

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.
On Monday 12th January 2026

25/130 Present: Councillors Smith (Chairman), Catnach, Clark, Harkness, Ibbs, and Wilson, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook, one member of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Kelly and received from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Doug Rathbone.

25/131 Public participation: None.

25/132 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Ibbs, should anything relating to St Mark's Church be discussed and Councillor Clark, should the school fencing be considered.

25/133 Minutes:

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

25/134 Westmorland & Furness Councillors:

Councillor Brook mentioned the following matters, with reference to the agenda and said that Westmorland & Furness Council would be happy to assist in any way possible:

- a. Additional street light
- b. Towpath restoration
- c. School playground
- d. Notice board site

25/135 Planning: None.

25/136 Resilience:

Councillor Clark said that there is to be a U3A open meeting on 26th January. He felt that resilience groups could be shared between smaller Councils and that possibly more formal relationships could be made between, say, The Beeches and Kendal, whilst ensuring there is no duplication. It was agreed that the 'single sheet' of information should be updated and 'safe' locations added as and when they are ratified.

25/137 'Assertion 10 – Digital & Data Compliance':

The Clerk reported that A2A in Milnthorpe has produced a basic website for the Council and details have been circulated to Councillors. More photographs of the parish are required and these can be sent to A2A or to the Clerk for onward transmission. New emails addresses and passwords for Councillors will be sent out; these can be used immediately but, during the 'transitional' stage, the old addresses will still work.

25/138 Possible additional streetlight:

As Westmorland & Furness Council is responsible for street lighting, it was agreed that the Clerk will write to Councillor Brook and request that the lighting engineers are asked to look into the possible siting of a light to illuminate the exit from the car park by the Village Hall and to report back. In the meantime, it was suggested that any issues of a new light 'overlooking' properties should be examined.

25/139 Canal Towpath Restoration:

Councillor Clark was thanked for drafting a response to the plan to refurbish the canal towpath. Some discussion took place as to whether cycling would be allowed on this footpath. Further information is required, in particular as to who owns the land where the path goes through Natland? It was agreed that avenues of consultation should be kept open. In the meantime, the chair would approve a draft response to be sent by the Clerk.

25/140 School playground renovation:

It was noted that the playground had not been locked during the Christmas holiday and so it had been available for village children to use. It was resolved to contribute £5,000 at the present time towards the renovation and to consider any further applications when the school's own fundraising progresses further.

25/141 Village notice board:

Councillors Ibbs said that Mr Taylor was willing to have the notice board sited on his wall. Councillor Harknes will speak to him, to discuss any safety issues etc and to report back to the next meeting.

25/142 Publication of the Call for Sites Assessment:

The Publication of the Call for Sites Assessment was noted. This is not out for consultation at present.

25/143 Publication of the Scoping Opinion:

The publication of the Scoping Opinion setting out the scope of the environment statement required to support the Story Homes planning application was noted. The Chairman will re-send this document to all Councillors.

25/144 Finance:

a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

Mike Trelogan	£70.00	Christmas tree for Village Green
Natland & Oxenholme Village Hall	£37.80	Hire of hall
St Mark's C of E Primary School	£5,000	(from CIL) School playground renovation
K M Price	£136.32	Quarterly expenses t 31 st December, Including use of home office and travel

b. The monthly cash and budget statements were noted.

c. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved that this Council makes a Precept upon Westmorland & Furness Council in the sum of £12,200 for the financial year 2026-27

25/145 Reports from Councillors:

a. Highwayman: Councillor Clark reported as follows:

- i. There has been a lot of surface repair work on Oxenholme Lane, which seems to have been of a good standard.
- ii. Helm Lane is beginning to deteriorate.
- iii. Tree work on the A65 continues.
- iv. The installation of a SID has been postponed.
- v. The footway outside the Church is in a mess.

b. Footpaths: No report.

c. Village Hall Representative: Councillor Wilson said there is a meeting the following evening, so there was no report at present.

25/146 Correspondence (including emails and phone calls)

- a. John Chandler had written to the Clerk, to apologise for not confirming the outcome of plans to renovate the War Memorial, after discussion at Council meeting earlier in the year. An anonymous donor had come forward and paid the full cost of the renovation, so all is well. The Clerk had responded suitably and the Council was pleased to note that the work has been done.
- b. There had been a serious attack by a dog in the village and this had been also reported to the Police. The Clerk had contacted the Police and asked to be kept up to date on the outcome of this very worrying incident.

25/147 Date and place of the next meeting:

Monday 23rd February 2026 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed:

Dated: