

NATLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held at Natland Village Hall at 7pm.
On Monday 30th March 2026

26/20 Present: Councillors Smith (Chairman), Catnach, 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 noted from Westmorland & Furness Councillor Jonathan Brook.

26/21 Public participation:

Simon Folkes addressed the Council:

- a. On the subject of the possibility of obtaining a defibrillator for the area of The Beeches, with community funding. The Chairman agreed to speak to the Endmoor First Responders, in order to ascertain what help might be available.
- b. There are large trees that are not being maintained, on the private road to The Helm. It is understood that a Management Company is looking after the access road. The Chairman will consider what might be done and report back to the Council.

26/22 Declarations of Interest:

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

26/23 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

26/24 Westmorland & Furness Councillors:

Councillor Rathbone reported as follows:

- a. Westmorland & Furness Council's Budget for 2026-27 has now been agreed, with an increase of 4.99%
- b. A complete re-assessment of the Council will take place over the next three years.
- c. Flooding – this would be dealt with later in the meeting.
- d. The combined Cumberland/Westmorland Authority will have in its remit investment for Highways but not the maintenance of Highways.

26/25 Planning:

The following application had been received after the agenda had been published and it was resolved to delegate the response to the Clerk. There had been no objections from Councillors to the application.

2026/0557/HOU 5 Hawes Lane, Natland. Proposed porch.

26/26 Annual Parish Meeting:

This will be held on Thursday 9th April 2026 at 7pm. The agenda has been published and the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting had been circulated. The meeting had been announced on the blogsite and in various locations around the parish. The Chairman's Report and the Interim Accounts will be prepared later this week.

Michael Tattershall (Westmorland & Furness Council's Countryside Access Officer) has been invited to update the Council on the Canal Towpath Trail.

26/27 Assertion 10 'Digital & Data Compliance:

The Chairman had visited A2A in Milthorpe. The Clerk reported that the Council slowly become compliant and new email addresses have been sent to Councillors. A2A would be glad of some additional photographs for the new website.

26/28 Possible additional streetlight:

Councillor Rathbone said that Councillor Brook is in touch with those responsible for street lighting and will report back in due course.

26/29 Green Recovery:

It was agreed to leave this until the drier weather, when Councillor Harkness will assess what repairs could be done.

26/30 Flooding:

Councillor Rathbone said that Westmorland & Furness Council has re-registered the problem on their website. He will also speak to the Portfolio Holder so that progress may be made.

26/31 Land Allocations and 'Call for sites':

Councillor Catnach updated the Council and supplied maps of the areas under consideration, for Councillors to view. The second stage has now been reached and it was suggested that a working group is formed to consider the issues in detail, including residents of Long Meadow Lane in the group, and possibly a leaflet drop..

26/32 Finance:

- a. *It was resolved to make the following payments:*

A2A Advertising Limited	£510.00	New website
Lakes and Dales Window Cleaning Limited		
	£48.00	Cleaning bud shelters

- b. *It was resolved to make the following charitable donations:*

North West Air Ambulance	£100.00
Great North Air Ambulance	£100.00
Cumbria Foundation	£100.00
Citizens Advice South Lakes	£100.00
Kendal Mountain Rescue Team	£100.00

- c. It was agreed that £100 would be paid to RBL Poppy Appeal in November, as last year.

26/33 Reports from Councillors:

- a. **Highwayman:** Councillor Clark said that potholes continue to be reported and repaired. Safety on the A65 is a major problem. Parking by Mardix is also an issue, especially on the bend coming from Kendal to Natland.
- b. **Footpaths Officer:** Councillor Kelly thanked Councillor Rathbone for his assistance in getting a reported footpath repaired. She also reported an ongoing problem with dog mess in the parish. This had been dealt with in recent years and the situation had improved but the Chairman said he would mention it again at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- c. **Village Hall:** Councillor Wilson said there was nothing to report.
- d. **CALC:** No report.

26/34 Correspondence:

The ongoing Community Governance Review second consultation had been received. The extension of Kendal to include all of the Beeches and the proposed Story Homes development was rejected. However, the previously agreed extension to include Rochester Gardens and Castlesteads View was accepted. The chair would respond to the consultation to seek reassurance that all the affected residents would be consulted.

26/35 Date and place of the next meeting:

***Monday 11th May 2026 at 7pm at Natland Village Hall
(This will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting)***

26/36 Resignation of Councillor Stuart Ibbs:

The Chairman announced that this was Councillor Ibbs final meeting, as he is leaving the area later this week. On behalf of the Council, he thanked him for his years of service on the Council and wished him well for the future.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed:

Dated: