

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.
On Monday 31st March 2025

25/30 Present: Councillors Smith (Chairman), Ball, Clark, Harkness, Ibbs, Kelly and Wilson, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Doug Rathbone, one member of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were received from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook.

The Chairman welcomed Philip Wilson to his first Council meeting.

25/31 Public participation: None.

25/32 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 Ibbs and Kelly, should anything relating to St Mark's Church be discussed.

25/33 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

25/34 Westmorland & Furness Councillors:

Councillor Rathbone reported as follows:

- a. There was nothing further to report regarding the proposed 20mph speed limit yet.
- b. Natland is not affected by the proposed Ward Boundaries and will remain in Kendal South.
- c. 'Call for sites' – there has been a delay in producing this for comments.
- d. Devolution – this has not moved forward yet.
- e. A brief comment was made regarding the former K Shoes site.

25/35 Planning: None.

25/36 Finance:

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

Bergen Tree Services £685.00 Pruning oak and birch as quoted

- b. The Clerk reported that all the necessary forms had been signed to enable the new account with Lloyds Bank to be active; these will now be sent to the bank.

- c. Messages of appreciation had been received from all five of the recipients of the grants paid at the last meeting.
- d. St Mark's School playground: The renewal of the school playground equipment is likely to cost in the region of £27,000. The equipment will be available to anyone who wishes to use it, subject to the present limitations when school is in session or during holiday club times.

It was resolved that the Council will, in principle, make a significant contribution towards the work, without incurring any liability or insurance requirements. This will depend upon a significant grant being offered by Westmorland & Furness Council.

Councillor Ibbs agreed to meet with the Head Teacher, Louise Hinton, to discuss the various questions that were raised and report back to the next meeting.

25/37 Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 10th April 2025:

All the arrangements have now been made for this meeting. The annual report, minutes, accounts etc have been posted on the notice board, circulated to the usual contacts and are on the blogsite.

25/38 Pedestrian safety on Natland Road:

A response from Westmorland & Furness Councillors is awaited in due course.

25/39 Community Governance Review:

- a. The Clerk will respond that the Council accepts the proposed date of 2027 for the next Parish Election in Natland.
- b. The Chairman will suggest that the Ward boundaries should reflect a 'rural' focus for communities such as Natland and that these should remain as at present.
- c. Proposals for any changes in Parish boundaries are awaited in due course. The Council cannot see any need for there to be changes to Natland parish boundaries. Any consultation proposals will be brought before the Council for comment.

25/40 Parish Lighting:

It was resolved to agree to the proposal that Westmorland & Furness Council will take over the ownership and maintenance of any street lighting in the parish.

25/41 Reports from Councillors:

- a. Highwayman: Councillor Clark said that many potholes have now been repaired. It was noted that the 'road closed' signs were still up on Oxenholme Lane well after the work had taken place, and there was a lack of co-ordination between the various bodies. The SID has been collected from Guy Weller and it is in working order.
- b. **Footpaths:** Councillor Kelly said that there has been no response to the report submitted regarding the 'footbridge' at Cracalt Farm. The footpath at the junction of Oxenholme Road and the A65 has been reported three times.
- c. **Village Hall:** Councillor Smith said that the work to address the woodworm problem in the roof beams had not been able to proceed yet.
- d. **CALC:** Councillors Smith and Wilson will represent the Council on the Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Pledge meetings. These are to provide opportunity for liaison with Police, now that they are unable to attend Parsh Council meetings.

25/42 Correspondence: None.

25/43 Date and place of the next meeting:

***Monday 12th May 2025 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall.
(This will be the Annual Council Meeting)***

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed:

Dated: