike Clark, Louise Hinton (St Mark's School) and John Chandler.

Minutes:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April 2024, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report:

Councillor Smith read his report in full; copies may be obtained from the Clerk and will be attached to these minutes in the file. They are also available on the Natland website.

Police Report: The police now have a policy of holding virtual meetings with representatives from groups of Parish Councils. They will no longer attend in person. The first meeting for Natland is yet to happen.

Interim Accounts:

The Interim Accounts for 2024-25 had been circulated and were noted. The accounts are now on the website and copies can be requested from the Clerk at any time.

Reports from Westmorland & Furness Councillors:

Councillor Rathbone gave a brief report:

- a. Westmorland & Furness Council has been in existence for two years and is now reaching some stability, but this is a long-term situation.
- b. There is a move to devolve some central government strategic responsibilities to a Mayor of Cumbria who would have responsibility for both Westmorland & Furness and Cumberland Councils. A decision is expected around October. Westmorland & Furness Council is involved in the process and everyone will be kept informed.
- c. Ward Boundaries are changing and there has been a consultation.
- d. A 20mph speed limit policy has been agreed for Natland and it will take place in due course.
- e. Calls for sites in the Local Plan will soon be made; responses from Councils and individuals are encouraged.

The Chairman wished to record the thanks of the Parish Council to Councillors Brook and Rathbone, for their support over the year.

Motions:

No formal Motions had been submitted.

Reports:

Reports, either by email or in person had been received from representatives of

St Mark's Church, St Marks CofE Primary School, the village website, Natland & Oxenholme Village Hall, WI, Monday Club, Natland & Oxenholme Table Tennis Club, – copies of these, and any other reports that may be submitted, may be obtained from the Clerk.

Open Forum:

The following matters were mentioned:

- a. A pleasing feature of the past year has been the speed at which potholes have been repaired and Westmorland & Furness Council were thanked for that.
- b. A question was asked regarding the 'call for sites'. This is the next stage in the Local Plan but suggestions already made have not been sifted through yet. The proposed allocation is likely to be in about two to four months.
- c. The access to/from the Jones Homes development does not meet the 'visibility access' requirements detailed in the planning consent. The Chairman/Clerk will check if any of the other planning conditions have been breached.
- d. White road/give way markings are required to be renewed at various locations throughout the parish.
- e. Parish boundary alterations which would have transferred the half of Rochester Gardens in Natland to Kendal, were apparently never instituted.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed:

Dated: