

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.
On Monday 23rd February 2026

26/1 Present: Councillors Smith (Chairman), Clark, Harkness, Ibbs, Kelly and Wilson, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Doug Rathbone, three members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Catnach and received from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook.

26/2 Public participation:

Mr Gaulton, who had emailed the Council regarding the problem of vehicles being parked on the Village Green, spoke and outlined the ways in which this problem had been addressed in the past, including placing stickers on vehicles and enlisting the help of the school. This was an agenda item for later in the meeting.

26/3 Declarations of Interest:

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

26/4 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

26/5 Westmorland & Furness Councillors:

Councillor Rathbone reported as follows:

- a. Westmorland & Furness Council will set its budget for 2026-27 later this week.
- b. A further 'call for sites' has gone out and the attention of all Councillors is drawn to this.
- c. The Clerk will re-send the request for road markings and copy Councillor Rathbone into it.

26/6 Planning: None.

26/7 Annual Parish Meeting:

This is to be held on Thursday 9th April at 7pm in the Village Hall.

The Clerk will complete the Annual Accounts as soon after 31st March as possible, so they can be included with the Chairman's Annual Report. The Clerk will also circulate an invitation to all his usual contacts; representatives of local groups and organisations will be invited to give an annual report of their activities, either by email or in person.

The Chairman will make enquiries regarding a possible speaker for this event.

26/8 Resilience:

Councillor Clark had attended, with others, a U3A talk on this subject. Collaboration with other smaller Councils is recommended. Councillor Clark had emailed the Clerk with the 'final' copy of the Resilience Plan and the Clerk will circulate this to Councillors.

26/9 Community Governance Review:

The report is now out for consultation. The only recommendations it makes are that the area around 'Rochester Gardens, Fell Close and 'Castlesteads Close' become part of Kendal Town Council's areas. This Council had no objections to that previously agreed change.

26/10 'Assertion 10 – Digital & Data Compliance':

The Clerk reported that a basic website had been set up for the Council. The Chairman had notified A2A of various amendments to be made and he was due to meet with A2A the following day.

All Councillors will, in due course, receive their 'gov.uk' email addresses which should be used after 31st March 2026, although there will be some overlap while the new system becomes established.

26/11 Possible additional streetlight:

Councillor Rathbone agreed to ask Councillor Brook if there is any further progress with this. A response from the lighting engineers was being sought in order to look into the possible siting of a light to illuminate the exit from the car park by the Village Hall.

26/12 Village notice board:

After further discussion, it was proposed that the notice board is not moved at this present time. A clear majority of Councillors were in favour of this. Should a possible location become apparent in future, the matter could be considered again.

26/13 Green Recovery:

The Village Green has become damaged through illegal parking and the ravages of weather have made it worse. Councillor Harkness agreed to inspect the problem, with a view to 'soil and seed' it. Signs would need to be erected in the meantime until the grass grows again. He will email the Clerk with likely costs.

Mr Gaulton has provided the Chairman with a sample of the stickers that had been used in the past and the Chairman will re-draft the wording in a less confrontational form.

26/14 Flooding:

Councillor Rathbone and the Chairman will make further contact with Westmorland & Furness Council Highways, to request urgent attention is given to the problem of flooding outside the Church.

26/15 Voluntary One Way System:

Councillor Ibbs read an email he had received from Louise Hinton, the Head Teacher, asking for the Council's support in a voluntary one-way system during school opening and closing times, and the possibility of provided signage. After discussion, it was felt that, although the Council does not object to the initiative for school traffic, it is aware that there are objections from residents. Furthermore, visiting traffic would be unaware of the recommended route. Informal roadsigns would not be supported and any requests for additional formal signage would need to be referred to Westmorland & Furness Highways. The Parish Council agreed that the school need to inform all village residents and not just those on Helm Lane and Oxenholme Lane. The Chairman will respond to the Head Teacher accordingly.

26/16 Finance:

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

26/17 Reports from Councillors:

- a. **Highwayman:** Councillor Clark continues to report a number of potholes. He cannot apply for a pole for the SID until the 20mph speed limit signs have been in place for six months.
- b. **Footpath Officer:** Councillor Kelly said she was still pursuing enquiries regarding the footpaths around Cracalt.
- c. **Village Hall:** Councillor Wilson said the renovation of the Village Hall is going ahead and the Hall will be closed from 29th July and will re-open at the beginning of September. An abandoned vehicle had been in the car park for two or three months but this had now been taken away.
- d. **CALC:** The Chairman reminded the Councillors that the online joint presentation between Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils is taking place on 25th March and anyone is welcome to sign up; details have been circulated.

26/18 Correspondence (including emails and phone calls):

Martin Jayne – thanking the Council for their support for churchyard maintenance over the past year, and hoping that this will continue and an increase might be

considered. The Clerk will suggest an application is made to the next meeting, when this can be an agenda item.

26/19 Date and place of the next meeting:

Monday 30th March 2026 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed:

Dated: