

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.
On Monday 24th November 2025

25/113 Present: Councillors Smith (Chairman), Catnach, Clark and Ibbs, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Doug Rathbone, three members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Harkness, Kelly and Wilson, and received from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook.

25/114 Public participation:

- a. The possibility of installing an additional light on the Village Green was raised and that possibly this might be a opportunity for spending infrastructure money. This would be to assist people using the Village Hall, although a question was asked as to the legality of such a move. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

25/115 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Ibbs, should anything relating to St Mark's Church be discussed.

25/116 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

25/117 Westmorland & Furness Councillors:

Councillor Rathbone had no formal report to submit but he assisted the Council in various matters as the meeting progressed.

25/118 Planning:

The following application was considered and no objections were raised:

2025/2173 HOU Ryesdale, Burton Road, Oxenholme. Proposed two storey rear extension providing a new side secondary access point, single storey side extension and internal reconfiguration works.

25/119 Resilience:

Councillor Clark had sent various documents, relating to this, to all Councillors. It was suggested that Castlesteads Housing could be added to the list of contacts. He agreed to update the main document and look at the points that had been raised. The thanks of the Council to Councillor Clark were noted for his work.

25/120 Community Governance Review for Westmorland and Furness:

The draft response to this consultation rejected any suggestion that the northern boundary of the parish should be moved south so that the Beeches, the planned new story Homes estate and the Anord Mardix factory be moved into Kendal. The response had been circulated to all Councillors and it was resolved to submit this.

25/121 Assertion 10 - 'Digital and Data Compliance:

Two quotations for the work to ensure compliance with this document were considered and it was resolved to ask A2A of Milnthorpe to undertake the work. It will still be necessary for the Council to find someone to update the site regularly, with minutes, agendas and other relevant notices. This could be on a voluntary basis but the Clerk pointed out that some of his Councils pay someone a nominal honorarium, in the region of £125 annually.

It was resolved to thank Elspeth Jayne for looking after the blogsite over many years.

25/122 School playground renovation:

Information regarding the playground being locked had been discussed with the Head Teacher, Louise Hinton, who will ensure that the playground would be available whenever the school is not in use. It was resolved to defer a decision on providing funding for the playground until the next meeting.

25/123 Village notice board:

A suggestion was made that the notice board could be relocated, if permission could be obtained, to a nearby resident's wall. Councillor Ibbs agreed to make enquiries.

25/124 Village car park:

As this had been raised by Councillor Harkness, it was resolved that it will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

25/125 Natland Road footpath:

A draft response had been circulated by the Chairman which agreed in principle to the extension of the footpath to the Beeches but pointed out that it was a part of the requirement for a footpath from the centre of Natland which should be considered as a whole.

25/126 Finance:

- a. There were no outstanding accounts.
- b. The monthly cash and budget statements were noted.

25/127 Reports from Councillors:

- a. **Highwayman:** Councillor Clark reported as follows:
 - i. He had not received a reply yet from Westmorland & Furness in response to the request to erect a pole for the Speed Indicator Device.
 - ii. Recent road repairs have been of a very poor quality.
 - iii. There are still a number of flooding issues in the parish. These can be reported by anyone, Councillor or resident.
- b. **Footpaths Officer:** No report.
- c. **Village Hall representative:** No report.
- d. **CALC Representative:** The AGM had been held online on 15th November.

25/128 Correspondence (including emails and phone calls):

- a. Barclays Bank – confirming that the Mandate has now been changed, as requested. Councillor Clark was thanked for his persistence in getting this matter resolved.
- b. St Mark's PCC – a letter had been received, thanking the Council for the grant for churchyard maintenance.
- c. Kendal 10K – April 2026. The Clerk would forward this to Elspeth Jayne for the blogsite. Safety concerns were raised and Councillor Ibbs agreed to draft a response and circulate to Councillors for approval before sending it.
- d. Information regarding the Lancaster Canal Towpath Trail had been circulated and this was encouraging. Councillor Clark agreed to draft a response to this and send it to the Clerk for onward transmission. Councillor Catnach agreed to ask Sedgwick Parish Council for their views on this. Safety concerns were raised and Councillor Ibbs agreed to draft a response and circulate to Councillors for approval before sending it.
- e. A recent incident was mentioned which took place outside the school, when two parked vehicles were blocking the road. Councillor Ibbs will email the school about this.

25/129 Date and place of the next meeting:

Monday 12th January 2026 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall (This will be the Precept Meeting).

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed:

Dated: