

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.
On Monday 12th May 2025

25/44 Present: Councillors Smith (Chairman), Ball, Harkness, Ibbs and Wilson, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook, three members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clark and Kelly and Westmorland & Furness Councillor Doug Rathbone.

25/45 Election of Chairman:

Councillor Peter Smith was elected Chairman for 2025-26. He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

25/46 Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Philip Ball was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2025-26.

25/47 Appointment of Officers:

The following were appointed:

- a. Highwayman – Councillor Clark
- b. Footpaths Officer – Councillor Kelly
- c. Village Hall, Representative - Councillor Wilson
- d. CALC Representative – Councillor Smith
- e. Common Land – Councillor Smith

25/48 Public participation:

Mr and Mrs Meek had requested permission to speak on their planning application (25/0587/OPA Castle Mount, Burton Road, Oxenholme) which would be considered later in the meeting. They asked the Council to support the application and they answered questions from Councillors on the details of the plans.

25/49 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 Councillor Ibbs should anything relating to St Mark's Church be discussed.

25/50 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

25/51 Westmorland & Furness Councillors:

Councillor Brook reported as follows:

- a. Westmorland & Furness Council had completed its second year.
- b. Devolution – this will be a government decision and the results of the consultation are awaited. If there is to be an elected Mayor, this will be not until May 2026.
- c. Boundaries Commission – the consultation is in progress.
- d. The proposed 20 mph speed limit is proceeding.
- e. The 'Call for Sites' is underway and the long list of the proposals is on the website this week. This list is yet to be weeded by W&F.
- f. United Utilities has acknowledged the need to replace the water main under Oxenholme Lane and this work has been put in the five year plan for 2025-30.

25/52 Annual Parish Meeting – 10th April 2025:

Councillor Smith prioritised the issues arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th April 2025:

- a. The 'call for sites' by Westmorland & Furness Council.
- b. White lines in the village. The Council will request a general inspection of these but in the meantime Councillor Harkness agreed to take photographs of lines that need re-painting.
- c. Jones Homes. It was agreed to write to the planning department and ask if all of the conditions on the grant of planning permission are being observed; specifically the sight line from the Goldfinch Drive junction.

25/53 School playground:

Councillor Ibbs said there was little to report at present; It had been confirmed that the land is not in the ownership of Westmorland & Furness Council.

It was agreed to keep this as an agenda item for future meetings.

25/54 Signing of the Armed Forces Covenant:

The information regarding this project had been circulated to all Councillors, but, upon reflection, it was felt that this was inappropriate for a Parish Council.

25/55 Planning:

The following application was considered and no objection was raised. The Clerk will submit the Council's comments tomorrow, as that is the closing date.

25/0587/OPA Castle Mount, Burton Road, Oxenholme. Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of a sustainable, low energy,

accessible, self-build dwelling within garden at Castle Mount, Burton Road, Oxenholme.

25/56 Finance:

a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

Natland & Oxenholme Village Hall		
	£51.66	Hire of hall
CALC	£313.30	Annual subscription
K M Price	£141.13	Quarterly expenses to 31 st March, Including use of home office and travel

- b. The cash and budget statements were not available yet but the Clerk had circulated a Budget Statement which he explained to the Council. There had only been two items of expenditure since the start of this financial year.
- c. The transfer of the Council's banking arrangements to Lloyds Bank is still in hand and the Clerk will make further contact with the bank.

25/57 Correspondence (including emails and phone calls): None.

25/58 Date and place of the next meeting:

Monday 30th June 2025 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall

The meeting closed at 7.40pm

Signed:

Dated: